

McDouall of Freugh - Australian History - Part 1

“My Family”

**The McDoualls of ‘Freugh’ and ‘Balgreggan’, Scotland
and
The FitzGerald of Kildare, Ireland**

PART I. EMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

PART II. ANCESTRY

PART III. LIFE IN NSW (HUNTER VALLEY)

Entry in Raymond Terrace Historical Society Competition

by

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(daughter of Dr H C McDouall)

in collaboration with

Sybil Nardin
(grand-daughter of Mrs Ellen Nardin, née McDouall)

December 1981

PART I: EMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

When the barque SS 'Alfred' left Plymouth on the 7th September, 1840, there were on board 284 free settlers in the steerage, and in the first class (or 'Cuddy' as they called it) 15 adults and 7 children. They were bound for Australia "a home of bright and cheering prospects" according to the Journal of one of the 'Cuddy' passengers, which is now in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.¹

Also among these passengers were two brothers, John Crichton Stuart McDouall, aged 23, and Rawdon, aged 18. Their prospects certainly seemed bright. They had letters of introduction from the Colonial Secretary, Lord John Russell, to the Governor of NSW and to other officials.² These had been obtained by their father through his cousin, the Marquis of Bute and Earl of Dumfries, who had encouraged them and helped in the arrangements for their departure.

They were accompanied by the family steward, William Barber, and 30 'retainers' - probably some workmen from the family estate and some from the parish of their father, the Rev William McDouall, of Copt Hall, Luton. He was Vicar of Luton, Bedfordshire, Canon of Peterborough Cathedral, Chaplain to HRH the Prince Regent.



*'Copt Hall', Luton', Bedfordshire.
Home of Rev William McDouall,
Rector of Ashby de la Zouch,
Rector of St Mary's, Luton and
Canon of Peterborough Cathedral*

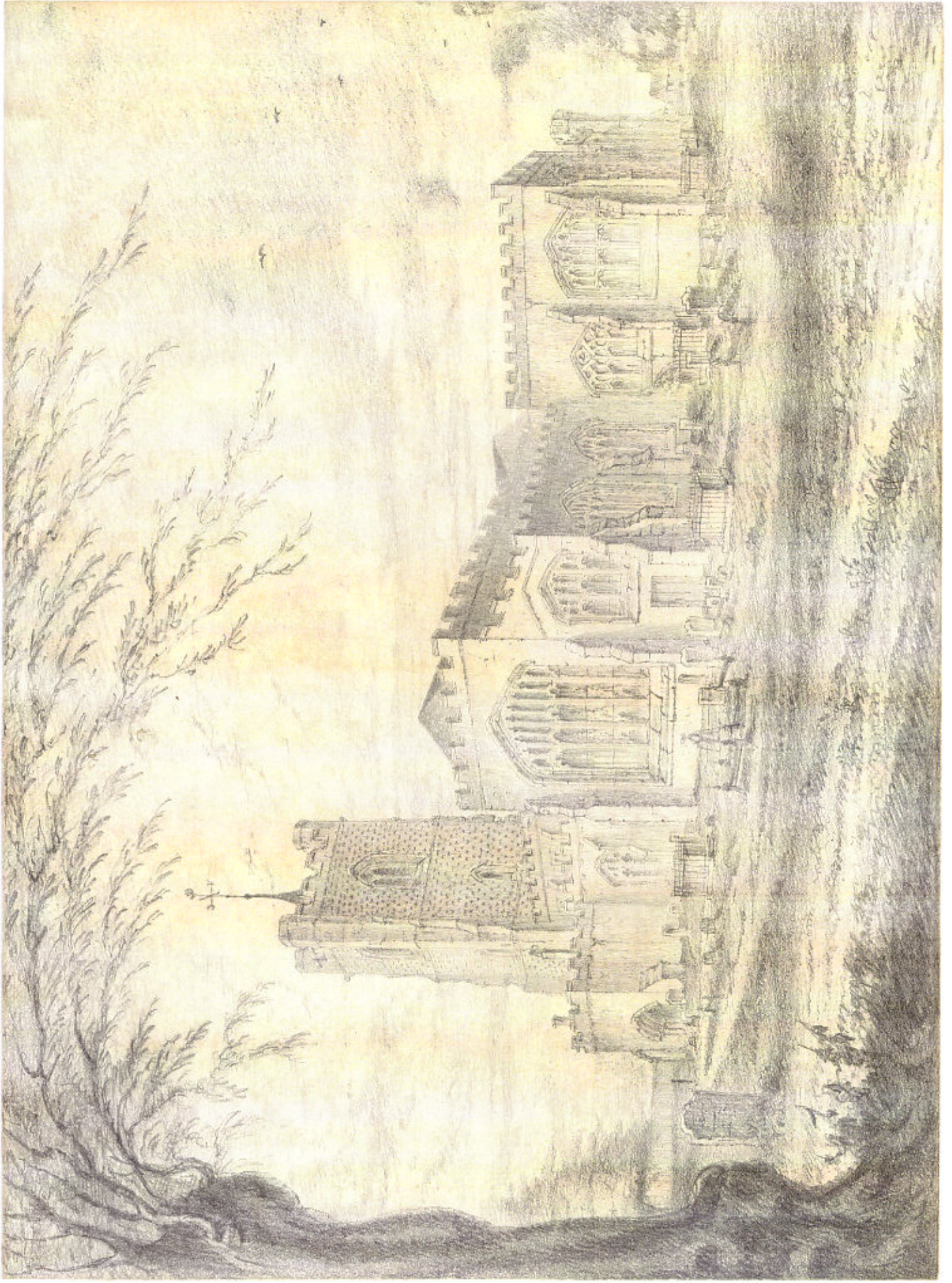
*Taken from a drawing by his
son-in-law, Admiral Hallhorn
approx. 1844*

¹ Journal of Isabella FitzGerald - an account of the voyage to Australia on the SS 'Alfred', 1840. Originals in Mitchell Library.

² Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wairoonga. Some are copies of originals.

Rev. William McDouall

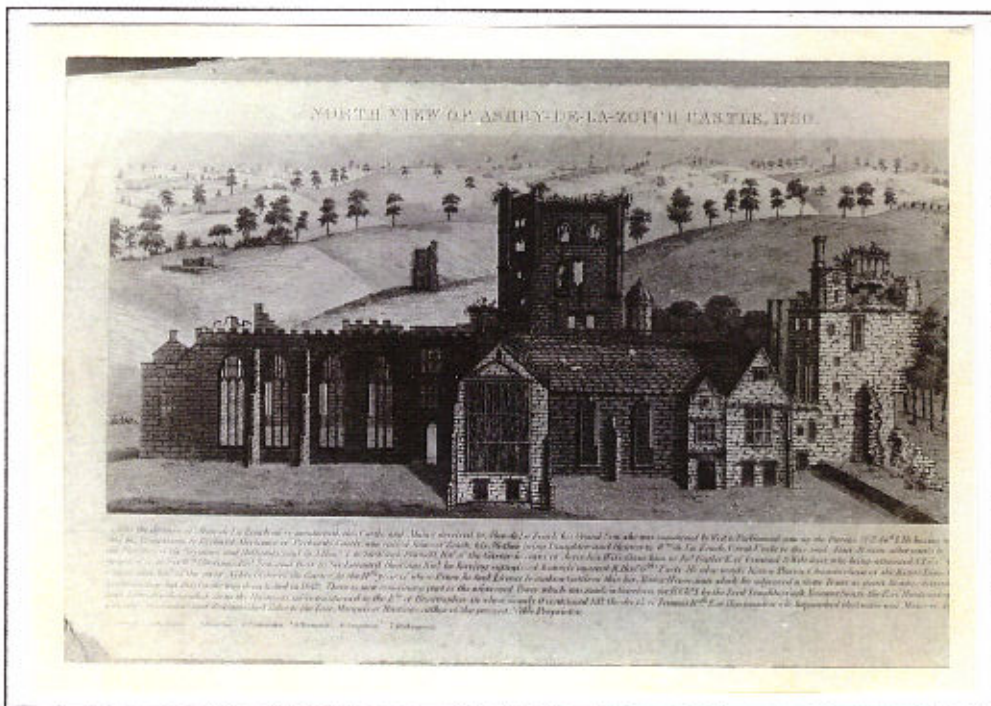




St Mary's Church, Luton, Bedfordshire, where Rev William McDouall was Vicar from 1824? To 1849



St Mary's Church



Ashby-de-la-Zouch

All the workers travelled in the steerage for a total cost of £132; the cost for Barber was £40, and passage-money for the two brothers was £160.

As they intended to purchase an agricultural property in NSW, farming implements were among their equipment. Their brother-in-law, Captain George Hathorn, (later Admiral Hathorn) assisted, and there is a formidable list of goods purchased by him on behalf of the Rev William McDouall for his sons. Their father also sent several big boxes and trunks, which contained

additional supplies and books, including a large Bible, Prayer Book, and 55 Volumes of the 'Emigrant's Library'.

Captain Hathorn's list:

Boots for workmen	£17.16.6
Guns	£35.0.0
A Tent	£6.4.0
Saddles	£10.2.6
Knives	£8.8.6
Plough (2nd)	£38.17.11
Ironmongery	£78.8.0
Outfit and Cabin furniture	£100.0.0

Their father also recommended a young carpenter aged 24 named Hawkes as "a very desirable member of your establishment - a teetotaller for 4 years a violin player and a Wesleyan Methodist".

It seemed that nothing had been overlooked in equipping the two young men for their venture in a new, far-distant country. There is no record of any special training or experience in farming, but the problems they were to face would be quite different from anything they might have learnt in Britain. Their father had been born in Scotland, educated at Glasgow Academy, and gained his MA degree at Balliol College, Oxford. He became Vicar of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, seat of the Marquis of Rawdon and Hastings, and his nine children were born there.³ His wife, Euphemia, was the daughter of Jean Gaudin, a Huguenot wine merchant, who had come over from Switzerland with the Marquis.⁴ When she died, the family moved to Luton where the 'Living' was owned by the Marquess of Bute who had a residence nearby, 'Luton Hoo' (now a famous mansion and garden).

The eldest son, John Crichton Stuart McDouall, had apparently acted in some secretarial capacity to Lord Bute. When aged about 20, he accompanied the Marquess on a journey from London to Scotland, partly by train and partly by horse-drawn coaches. They spent some time on the journey calling at various places, stayed at Dumfries House, and according to John's diary, had a rough and cold trip up the Kyles of Bute.⁵ They arrived by night at Rothesay Castle where he had "a very nice room called the Yellow Room".

³ Family Bible

⁴ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.

⁵ Diary of JCS McDouall's journey to Scotland.

Lord Bute was a widower, aged about 45; he was later remarried to Lady Sophia, daughter of the Marquess of Hastings, Earl of Rawdon.⁶



*Dumfries House,
Scotland.*

*Belongs to
Marquis of Bute*

Taken 1925

Also travelling on the 'Alfred' were Robert Appleyard FitzGerald and his family: his second wife, Isabella, with their three small daughters, and two older girls who had been born to his first wife in Trinidad, where he had been Colonial Secretary. Kate was aged 17, a very quiet girl, and Ellen was 15 - two surviving pictures show her to have been very pretty. The FitzGerald came from Ireland and were related to the Duke of Leinster.

Isabella FitzGerald kept a Journal⁷, which gives a very clear picture of life on board throughout the voyage, which took 19 weeks (134 days). It tells of long delays caused by strong headwinds, westerly currents, and periods of calm. As a result, there was a shortage of food, some of the stock having died, and reluctantly the Captain put in at Cape Town for fresh water and supplies. This was their only port of call. The health of the 284 steerage passengers had remained good, probably because of the Spartan measures imposed on them: they spent all day on deck except in rainy weather and their apartments were washed, scraped, and fumigated daily. In the tropics, everyone felt the heat; they all left off their night-caps, except the baby, Connie. The two little girls (Caroline, aged 4, and Fanny, aged 2) were allowed to

⁶ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.

⁷ Journal of Isabella FitzGerald - an account of the voyage to Australia on the SS 'Alfred', 1840. Originals in Mitchell Library



Lions Mountain entrance to the Cape of Hope.
The "Allard" sailing out of the Bay. 1st Dec. 1840.

The original
done by N. Fitzwilliam
etched by Charles M. Moore

scamper around the decks with “no socks!” Fanny was a great favourite with the men, and from her efforts to climb the rigging was nick-named ‘Jack’.

As they approached Australia, a change in the weather resulted in many of the steerage passengers contracting colds, including the two sisters of Isabella’s personal maid, Lucy. This kept her very busy, but the services of the maids were not in any case available at night as “the females were separated from their husbands, sweethearts and friends and locked up every evening till 6 o’clock the following morning, when all are turned on deck.”

On arriving at Sydney, Isabella wrote: “The shores are very beautiful, being wooded down to the water’s edge and the hills dotted over with beautiful cottages; the heat is excessive The harbour appears like a large lake enclosed with wooded hills and we have a peep of the town at a little distance”. After they landed: “All my darlings have been cruelly bitten by the moskitoes (sic) - we hear of spiders an inch square, of lizards, centipedes, and scorpions; locusts sing in the woods Provisions and vegetables are very dear.”

Kate and Ellen had spent most of their time on deck, working or reading. Robert evidently believed in supervision of his elder daughters. He gave them regular lessons in geography, and often read aloud while they were sewing. As they neared the end of their voyage “New Year’s Day was ushered in by music at midnight It being Ellen’s birthday, it was the Captain’s wish to have a sort of fete in compliment to her, but Robert requested that he would not notice it, as it might give opportunities for freedoms which we should wish to avoid”.

However, the young people found opportunities to become acquainted, and they surprised their elders by an unexpected announcement when the ship was nearing Sydney. Isabella’s letter⁸ to her mother, written from O’Connell Street, relates the outcome of a ship-board romance: “.... the most important news I have to tell of, News which will astonish you even more than it has us ... Ellen is going to be married, to a Gentleman who came out with us, of very good family and independent means, the son of a clergyman who is first cousin to the Marquis of Bute; but I am happy to say that his high connexion is not his only recommendation; though very young, only 23, he appears very steady, sensible, and intelligent, his manner quiet but pleasing Altogether we could not desire a more pleasing connexion, he was a favourite with us all, long before we suspected anything I believe they have pretty well understood each other from the time we left the Cape.”

⁸ Letter from Isabella to her mother, 1841. Original in Mitchell Library.

The FitzGerald's secured lodgings in O'Connell Street "for which we must pay £4 per week, and we are considered exceedingly fortunate in getting them, even at that price. Robert has seen the Governor and the Colonial Secretary and has been received in the most flattering manner". However, the Colony was in the throes of a depression⁹ "money very scarce and two or three large houses have failed ... farms given up and sold at a sacrifice". Cattle could be purchased at £3 a head and sheep 5/-. The situation became worse in the following two years, when the colony nearly plunged into bankruptcy. This situation affected the plans of the FitzGerald's. Six months before, according to his wife, Robert could have had the best appointment the Colony offered, that of Colonial Secretary. However, no position which suited him was now available; New Zealand offered more attractive prospects, so Robert decided to go there immediately. He had letters to the Governor, with the strongest recommendation from Sir George Gipps, who promised to confirm any appointment made.

This decision altered the marriage plans. John McDouall had expected to purchase an estate up in the country, before the wedding. But when the FitzGerald's decided to leave for New Zealand immediately, "The gentleman did not much relish the idea of his intended bride being taken away from him, and Robert proposed our waiting for a fortnight in order that the marriage might take place before we left. Kate is to remain with them on a visit for 3 or 4 months. He is now gone to Newcastle, about 8 hours sail from here, to engage a cottage for three months, to which they will go immediately after the wedding; it is in the neighbourhood of that place that he wishes to settle."

John Crichton Stuart McDouall was married to Ellen Maria FitzGerald in St. James' Church, King Street, Sydney on the 23rd February, 1841, at 9 a.m.

Rawdon, the 18 year old brother, wrote a light-hearted account¹⁰ of the wedding to his brother William, at Copt Hall, Luton. "..... a very nice, good-tempered girl only 16 years old The Bishop was to have spliced them but he made some fine excuse, so the Rev. Allwood spliced them. There were six carriages and after the wedding we all went to Mr. FitzG for a fine breakfast, at 12 noon the Bride, Bridegroom, and Miss FitzGerald (Bridesmaid) went to Parramatta, 15 miles from Sydney. John bought a nice mare a fortnight ago and tomorrow I am to ride her up to Parramatta. I sent a Sydney Herald to Papa today, and one to Lord Bute, by John's wish.." The rest of the letter is concerned with getting his clothes back from the laundry, and the hanging of 6 Bushrangers.

Rawdon treated the marriage flippantly, apparently not unduly impressed with the union in the Antipodes of two ancient families, one from Scotland and one from Ireland.

⁹ Letter from W Hodgson

¹⁰ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.

M.

Form No. 10.
No. of Application. 46456/62.



NEW SOUTH WALES.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Saint James, Sydney
in the County of Cumberland, New South Wales in the year 1841

No. 112 vol. 25.

John Chricht² Stuart McD^uhall of The Parish St. Andrew, Bachelor and
Ellen Maria Fitz^ggerald of the Parish Saint James, Spinster
were married in this Church by License
with consent of Robert Appleyard Fitz^ggerald, this 23rd
The father of Ellen Maria
day of February in the year 1841

By me Robert Allwood Chaplain

This marriage was solemnized } J
between us— } A.C.S. McD^uhall.
Ellen Maria Fitzgerald.

In the presence of { Robert A. Fitz^ggerald of P.H. Harnett.
Kate Fitz^ggerald of Charles Massy.

I, Jack Hayward Watson Registrar General,

do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the particulars in an entry
in a Register of Church of England Marriages kept at the Registrar General's
Office, Sydney, and extracted this 8th day of August, 1962.

J. Watson



Registrar General.

Copy taken in 1962 of original which is kept in the Cript of St James Church, King Street, Sydney

Agnes Allan Phillips St

No. 20. *John Christen Strait McDonald* of th. c. Parish of *S. Andrew, Bechela* and
Ellen Maria Fitz-Gerald of th. c. Parish of *S. James, Spurston* were
 married in this *Church* by *licence* with consent of *Robert Appleyard Fitz-Gerald*
 this *twenty third* day of *February* in the year *1844* (*the father of Ellen Maria*)
 By me *Robert Allwood.*

This Marriage was solemnized between us

John W. Small
Ellen Maria Fitz-Gerald
Robert A. Fitz-Gerald of
St. John's Church of

In the Presence of

W. Small
Charles Kropp

PART II: ANCESTRY

The McDoualls come from an ancient and honourable family of Pictish origin¹¹, which held property in Wigtounshire, Galloway, Scotland. The three branches of the family, 'Freugh', 'Logan', and 'Garthland', all claimed descent from Fergus, Lord of Galloway, and all disputed which was the Senior Branch!¹² There is not a shred of direct *written* evidence to prove any of these claims, but indirect evidence suggests that all three branches were well established by the end of the 14th century. There is a 1330 record of McDoualls of Longcastle, formerly one property with Ravenstone; and later records show the McDoualls of Freugh as owners of Ravenstone.



*Back view of
'Logan House'
taken 1925*

The earliest *written* contemporary record relating to the McDoualls of Freugh is dated 1445, on the death of Gilbert, son of Gilbert of Ravenstone and Freugh. Direct descent is recorded *from* Gilbert of Ravenstone and Freugh, whose son married Catherine McGilgh:

1445; his son was Fergus *down to* John: he married in 1724 Lady Elizabeth Dalrymple Crichton, only surviving child of Penelope Crichton, Countess of Dumfries, who had married her cousin, Col. William Dalrymple, 2nd son of the Earl of Stair. They had five sons, of whom the eldest, Patrick, inherited from his father the McDouall estates, and through his maternal grandmother the Earldom of Dumfries (as the Salic Law does not apply to this title).

¹¹ Herbert Maxwell 'Sheriffs of Galloway'

¹² Notes of research by John C McDouall in England in 1977, and Debrett



*'Balgreggan', Wigtownshire, Scotland.
The ancestral home of the McDoualls.
This photo was taken in 1964, but the
house has now been demolished.
'Freugh', the original seat of the
McDoualls was burnt down and
'Balgreggan' is believed to be nearby.
Sundial on side of house has date 1730*



Patrick married Margaret Crauford, and they had one daughter, Elizabeth Penelope. When Patrick died in 1803 he left no male heir, but his daughter married Lord Mountstuart, eldest son of the 1st Marquess of Bute. They both died young, but left two infant sons; the elder, John Crichton-Stuart, inherited the McDouall estates through his maternal grandfather, Patrick, as well as the Earldom of Dumfries, and the Marquisate of Bute through his paternal grandfather.

If these two infants had died or had no issue, the Dumfries title and lands would have reverted to the McDoualls of 'Freugh'. In token of this, on the old Earl's death, his nephew, the Rev.

William McDouall of Copt Hall, Luton, who was then the only surviving heir of the clan, received a signet ring with the McDouall crest on it.

His eldest son, John Crichton Stuart, inherited the ring. It was sent to him at 'New Freugh', Singleton, NSW, and is still in the family's possession.

The **FitzGerald**s also could trace their lineage back through many centuries.¹³ Their association with Ireland began in 1169 when Maurice received from Henry II lands in Wicklow and Kildare.¹⁴ Gerald FitzGerald was created Baron of Offaly, County Kildare in 1205. The 6th Baron, John, was created Earl of Kildare in 1316. There is a tradition that the Earl, when an infant, was asleep in his cradle at Woodstock Castle when an alarm of fire was raised. "In the confusion, the child was forgotten, and on the servants returning to search for him they found the room in which he had laid to be in ruins Soon after, hearing a strange noise in one of the towers, they looked up and saw an ape, which was usually kept chained, carefully holding the child in his arms." He afterwards, in gratitude, adopted a monkey for his crest - and the family coat-of-arms is surmounted by a monkey.

The 'Court and City Register for 1809'¹⁵ lists *Frederick Augustus FitzGerald, Duke of Leinster, as premier peer in Ireland.*

Isabella FitzGerald (née Johnstone) the first wife of Robert FitzGerald can be seen wearing a topaz ring in a miniature now owned by her great-great-granddaughter, Pat Dorsch. The same ring appears on the finger of her daughter, Ellen, in her wedding-dress portrait, when she married John Crichton Stuart McDouall. Their eldest daughter, Nellie, who married Ernest Nardin, gave it to her eldest granddaughter, Peggy Scott, who now wears it.

¹³ Debrett's Peerage, 1907 ed. pp 540-41

¹⁴ Chamber's Encyclopaedia

¹⁵ 'Court and City Register for 1809' (England)

PART III: LIFE IN NSW (HUNTER VALLEY)

The two McDouall brothers, with John's wife, Ellen, and her sister Kate, settled temporarily in Newcastle; they were joined in 1842 by Rawdon's twin brother, Hastings. They rented a small property called 'Trematon Park', Fullerton Cove - a large fine sheet of water, very shallow, mostly dry at low tide.

'Trematon Park' belonged to Admiral Hollinworth in 1848; it would appear that J C S McDouall leased it from him in 1841. It is in the Parish of Stockton, County Gloucester; "the land swampy but drainable and first rate cattle run, 6½ miles from Newcastle on the North Shore, 1½ miles from the sea beach. A small creek runs through the property leading to an extensive swamp until it joins nearby at the head of Tillingery Creek, which flows in a broad channel to Port Stephens. This is supposed to be the bed of the old Hunter River, before its entrance was broken through Newcastle".¹⁶

'Trematon Park' was retained (it is not known on what terms) as in 1861 the family steward was still there - possibly as tenant or Manager. A letter from him to J C S McDouall is dated October 5th, 1861.¹⁷

A pencil sketch of the cottage drawn by Kate in 1841 is appended. In 1845 a man named Bonnifar was renting 20 acres of Trematon Park and taking charge of it.

The McDoualls also leased an arable farm on Ash Isle from A W Scott, son of Dr Helenus Scott, whose family became well known in the district.¹⁸ His niece was Rose Scott, who spent her life fighting for women's rights. Alexander Walker Scott had purchased, in 1829, 2560 acres on Ash Island, and with convict labour he developed it as a farm. The oranges he grew there were renowned for their quality.

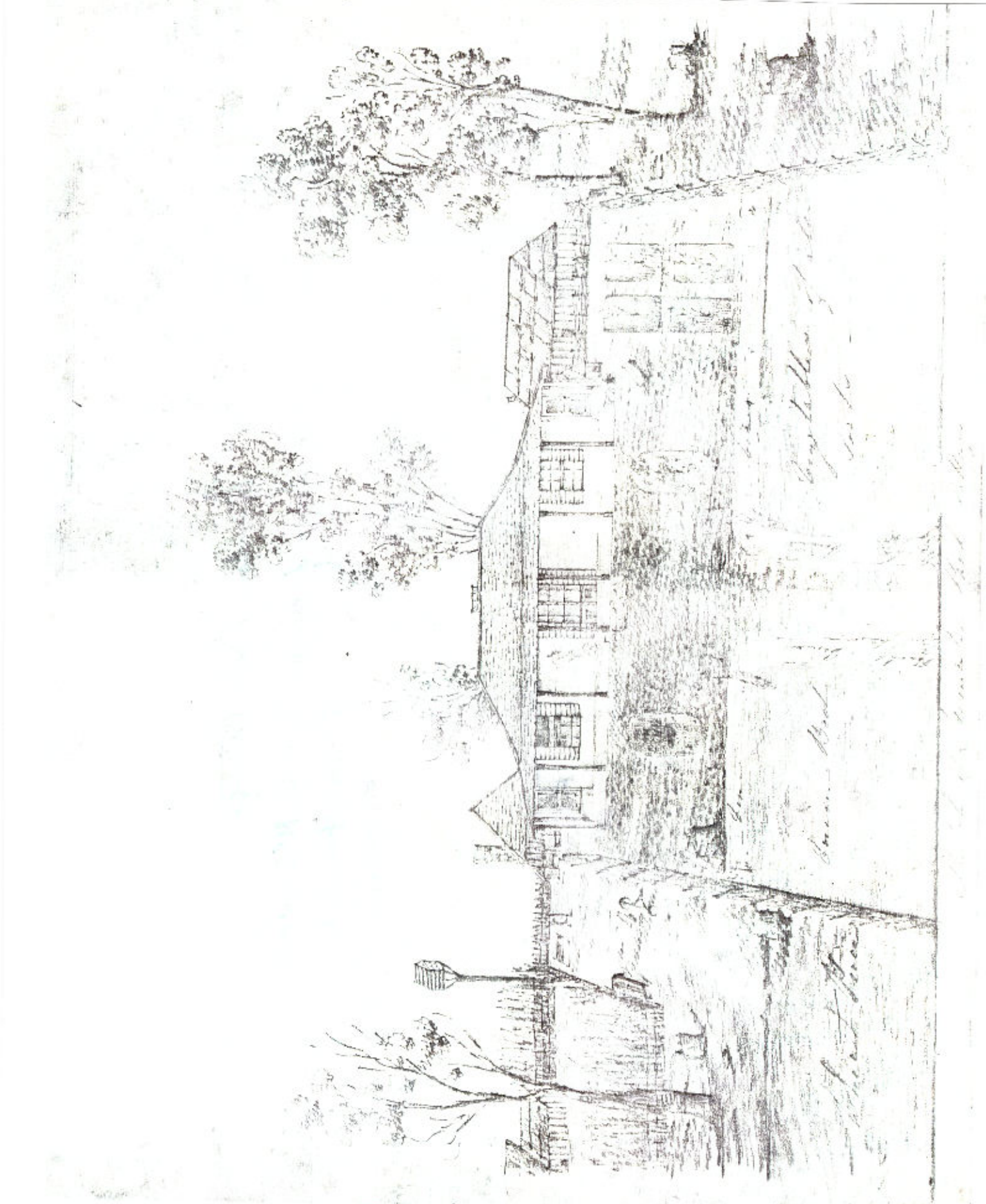
Ellen was not slow to take advantage of this. In January 1842 Mrs FitzGerald wrote from New Zealand to thank Ellen for all the gifts she had sent.¹⁶ These included marmalade made from oranges grown on Ash Island. The family had it with their rice pudding and it was a treat, as they had been unable to obtain any fruit in New Zealand.

¹⁶ 'Geographical Dictionary and Gazetteer of the Australian Colonies' William Wells, 1848

¹⁷ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.

¹⁸ Newcastle Herald 1967 (Scott Family)

*Tremalon Park Cottage. First home of Mr & Mrs J C S McDouall of 'New Freugh' Singleton
Copy of drawing by K FitzGerald, 25th September 1811?*



A W Scott lost most of his properties in the depression of the 1840s; his brother-in-law, Dr Mitchell, acquired them, although in difficulties himself through the depression. In 1865, A W Scott sold Ash Island and retired to Sydney.

On March 13, 1842 Ellen wrote about a visit to Sydney. She had seen her friend, Miss Harnett, who had been a fellow passenger on the 'Alfred'. She hoped Miss Harnett would visit her, but we hear nothing more of this friendship. Travel in those days was not easy, and distance must have kept many friends apart.

In a letter dated June 4th, 1842¹⁹ the Rev William McDouall wrote to his son J C S, telling him that Rawdon's twin, Hastings, was setting out from England to join his brothers in partnership. He was travelling with a Mr David Chambers, and had letters of introduction to the Governor from Lord Stanley (the new Secretary for the Colonies) and from the Bishop of Lincoln for all three brothers. Their father suggested that John might go to Sydney or send Barber to meet him. He was sending the same amount of money for Hastings as he had given for Rawdon, but added that when they came of age he must determine what share of the profits they were entitled to, according to their diligence and good conduct.

In the same letter the Rev William McDouall inquired how matters stood at the end of their first year. His questions and comments show practical interest: "Your position appears to be advantageous for selling Beef and Hogs, fat, for the victualling of ships, otherwise I agree with you that sheep ought to be more convenient stock on account of the wool to sell and mutton for your people to eat. Having grown Barley, do you malt it for brewing? What do you work your dough with? Does the owner of your land allow you for clearing land?" A reference to "15 pairs of hands" suggests that some of the men had already left and at the end of 1843 John paid off the wages of several whose contracts had expired.¹⁹

In John's reply, he mentions that the Wine Merchant's account is considerable, that a great portion of it is for Rum, and that he may have been too generous in issuing it for extra work in getting cows out of bogs, etc.

In September 1843, Rawdon and his twin brother, Hastings, went north through Gloucester, with three horses. Rawdon wrote to his brother John from Corrungula,¹⁹ describing the journey. They had crossed the Manning with the help of a 'black fellow' who swam the horses over the river, called at Port Macquarie to re-shoe a horse, stopped the night at MacLeod's

¹⁹ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.

station, and passed over the Macleay river, encountering big floods on the way. At Corrungula they joined others there, branding, cutting and drafting cattle; next day they were setting out with 300 head of cattle to go to New England. They held “Moona Plains, in the Walcha area, for two years”. John then wrote to his father that Rawdon and Hastings had bought sheep. He added “I know nothing further of their plans, except that they have given their sheep upon halves to a Mr King”.

We hear more about the King family later, as Rawdon married Charlotte Shawford King in 1847.

The sons were born to John and Ellen at Trematon: William Alexander FitzGerald McDouall (26.9.1842) - christened in Newcastle by the Rev Wilton) and John Crichton Stuart (born 23.10.1843, but not christened until November 1844 at Singleton).

The move to Singleton was made during 1844. On January 16th, 1844, J S Ferriter wrote to John²⁰ offering him ‘Drayton Estate’, Patrick Plains, Singleton, for £2000 cash, plus furniture and stock for £254. John accepted this. The family moved up to Singleton some time mid-year 1844. The estate was renamed ‘New Freugh’ after the Scottish ancestral estates of ‘Freugh’ and ‘Balgreggan’.

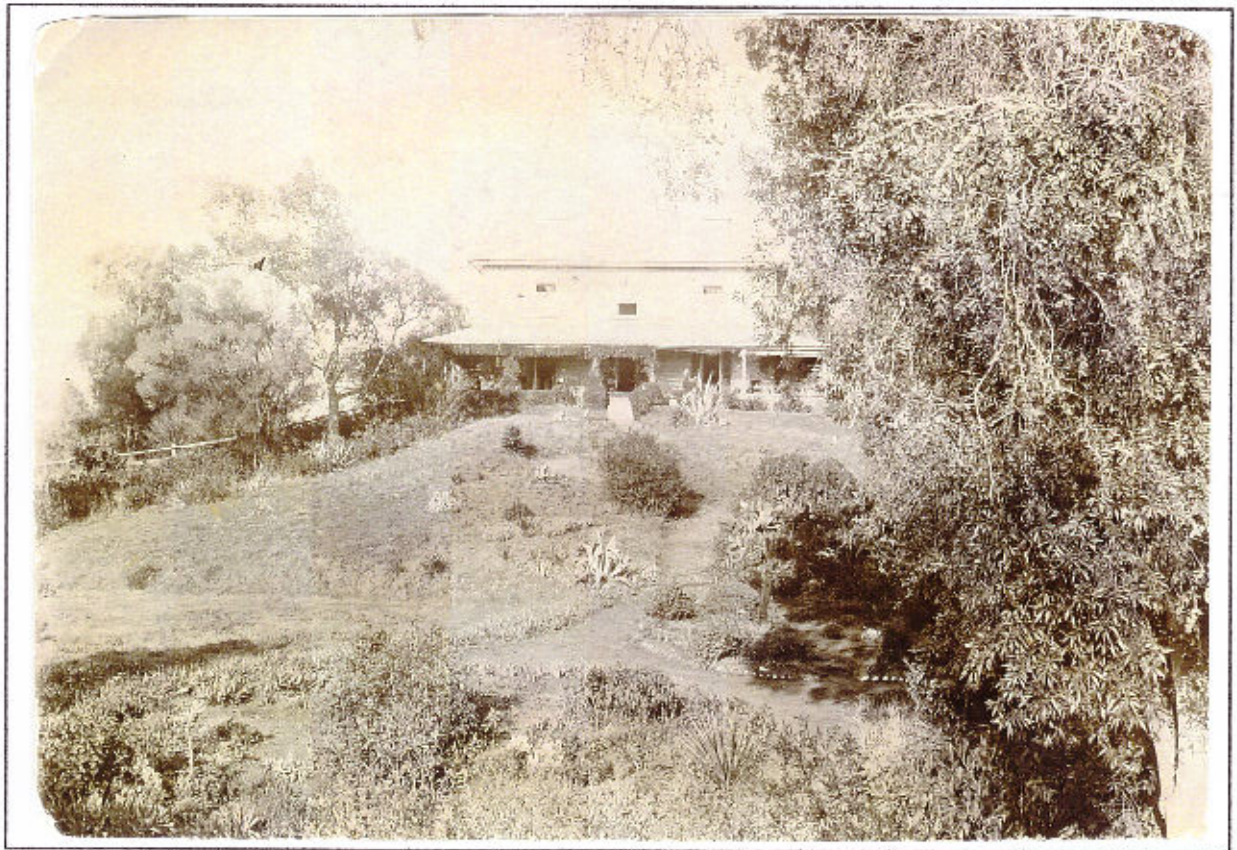
W H Hodgson of Etonvale, Darling Downs, son-in-law of the Chief Justice, Sir James Dowling, in a letter to Captain Hathorn dated 1844, commented: “Your brother-in-law has made a happy purchase. I know ‘Drayton’ well ... a pretty place on the Hunter River, a good stone house ... a good garden and outhouses ... I believe McDouall only gave £2000 for it, dirt cheap - but he cannot make money there. There is little room for stock, and I doubt if agriculture pays”. He also mentioned that the former owner, John Stephen Ferriter, Purser, RN, was “married to the sister of our once wealthy merchant, Richard Jones - a man worth £5000 a year when I came here - now a bankrupt.” This shows the seriousness of the depression at that time.

Lord Bute, who was John’s godfather, continued his helpful interest in his young kinsmen’s enterprise and contributed £1000 towards the purchase of ‘New Freugh’ as well as a gift to the twins.²⁰ However, they did not want to join in the partnership, so their father worked out their share of the assets.

²⁰ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahrenonga. Some are copies of originals.

The prices paid for stocks are of interest for comparison with present values.

Drawing Room Looking Glass	£ 5.0.0	Wardrobe store room	£ 2.0.0
Drawing Room Marble Mantle Piece	9.0.0	1 Press in pantry	3.10.0
Drawing Room Grate	2.10.0	2 Milk pails	5.0
Drawing Room bronze and steel fender & fire irons	4.0.0	1 Well bucket	4.0
2 Carpets and rugs	7.0.0	Ironwork of a dray	1.0.0
Dining Room table and chairs	5.0.0	1 Roller	1.0.0
2 Elbow Chairs and 10 Single Chairs (Hair bottoms)	10.0.0	1 Horse dray & harness for 3 horses	7.0.0
Sideboard	4.0.0	1 Cart	2.10.0
Brass fender and irons	2.10.0	1 Hay knife	7.6
Hall lamp	1.10.0	Sacks of hay and growing crops	40.0.0
Grate	2.10.0	30 Bushells of seed wheat @ 4/-	6.0.0
Bedstead (4 poster) hair mattress, palliss, bolster, 2 feather pillows (dimity)	12.0.0	Padlock to the bard	5.0
Bed stops and bidet	1.10.0	2 Door scrapers	10.0
Wash handstand	1.0.0	2 Deal tables	15.0
Dressing table	8.0	2 Dogs	10.0
Looking glass	2.0.0	1 Pantry table	5.0
4 Armchairs (cane bottoms)	1.0.0	1 Laundry table	5.0
Wardrobe	11.0.0	1 Shaft - bullock & 6 ankers with bows, yokes & chain	22.10.0
4 Poster bed and c	8.0.0	5 Cows & 3 calves	15.0
Wash hand stand	8.0	8 Ducks	8.0
12 Window blinds & Fittings	2.0.0	5 Turkeys	1.5.0
7 sets Venetian blinds	5.5.0	50 Fowls	1.10.0
1 Chaff cutter	1.0.0	Rosewood low table	8.0.0
1 Bell	1.0.0	1 Chiffonier	10.0.0
Sofa (drawing room) & 2 sets covers	10.0.0	1 Lady's work table	4.0.0
10 Rosewood chairs & 2 sets covers	16.0.0		
TOTAL			254.0.0

'New Freugh' Singleton NSW

He wrote to say that he had made John a life member of the Royal Agricultural Society, so reports would be reaching him regularly.

In 1845 John gives details of fencing required by law: "... very expensive, 2/6 to 3/6 per rod. Sheep have to be tended all day and at night watched by man and dog - the native dog or Dingo being such a dire enemy." He mentioned Morpeth as "a small place on the Hunter River bank ... where steamers and vessels come up to". Ewes after shearing sold for 10/-, wethers for market 6/- to 9/-. Price of cattle still low, a herd of cows only worth £1 per head. Fat bullocks in Sydney £2 to £4 ... Refusal of the Home Government to admit our grain on the same terms as Canadian grain caused great discussion and a most uncalled for hardship. Wheat this year up here sold for 1/3 per bushel and tenants compelled to leave their farms, so the Landlord minus his rent".

The activities of John Crichton Stuart are not recorded in detail, but he doubtless led a very busy life. In addition to his work on the property, he undertook civic responsibilities and

Government House,

Sydney 7 February 1851.

Sir,

The office of Commissioner of
Crown Lands for the Districts of
Patrick's Plains and Muswell
Brook having become vacant by
the resignation of Mr. Hutchinson
I am directed by His Excellency
the Governor to request that you
would name some eligible
person who would be willing
to accept the appointment

— MacDowell Esq.

Warden

I have the honour to be,

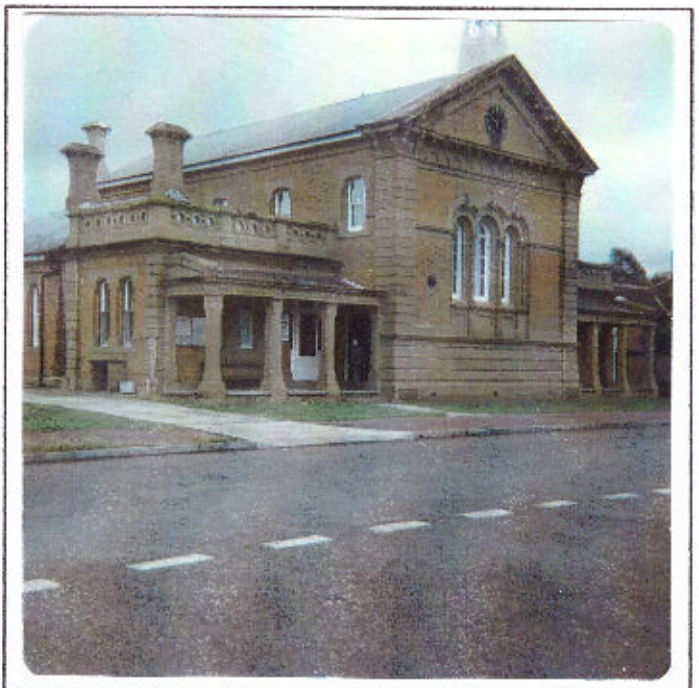
Sir,

Your obedient servant

C. D. Roy
A. S. to Roy

W. H. Christie

Court House, Singleton, taken 1983.



(To the Editor of the Maitland Mercury.)
Dear Sir—The following paragraph appeared in the Mercury about a week back, and as such a decision may be the cause of serious delay to the mails at a future time, I will feel obliged by your publishing the following circular, received by me, as a mail contractor, in 1857.

(Before J. Leithbridge, A. M'Dougall, J. Lamagh, S. B. Dight, and Edward Parnell, Esqs.)

ENCLOSED LANDS Act.—Thomas Bearly, driver of the mail coach between Brauxton and Singleton, was charged with breach of this Act, by J. C. H. M'Dougall, Esq., by driving across the enclosed lands at Castle Forbes, on the 30th January last. Defendant pleaded guilty, and stated that the road being impassable through the recent rains, and a culvert on that particular spot being out of repair, he was obliged to turn the coach into the paddock, and that he was under the impression that he could go where he thought proper, being bound to time. Sentenced to pay a fine of 20s. and costs. The fine was immediately paid.

(Circular No. 8.)

General Post Office, Sydney, 20th April, 1857.

The opinion of the law officers of the Crown having been taken as to the legality of enforcing a right of way for the mail through private lands when the highways are either dangerous or impassable, I beg to annex a copy of the same for your information.

(Signed) W. H. CHRISTIE,
Postmaster General.

If the highway is so much out of repair as to be dangerous and impassable, carriages may be drawn off the road by the nearest way over contiguous land, and so on to the road again as soon as it becomes safe, and for this purpose fences may be removed. The right must be exercised by the driver or owner of the carriage, and must be discontinued as soon as the road is made passable. No unnecessary violence or mischief must be done.

(Signed) B. DARVILL,
Solicitor General.

Trusting you may deem the above of sufficient importance to warrant your insertion of it in the Mercury,

I remain, dear sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE A. F. KIBBLE,
Danman, Feb. 19, 1863.

was Chief Magistrate in Singleton, having been commissioned on first list of magistrates in the colony.²¹

When John was away, Ellen wrote of the loneliness²² “... the long winter evenings, sitting alone and being obliged to lock up the house myself, without another soul stirring; for the servants’ apartments and kitchen are detached from the home”.

Her sister Kate had gone to join her father and his family at Russell in New Zealand. On April 9th, 1842 she was married, by the Rev F J Churston, Colonial Chaplain, to Lieut Willoughby Shortland, who was Govt Secretary to Governor Hobson there. When Hobson died in September 1842, Shortland was ‘The Officer Administrating Government’ until the new Governor FitzRoy arrived.

In England, in 1843, at Copt Hall, Luton, the sister of Rev William McDouall died. She was the beloved ‘Aunt Doually’ who had brought up his children since his wife died after the birth of the twins. She left Ellen £500 “for her own separate use and benefit”, and the rest in equal shares to the eight nephews and nieces (about £1300 each).

In the Hunter Valley, grape-growing for wine was on the increase. John had evidently acquired some expertise, as he refused to plant the acreage he had planned because he could not get the varieties he wanted.²²

Some growers had planted up to 20 acres, but he thought “sufficient care had not yet been taken in suiting the vine to the soil, and by mixing different grapes the wine is indifferent”.

When the Hunter River Vineyards Association was formed in 1846 at Kirkton²³ (J Kelman’s property) J C S McDouall was a member, and his name appears in various reports of the organization.

By 1860 the production of 380 gallons was reported as being 100 gallons less than expected, owing to constant rain spoiling the grapes.²² He was awarded a small silver cup in 1869 at the Singleton Show for the “best white in any vintage”. His granddaughter, Maisie McDouall, still has the cup in her possession.

²¹ See Obituary

²² Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.

²³ Emma Gall’s Diary (Née King, sister of Shawford)

Rawdon and Hastings were included in a party which travelled from New England to Port Macquarie to celebrate Christmas 1846 at 'Lake Innes House', the home of Major A Innes, Commandant at Port Macquarie.²⁴ By New Year, 1847, they were at Singleton for a dance at 'New Freugh'.²⁵ Emma King's engagement to Lieut (later Captain) Isaac Hindley Gall was announced at this party, and they were married at Morpeth Church on July 22nd, 1847.²⁶

Emma's younger sister, Charlotte 'Shawford' King (aged 20) was married at New Freugh to Rawdon McDouall on July 20th, 1847. (She was always referred to by her second name.)

Hastings went off to New Zealand for a visit; he was to return early in 1849 and then went to England.

Rawdon and his wife stayed at 'New Freugh' for some time, possibly until their first daughter Bella was born in May 1848. Ellen said she wished they could have stayed longer, so as to look for a farm at a lower rental, but Rawdon was anxious for employment and a home of his own. He leased a property for 3 years called 'Clivedon' near Gresford upper Paterson River (tributary of the Hunter). Ellen (writing to her father-in-law) says "Rawdon's wife is a sensible woman and their baby, my Godchild, a sweet intelligent little girl".

When John went up in May 1849 to see 'Clivedon' he was disappointed with it - only a small place, about 700 acres, and he doubted the success of Rawdon's plan to purchase colts cheaply and break them in to sell again. Rawdon did not renew the lease. He and Hastings had shared a gift of £1000 from Lord Bute in 1844.

Lord Bute remarried in 1845, his second wife being Lady Sophia Hastings who father and mother were godparents to Rawdon and Hastings, the twins being called after them. The descendants of the twins still bear the names of the godfather, who was Marquis of Hastings and Earl of Rawdon.

The Rev William McDouall of Copt Hall, Luton, died on December 15th, 1849. In a letter to his son early in 1849 he had written that the doctor had visited him and said "You look very well", but the Rev William added "... how long this will continue it is hard to say - but unquestionably good accounts of my children and grandchildren have a wonderful effect of beautifying the countenance!"

²⁴ Annabella Goswell's Diary

²⁵ Emma Gall's Diary (Née King, sister of Shawford)

²⁶ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.

There was difficulty with the wording of the Will, and this involved John in a great deal of correspondence with the Executors, his brothers William and Patrick.²⁷ As he was 'heir at law' and the other two brothers were not, the Will could not be executed until he received a Deed, signed it and returned it. There were so many documents to be gone through and mails were so slow that it took a couple of years to finalize matters that could now be dealt with by air mail in a few months. John received the house in Edinburgh (which the executors advised him to sell at once). His brothers also sent him their father's watch and seal, some portraits, and the Coat of Arms which he was told "to assume at once, as the Representative of McDouall of 'Freugh'". The silverware and all other property was divided scrupulously among the eight surviving children and each eventually received about £1500. There was also a legacy for the twins from Lord Bute, who had died the previous year; this also involved legal papers going to and from Australia over a long period.²⁷ Lady Bute invited the only unmarried sister (Elizabeth, aged 30) to stay with her, however, she had already arranged to live with her sister Bella (wife of Admiral Hathorn). In 1852 she was married to Charles Stockdale Benning. They had two children. In the same year, the other sister, Penelope, and her husband, John Ramsay, came out to NSW from Inverness.

The Rev William *Sutherland* McDouall (John's brother) when visiting 'Dunragit' in Scotland in 1852 became engaged to Grace, daughter of Sir James Dalrymple-Hay.²⁷ Lord Dalrymple was with the same shooting party; his elderly father had just succeeded to the Earldom of Stair. Hastings was in England, visiting his brothers and sisters. He was waiting for news of the ship 'Vixen' which had sailed for San Francisco ten months earlier and could have been wrecked. Hastings had some cargo or share in the ship. He was insured, but stood to lose money and meantime he was living on his capital. He planned to pay a visit to 'Dunragit' and also to Lady Bute in Cardiff.²⁷ In May 1853 he married Susan Dalrymple-Hay (Grace's sister) and they went out to NSW in 1853-54 together with Susan's brother Houston. In 1859 Houston married Mary Louise King (Shawford's sister). Hastings and his wife returned to England where he died in 1869.

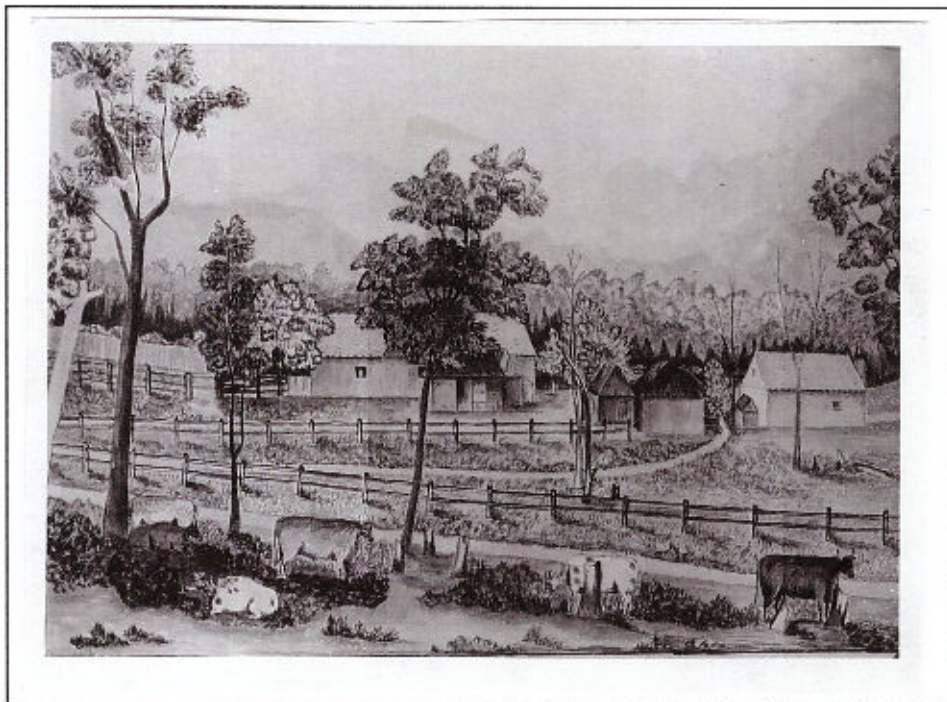
In the meantime, Rawdon McDouall and his wife 'Shawford' (née King) had embarked on a courageous pioneering effort. They had left 'Clivedon', of which John had such a poor opinion, and spent some time at 'New Freugh' where they were always welcome. During 1848 Rawdon purchased from Archibald Bell an area of 24,000 acres in the Horton Valley. It was called 'Ulumbarella' and had already been developed to some extent. A shearing shed

²⁷ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.

had been built and the sheep were divided into flocks, cared for night and day by shepherds who at night herded them into folds, made of rough logs and bush brush, and camped beside them, for the great danger was Wild Dogs - Dingoes.

In 1851 Rawdon and his wife set out with their two children (Bella, born 1848 and Charlotte, born 1850) to take possession of 'Ulumbarella'.

Ulumbarella Barraba NSW, home of Rawdon McDouall (brother of J.C.S. McDouall) drawn in 1872 by Charlotte McDouall (his daughter). This property was bought by Rawdon McDouall in 1851 from Archibald Bell.



Betty McDouall (wife of the grandson of that first Rawdon) tells us of the journey:²⁸ “... they travelled in a ‘sociable’ - a type of buggy with two seats running parallel at the back. A dray drawn by horses held all their belongings, including food supplies, horseshoes, tools for building and farming, clothing and material. As the nearest town of any size would have been hundreds of miles and many days’ journey away, nothing could be forgotten. Seeds, plants, cuttings to start a garden, fowls and domestic animals besides the cattle and horses which were driven by herdsmen. It was a long slow journey as the party was held up at Pages River (Murrurundi) for six weeks, not because of water, but the bad condition of the ground generally. Finally reaching the spot where the town of Barraba now stands, they continued on following the rough mountain track in a north westerly direction, descended into the Valley, crossed the Horton River where the Village now stands, and finally reached the small

²⁸ ‘Early Settlers in the Nandewas’

homestead which was already built on the Noogera Creek, three miles upstream, from the junction with the Horton. The house was built as close to the creek as possible with a fertile



flat between. Here they very soon established a flourishing garden and later were able to supply their own needs and market a surplus to various settlers.”

At El Caballo Blanco, Andalusian Dancing Horse Stud, Museum of Old Vehicles, WA. Believed to be a 'sociable' type of buggy. Taken 27th August 1981.

The homestead was built of slabs, split from the bush trees, the roof of overlapping sheets of bark tied down by strips of hide and held down by smaller poles. The windows had wooden shutters made, as were the doors, of sawn slabs of wood, with homemade hinges. “The fireplace made of stone with a bark top, it was as big as a small room with a hob at each end where people sat. Cauldrons and camp ovens used for cooking were made of iron. As material and more skilled labour became available, the original house was extended to become a long comfortable home, with a grape-vine shaded verandah overlooking the garden and creek. Separate bachelors quarters and other offices provided plenty of room for the many travellers, friends and relations who came to stay, not only for one night, but several.

Rawdon and Shawford's third child - a son (Rawdon No. 2) was born in 1852. They were to rear seven daughters and four sons. Great hardship was caused Rawdon and his wife when many of the hired hands, that had signed for a year, left for the Gold Rush.

Mrs Betty McDouall - says in her writing of the Upper Horton Valley “ ... The country above Caroda known as 'Eulourie' comprised an area of 40,960 acres with its homestead situated at the junction of Noogera Creek (commonly called Booni) and the Horton River. It was owned by Mr Parnell until August 16th, 1851, when it was transferred to Rawdon McDouall. He held

it until October 23rd, 1855, when it became the property of the King family (his in-laws). 'Eulourie' is still held by the King family."

Emma Gall (née King, Shawford's sister) writing in her diary says that in 1848, she and her husband (now Captain) Isaac Hindley Gall, were transferred to Norfolk Island. In July 1851 he and his family were transferred to Hobart, Tasmania.

In 1853 they paid a visit to her parents (Emma and Richard King) at 'Eulourie' where they met Rawdon McDouall who was coming to get them in his buggy, her 'cousin Purvis Marshall' was there also. She says " ... Hindley Gall joined Rawdon McDouall in a station property rather against my wishes".

In the Gazette of Gwydir District, Gall is listed as part owner in 'Ulumbarella' with Rawdon McDouall.

In another part of Emma's diary she says while there, that "Hindley drove Rawdon to Newcastle to have his hand attended to". It would appear to be a long drive!

The Galls returned to Tasmania in December 1853, but in May of the next year, Hindley got pleurisy and on doctors advice returned to Sydney, but died on board the ship on the way there. He was given a Military Funeral in Sydney August 18th, 1854. Emma and her family (she had six children, but two had died by that time) returned to her parents at 'Eulourie'. Rawdon McDouall came to Morpeth to meet her" ... in his buggy, a sociable, and a cart with a black boy driving it. We all stayed at 'New Freugh' on the way, and reached 'Eulourie' middle of November 1854. She goes on to say " ... I sold my share in Rawdon's station to him for £2000, the price that Mr Hay had offered." (Houston Dalrymple-Hay later married Emma's sister.)

At 'New Freugh' life continued busily through the years. Ten children were born (three girls and seven boys) and Ellen's letters to her sister, Kate Shortland, in Devon, England, enable us to picture some of the household activities.²⁹ We get the impression of a loving and united family. "The children, as usual, very fond of the baby and nearly smother him with kisses."

Each individual child's characteristics were noted affectionately. Ellen wrote in 1849: "My darlings are all well. William a big tall boy (seven years old). He reads very well. John is a

²⁹ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.

funny fellow and a general favourite, but not at all fond of lessons. Little Nell is “the flower of the flock”, a special favourite of her Papa. She is just commencing to talk. My pet, little Pat, is a fine boy, has a fine intelligent eye and a well formed head. I think his nose very sweet, a little inclined to hook. He is just commencing to walk.”

In view of the high rate of infant mortality in those days is a tribute to the care they received that all eleven children survived. The tenth child (a boy, Herbert Crichton) caused concern because he was a difficult feeder - eating quantities of fresh fruit and milk, and not caring for other foods. Ellen wrote “ ... not a large child ... he has a pretty intelligent face.”

He grew to be over 6ft tall, was never in hospital in his life, and died in his own home, surrounded by his six daughters, at the age of 87!

Most of the family lived well beyond the allotted span, and Patrick was active almost to the time of his death at 95.

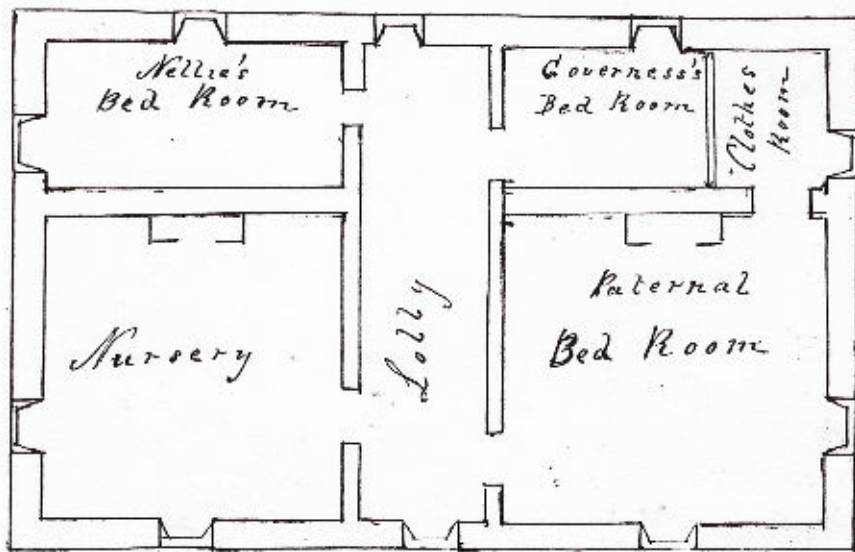
The rearing and educating of such a large family called for some sacrifices. Two of the elder boys were sent to boarding school (Sydney Grammar).³⁰ A tutor was engaged for the younger boys - the Rev H Porter, whom John in 1857 recommended to the Kemps. Ellen herself taught the eldest girl (Nellie) music and French, and by the age of 11 she was learning the ‘Hallelujah Chorus’ and had a “very good pronunciation”. She was also making herself a set of Pantalettes without any assistance.

The younger boys kept busy with the garden and Nellie also helped with the housekeeping duties “which she does very well”. A Governess taught the little girls in the morning, and worked all the afternoon at the sewing, which was evidently a time consuming task. That it was done conscientiously is attested by the comment of an assistant at the boarding school, who said she had less trouble with the McDouall boys’ clothes than any of the others. In 1858 Ellen wrote: “I must be busy tomorrow cutting out summer trousers for the boys, who are yet in hot ones. The nursery governess ... cannot manage much more than frocks and jackets etc. All under things I give out or do myself and of course, no end to the mending”. We are so accustomed in the 20th century to electric sewing machines and ready-made clothing that we do not realize how much we depend on them.

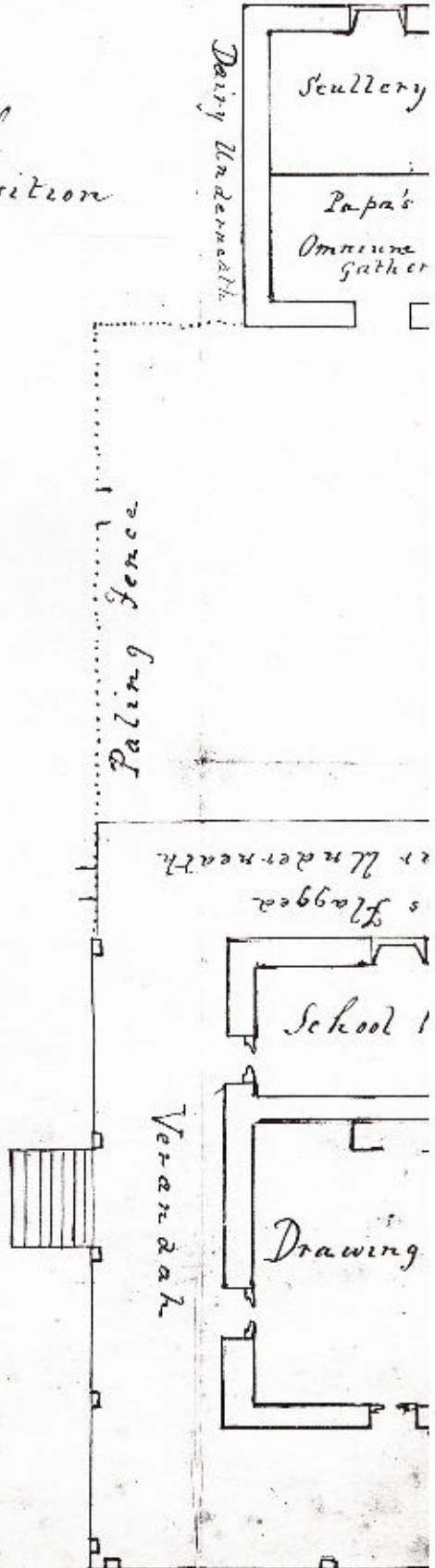
³⁰ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.

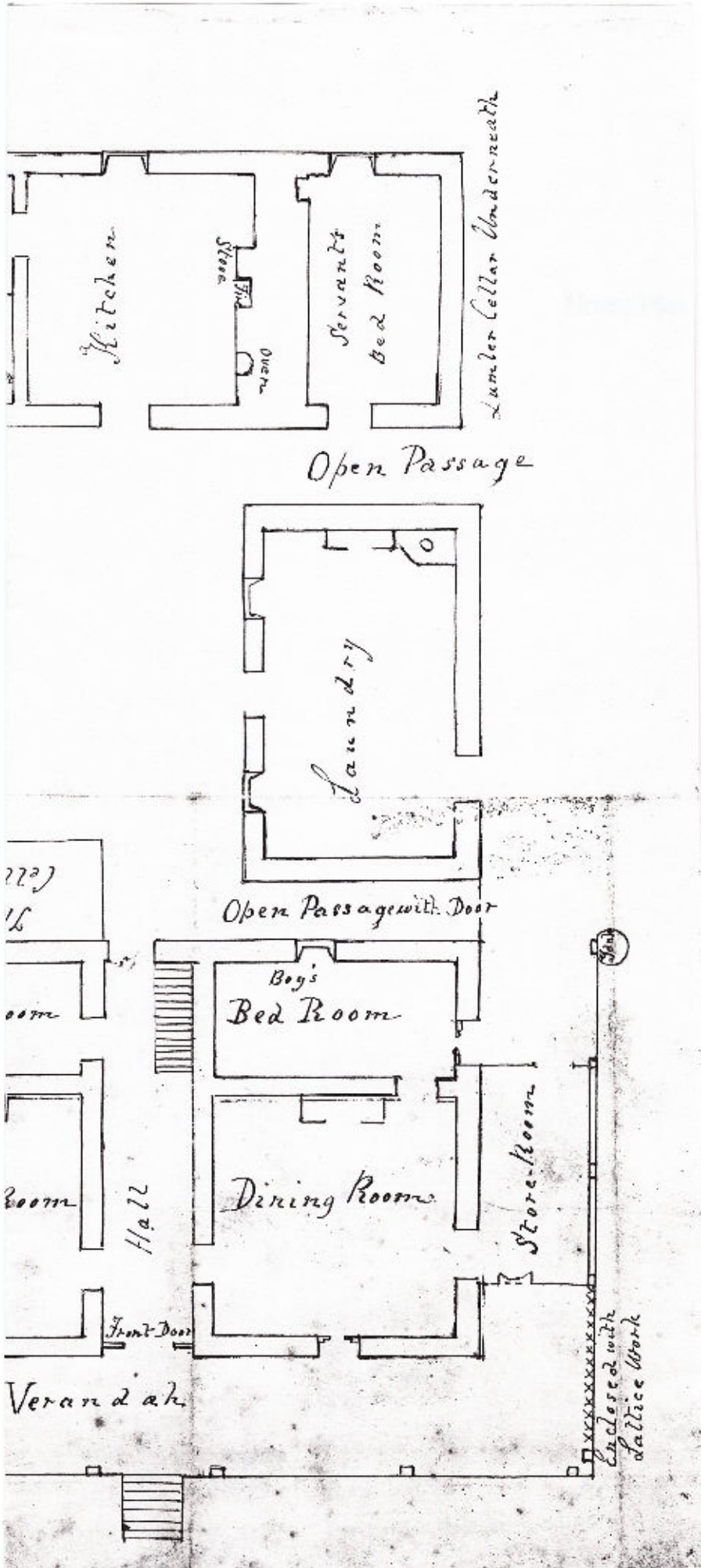
W^{rs} Shattand
Courtlands

Ground Plan of New Freugh
each building in its relative position
Scale
1/10 of an inch to a foot



Upper Story of House





Apparently social life in the area was limited; the state of the roads in winter, the heat in summer, restricted travel. However, Nellie was a good horse woman and so she was able to join her brothers on their outings. To Ellen, the children were the greatest source of happiness. "I thank God for having blessed me with the little darlings - they constitute my world."

The property was extended to make room for the growing family. In 1850 the FitzGeralds had returned to Sydney from New Zealand, and in October 1850 Robert was negotiating to buy, for J C S McDouall, a property of 3300 acres called 'Castle Forbes' adjoining 'New Freugh'.

³¹ It included Emigrate Creek and at one time belonged to J Mudie. There were protracted negotiations with a Mr Graham and the purchase was finally ratified on 31/10/1850.

In 1851 gold was discovered at Bathurst, and Robert FitzGerald wrote in excitement to his son-in-law,³¹ advising him to buy at once at Singleton 12 months supply of provisions "before the shopkeepers are affected ... flour was jumped to £20 per ton here this morning, tea, sugar, rice, brandy, and other provisions in proportion! People are deserting their jobs and going to the mines ... sow wheat into the ground in case your men leave you, and take care of your wheat on hand".

Additions to the house were not completed until 1860 and "cost more than was anticipated" (a modern touch!) By that time a verandah, new storerooms and other improvements had been added.

In 1857 Robert FitzGerald spent three weeks at 'New Freugh' where he was very popular.³¹ "He was the life of the house ... so well and in such good spirits ... He took my share of the teaching ... and all his grandchildren are so fond of him." Without benefit of modern teaching methods, Katie, aged 3½, "begins to read and spell nicely."

There was evidently a dry spell in 1858. Ellen wrote to her half-sister, Connie, in October: "Ten days ago we had glorious rain, grass now deliciously green and the poor cattle are luxuriating; all garden stuff growing well and good promise of fruit. Our dairy is large, now I have engaged a woman on the farm to attend to it for the summer months - last summer it was the work of Cook, and because of that I was constantly in the kitchen".

The FitzGeralds were planning in 1861 to buy a house at Maitland, and Ellen welcomed this "... you will seem so near to me. Half a day will bring you to us, and there is a great deal in

³¹ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahrenonga. Some are copies of originals.

the feeling of nearness”³².

During the winter of 1861 Ellen was feeling unwell while awaiting the birth of her 11th child. She had a nasty cough, but had “all things ready and in apple-pie order”³².

On September 18th, a tragic blow fell - the baby (a girl, named Maria Caroline) was born, but Ellen died. She was only 36 years old, and had been such a devoted mother that the loss must have left her family desolate.

The faithful former steward, William Barber, immediately sent his wife up from ‘Trematon Park’ to help. His letter, dated October 5th, 1861 is a touching expression of genuine sympathy and a loyal sense of duty:

“My dear Sir, I received your very kind note but don't mention thanks for I have only done my duty in sending my wife up and I am very thankful to know that she is of service to your family - for particularly the dear little baby. I hope the Lord will spare her to you. I am quite agreeable to do what both you and my wife wish me to, as soon as ever I can settle my affairs down here I will lose no time in going up.

It will recall to my mind many days gone by when I am with the two young Gentlemen, your sons, it will make me remember when you and your dear brothers were young Gentlemen like them; the greatest trouble I will find in meeting with you Sir, but hoping, please you, soon to see you, I remain my ever dear Sir,

*Your very respectfully,
William Barber³²*

This practical assistance must have been very welcome to all the family, particularly Nellie, the eldest girl. She was only fourteen but was very capable; she had been help and companion to her mother and had already taken over many housekeeping duties. Now she became more or less mistress of the house and all her brothers and sisters were devoted to her.

For three years the family struggled on. Then, in 1864, their father married again. His second wife was Susan Hartigan, daughter of the Rev Edward Hartigan, Rector of

³² Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.



DEATHS registered in the District of Patricks Plains
in the Colony of New South Wales,
by Christian Copenhagen. District Registrar.

Column		
1	No. in Register	4397. 362.
2	DESCRIPTION— When and where died Usual residence	10th September, 1861. New Freugh.
3	Name and surname Occupation	Ellen Maria McDouall formerly Fitzgerald. -
4	Sex and age	Female. 36 years.
5	Cause of Death; duration of last illness; by whom certified	Childbirth, 8 hours. Henry Glennie. Surgeon. 10th September, 1861.
6	Christian name and surname of father, with occupation Christian name and maiden surname of mother	Robert Appleyard Fitzgerald Gentleman. Isabella Fitzgerald formerly Johnstone.
7	Name, description, and residence of informant	J. C. F. McDouall. Husband, New Freugh.
8	Signature of District Registrar Date of registration	C. Copenhagen 17th September, 1861 Singleton.
9	IF BURIAL REGISTERED— When and where buried or cremated	13th September, 1861. Church of England. Cemetery Singleton.
10	Undertaker or Superintendent by whom certified Name and religion of Minister Names of witnesses to burial or cremation	John W. Osborn. James Blackwood. Church of England. Clergyman. William Meyn. Charles Pettit.
11	Where born, and how long in the Australian Colonies, or States, indicating which	Trinidad, West Indies. 20 years. New South Wales.
12	IF DECEASED WAS MARRIED— Where, and at what age, and to whom. Conjugal condition of deceased at time of death	Sydney, 16 years. John Crichton. Stuart McDouall.
13	Issue in order of birth, their names and ages	William A. F. 19 years. John C. S. 17. Ellen E. 15 Patrick J. C. 13 Robert C. 11 Willoughby F. 9 Isabella K. 7 Gerald H. C. 6 Euphemia S. 4 Herbert C. 1 Maria Caroline O.

Castletown, County Tipperary.³³ He had 13 children, four of whom came to Australia. Susan probably came out about 1852 with her brother, Dr Robert Stratford Hartigan. He practised in Singleton and was greatly loved and respected. He was killed in a sulky accident in 1872, aged 42, unmarried.



J.C.S. McDouall with Daughter Nellie

Years later, in 1899, the youngest son of J C S McDouall (Dr Herbert Crichton McDouall) was to marry Hester Maria Corry Hartigan, the daughter of another of Susan's brothers, Charles Stewart Hartigan.

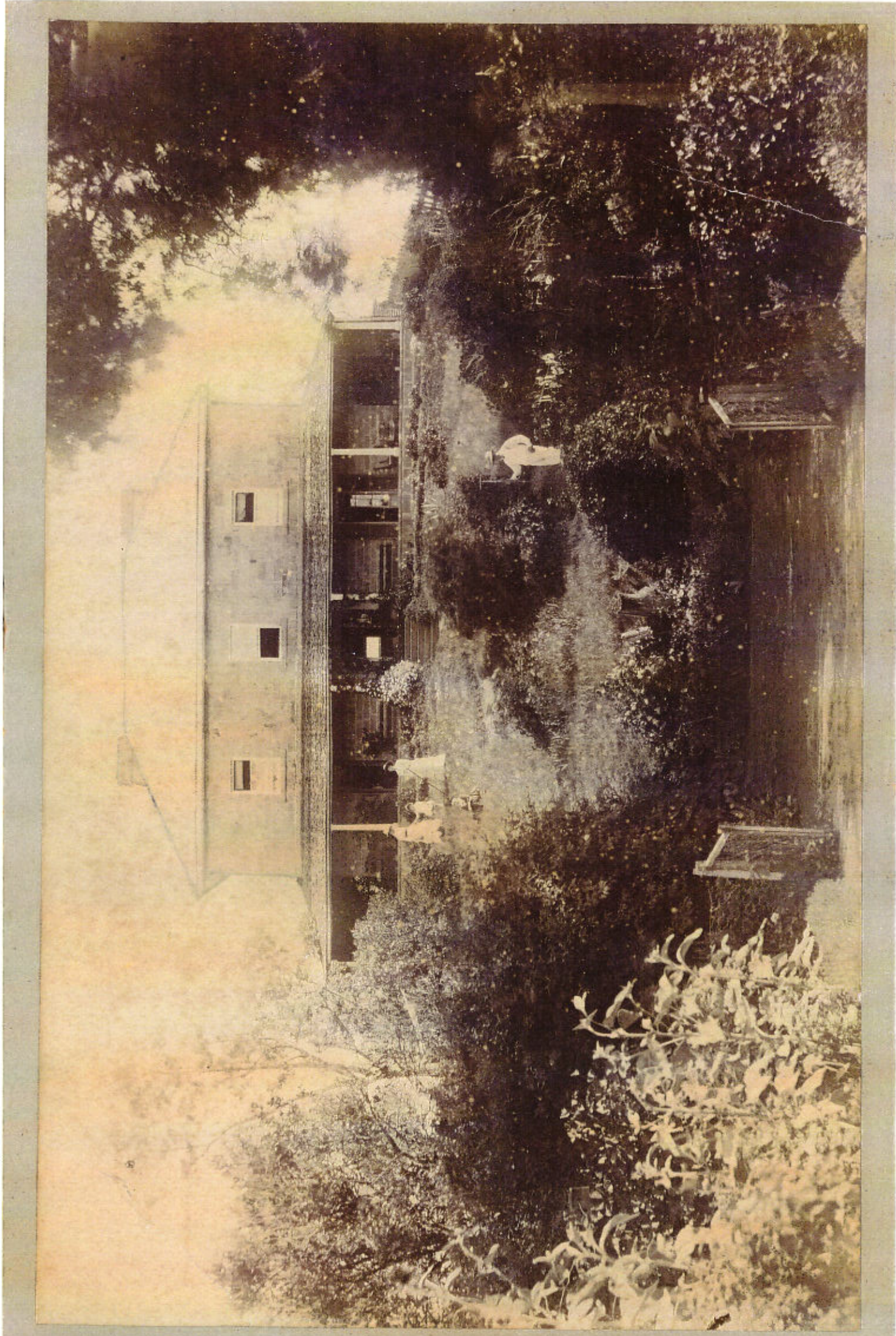
But that was in the future. The immediate situation facing Susan was fraught with difficulties. A step-mother joining a family of 11 children, whose ages ranged from 22 years to 3 years, needs much tact. Especially with an 18-year-old girl on whom the whole family depended. The younger children

responded well and in time came to regard Susan as their own mother. Money was tight, and when the new wife took over she tried to economise on household expenses and prevent any wastage or extravagance. Nellie was understandably resentful at being superseded and treated as a child.

The FitzGeralds now lived in Maitland. Isabella's stepdaughters had been very fond of her, so Nellie went to live with her grandfather and his wife, and helped with her large family. In 1867, when she was 21, she married Ernest Anthony Nardin³⁴ who was born in 1837 in Kent, of Huguenot descent, and came to Australia about 1858. He was a civil engineer and was to become Supervisor of Roads & Bridges in NSW; he designed and built the road to Jenolan Caves.

³³ Rev A Hartigan: 'Pollock of Newry & Descendants'

³⁴ Debrett's Peerage, 1907 ed. pp 540-41



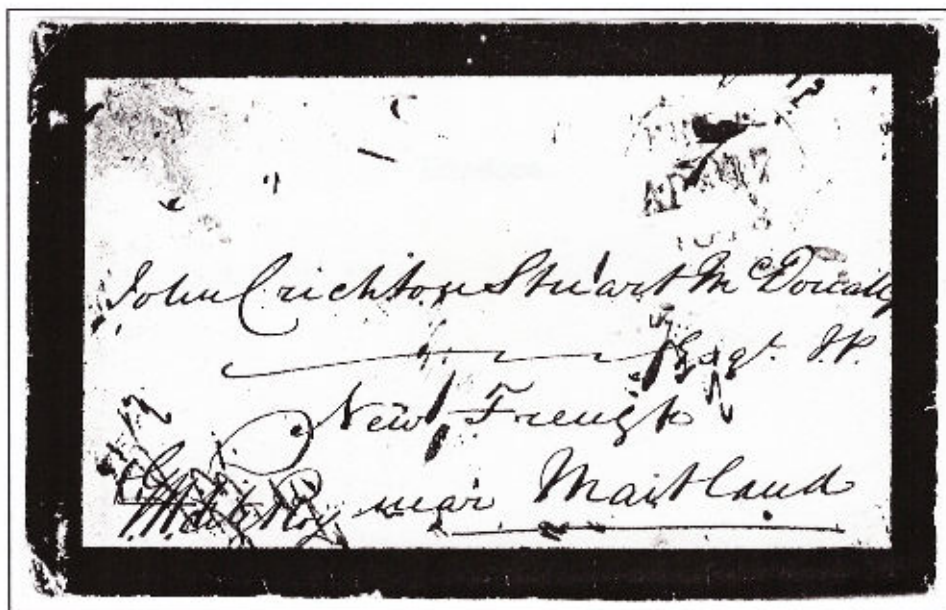
They had nine children (three daughters and six sons - three sons died in infancy). She died in 1932 at Chatswood.³⁵

At 'New Freugh' John continued to serve the community generously, as he had throughout his sojourn in the district.³⁶ His third son, Patrick, (whose godfather was Lord James Stuart - brother of the Marquess of Bute) left school early and helped his father on the property. When older he took over the management.

There were no Police Magistrates to preside over the administration of Justices of Petty Sessions; instead there were a number of honorary justices in each district. The Chief was styled 'The Warden', and in Singleton this office was held by J C S McDouall from the 1850s to the time of his death in 1891, when he had the longest service as a magistrate of anyone in the Colony. Records show that he was a constant attender at the Courts and punctilious in the discharge of his duties.³⁶

Among his other public offices were: Vice President of the Agricultural Association, first Master of the Masonic Lodge in 1864, a churchwarden of All Saints' Church, Singleton, Chairman in 1880 of the Pastures Protection Board. He was the Returning Officer for

Envelope and letter to J C S McDouall from Government House 17 April 1848



³⁵ Notebooks in Mitchell Library

³⁶ Honorary Secretary, Singleton Historical Society

Government House

Sydney 17 April 1848.

Sir,

The appointment of Warden
of the District of Patrick's Plains
having become vacant by the
resignation of Mr. St. Scott J.P.
I have it in command of
His Excellency The Governor
to offer to you that situation
I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your obedient Servant
John C. S. McDouall
New Zealand

W. J. FitzGerald
Prior Deputy

Singleton from the time of responsible Government in 1866 until the last election in 1889.³⁷ Consequently he never recorded a vote!

The Commission for Railways acquired land for the newly laid railway to Singleton. This land was part of the New Freugh Estate. They offered J C S McDouall £300 for it, but after a legal fight in 1863 they agreed to pay £384.13.3! The correspondence on the matter is in the Railway archives at Singleton.

The Honorary Secretary of Singleton Historical Society, writing on December 3rd, 1963 to Mrs Barbara Ralph (granddaughter of J C S McDouall) said "... at the Singleton Railway Centenary, we arranged last March a re-enactment of the official opening of the Railway to Singleton by the Governor, Sir John Young ... Your grandfather took a large part, as he was at the time Warden of Singleton and officially welcomed the Governor on behalf of the district ...". This was included in the re-enactment.

From 1851 to 1883 J C S McDouall was Honorary Secretary of the Hospital Board and laid the foundation stone of the Singleton Hospital, then known as the Benevolent Asylum, in 1861.

In 1961 the New Hospital Building was opened, the old one demolished, and a Caltex Service Station now stands on the original spot.

In 1885 the second Mrs McDouall laid the foundation stone of the little stone church at Lower Belford. The land was given by J C S McDouall and he and his wife gave money for the construction. The stone was from an old convict built barn and was given by the owners of a property on the other side of the river. It was consecrated in 1886 by the Bishop and called the Church of the Good Shepherd. J C S was lay reader there. In October 1961, on the 75th anniversary of the church's consecration, a thanksgiving service was held there.³⁸ Maisie McDouall and Janet Tooth (granddaughters of J C S McDouall) attended, representing the family.³⁹

The church was in a good state of preservation. Inside roof of heavy arched timber, stained glass window over the altar, beautiful oil lamps, the pale grey linoleum of the floor of the sanctuary giving the effect of marble, a beautiful little cross on the altar (teak or ebony inlaid with mother-of-pearl). The organ had been given by Robert (the 4th son) who had brought it

³⁷ Honorary Secretary, Singleton Historical Society

³⁸ Newcastle Herald (3rd October, 1961)

³⁹ Family letters in the possession of Mrs M Leslie, Wahroonga. Some are copies of originals.

back from America. He was lay preacher after his father's death and his sister Maria played the organ. After Maria went to England, Maisie's mother, Lily, wife of Patrick, played the organ for service, and Maisie remembers playing it for choir practice when she was 10 or 11. It was in this church that Patrick and Lily's daughter Jessie was married to Jim Wilson in 1905.



*'New Freugh'
Janet Tooth (Née
McDouall) standing in
front of her
grandfather's home
196.?*

Unfortunately, Rawdon and Shawford did not gain the success that their valiant effort at 'Ulumbarella' deserved. The property suffered severely from droughts and when Rawdon died in 1884 the family was not well off. In later years, better times came, and many of his descendants are now living in that area. 'Ulumbarella' is still owned by a grandson, but that is another story in itself. At the time of Rawdon's death, it was necessary for the family to separate. One daughter, Millie, aged 26, went to live with the FitzGeralds at Muswellbrook. Two of the younger children (Chrissy, aged 17 and Fred, aged 13) were welcomed at 'New Freugh'.

This was typical of the home which always kept 'open house'. It was regarded as headquarters for the whole family, and offered generous hospitality to all who came.

John Crichton Stuart McDouall died on January 30th, 1891. He was 72 years of age and had achieved much in that lifetime. Many tributes were paid to his character and his service to the community.

“... He was a warm hearted benevolent man, doing good where he could in a quiet, unostentatious manner. He was widely respected and esteemed, and had all the characteristics of an English Gentleman.”⁴⁰



J C S McDouall

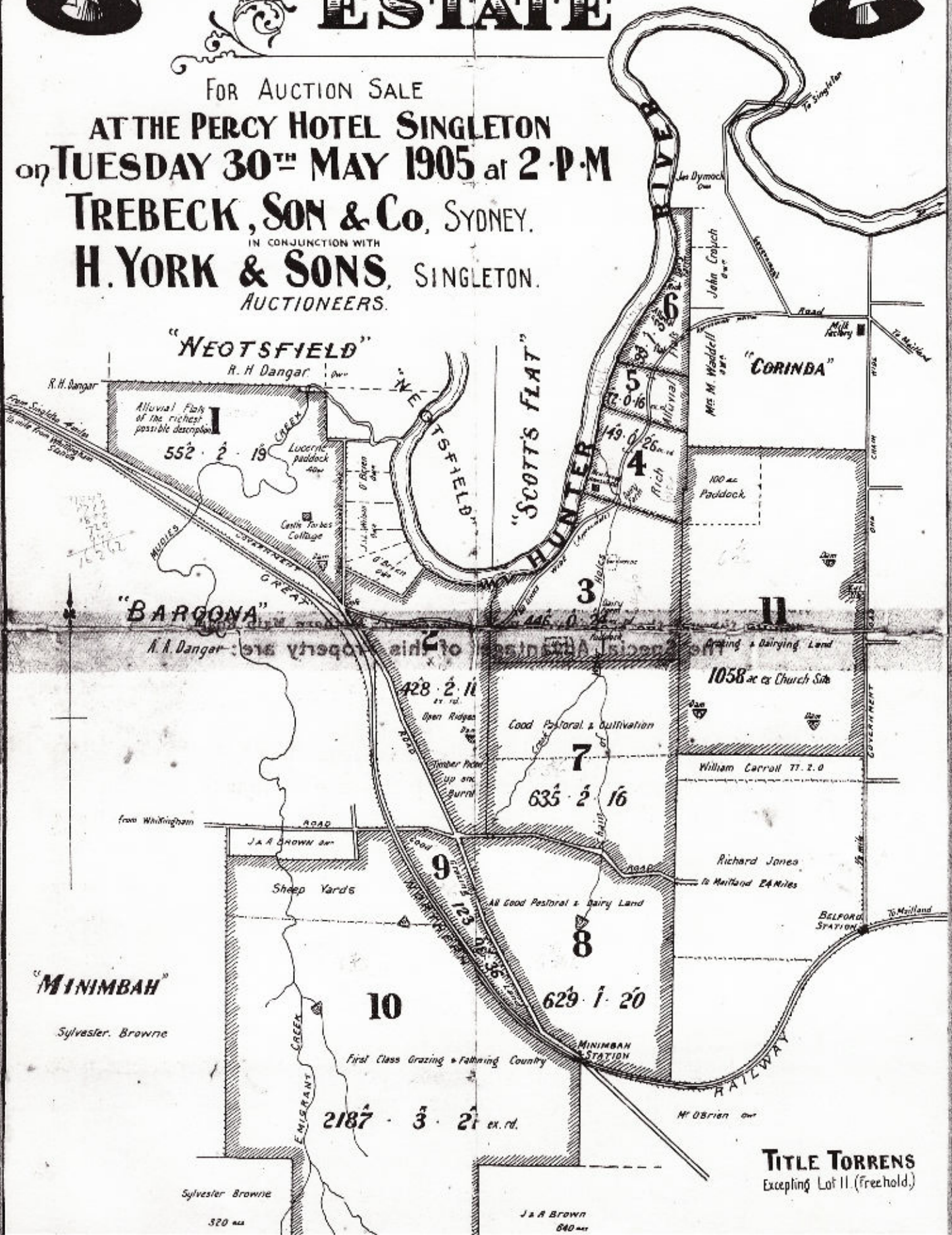
In an address given in All Saints' Church, Singleton, the Rev H B Shaw said “ His public duties were discharged with fidelity, and, though singularly unassuming and unambitious in disposition, his quiet good sense and judgment had always a salutary influence, whether on the Bench or in a meeting ... He was ever gentle and courteous, and kindly in his conduct towards others, but above all a reverent and humble disciple of Jesus Christ.”

⁴⁰ Hon. Secretary, Singleton Historical Society

NEW FREUGH

ESTATE

FOR AUCTION SALE
 AT THE PERCY HOTEL SINGLETON
 ON TUESDAY 30TH MAY 1905 at 2 P.M.
 TREBECK, SON & Co, SYDNEY.
 IN CONJUNCTION WITH
 H. YORK & SONS, SINGLETON.
 AUCTIONEERS.



TITLE TORRENS
 Excepting Lot II. (Freehold.)

HUNTER RIVER FARMS.

"NEW FREUGH" ESTATE.

Extensive Frontage to the Hunter River, and adjoining the well-known Barooka (A. A. Dangar, Esq., Neotsfield (R. H. Dangar, Esq.), and Minimbah (Sylvester Browne, Esq.)

5 miles from Singleton, 25 miles from Maitland, and 41 miles from the Shipping Port of Newcastle. 140 miles from Sydney.

TREBECK, SON & CO.,

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

12 O'CONNELL ST., SYDNEY,

H. YORK & SONS, SINGLETON,

Have received instructions from the Executors of the late J. C. S. McDouall to Sell by Auction, at The Percy Hotel, Singleton, on

TUESDAY, 30th MAY, 1905, at 2 p.m.

that well-known

"NEW FREUGH" ESTATE,

which has been in the possession of the present owner since 1843.

"NEW FREUGH" comprises

6,384 acres Freehold, all under Torrens Title, and has the Sydney to Brisbane Railway running through the property as well as the Great Northern Main Road.

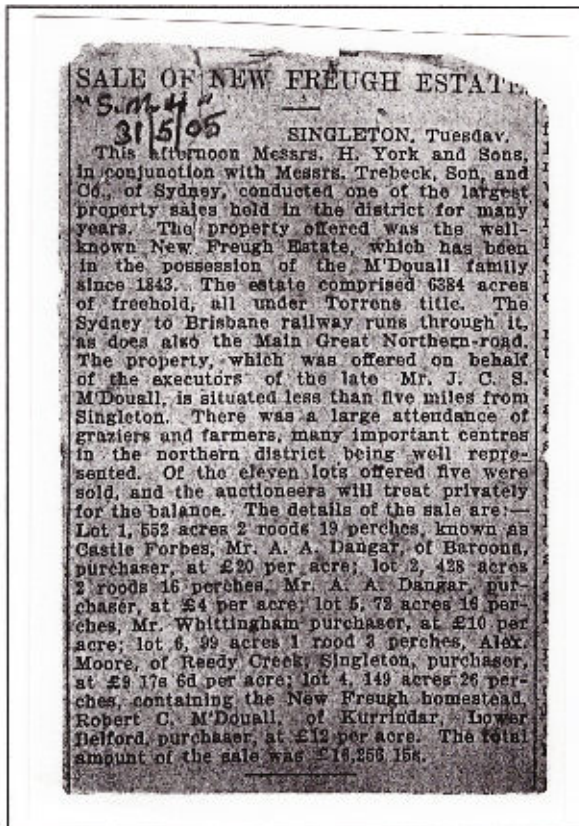
The Special Advantages of this Property are:—

- 1.—Its extensive frontage to the Hunter River.
- 2.—One Platform on the property and two Railway Stations almost adjoining, also good main roads everywhere.
- 3.—Weekly Produce Markets at Singleton, where there are also a Bacon Factory and two Butter Factories, where farmers get prompt cash for all produce.
- 4.—Splendid rainfall, viz 31 inches annually.
- 5.—On the Eastern side of the property, a Condensed Milk Factory and Creamery

A Description of the various Blocks is as follows:—

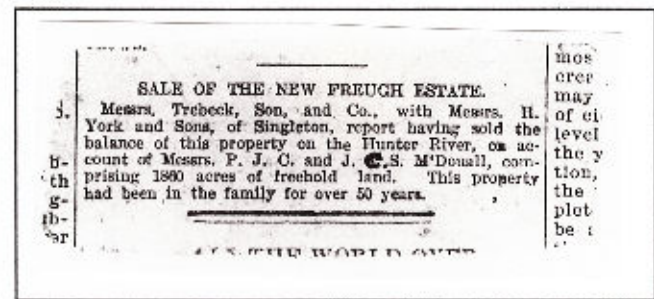
- Lot 1.—552 acres, 4½ miles from Singleton. This block is known as Castle Forbes, and is, without doubt, the best bit of land of its size in the District for Lucerne growing, water being easily got at a shallow depth. This is fenced and divided into three grass paddocks and four lucerne paddocks, more or less netted. Nice six roomed cottage and outbuildings. Mudies' Creek runs through centre.
- Lot 2.—428 acres, good grazing country, **Hunter River Frontage** as well as to Railway, open ridgy country and all fallen timber picked up and burnt. Divided into two paddocks.
- Lot 3.—446 acres, well watered by creek, 20 acres under cultivation, fenced and divided into two paddocks, weatherboard cottage, milking yards, &c.
- Lot 4.—149 acres. This is the portion containing "New Freugh" House, all built of stone, ten rooms, &c., and necessary outbuildings. Orchard, 30 acres under cultivation, large sheds, and frontage to **Hunter River**.
- Lot 5.—72 acres, 20 acres of which are Lucerne, dwelling, yards and dairy, &c. **Hunter River Frontage.**
- Lot 6.—99 acres, 80 acres cultivated and divided into several paddocks, dwelling and other buildings, yards and dairy, one mile from Factory. **Hunter River Frontage.**
- Lot 7.—635 acres, fenced and divided into two paddocks, creek passing through portion, adjoins Main Road, open grass land and good fattening, some good wheat land.
- Lot 8.—629 acres, fenced, all good pastoral land, suitable for Dairying. Water.—Two small creeks and a large dam. Main Singleton to Maitland Road bounds this on northern side, and Minimbah Railway Station is on the southern boundary.
- Lot 9.—123 acres, fenced and adjoining Great Northern Railway, ringbarked and good grazing country. Watered by dam
- Lot 10.—2187 acres, fenced and well watered by Emigrant Creek and two Dams, three paddocks, first-class grazing and fattening country, sheep yards to hold 3000 sheep.
- Lot 11.—1058 acres, grazing and dairying country, watered by two dams. This block is about a mile from

'New Freugh' was offered for auction sale on May 30th, 1905. The Sydney Morning Herald reported from Singleton:



Taken from the Sydney Morning Herald 31/5/1905

From a Newspaper cutting later, date unknown



Sale of New Freugh Estate

This afternoon Messrs. H. York and Sons, in conjunction with Messrs. Trebeck, Son, & Co., of Sydney, conducted one of the largest property sales held in the district for many years.

The property offered was the well-known New Freugh Estate, which has been in the possession of the M'Douall family since 1843. The Estate comprised 6384 acres of freehold, all under Torrens title.

The Sydney to Brisbane railway runs through it, as does also the Main Great Northern-road. The property, which was offered on behalf of the executors of the late Mr. J.C.S. M'Douall, is situated less than five miles from Singleton. There was a large attendance of graziers and farmers, many important centres in the northern district being well represented. Of the eleven lots offered five were sold, and the auctioneers will treat privately for the balance. The details of the sale are:— lot 1, 552 acres 2 roods 19 perches, known as Castle Forbes, Mr A.A. Danger, of Baroons, purchaser, at £20 per acre; lot 2, 428 acres 2 roods 16 perches, Mr A.A.Dangar, purchaser at £4 per acre; lot 5, 72 acres 16 perches, Mr Wittingham purchaser, at £10 per acre; lot 6, 99 acres 1 rood 3 perches, Alex. Moore, of Reedy Creek Singleton, purchaser, at £9.17s.6d. per acre; lot 4, 149 acres 26 perches, containing the New Freugh homestead, Robert C. M'Douall, of Kurrindar, Lower Belford, purchaser, at £12 per acre. The total amount of the sale was £16,256.15s.

Sale of the New Freugh Estate

Messrs Trebeck, Son & Co., with Messrs H. York and Sons, of Singleton, report having sold the balance of this property on the Hunter River, on account of Messrs P.J.C. and J.C.S. McDouall, comprising 1860 acres of freehold land. This property had been in the family for over 50 years.



'New Freugh'

*Photos taken about 1930 and
sent to Gerald McDouall by Mrs
Beh (née Mann)*



Side View



Back View

The cattle-branding irons used at 'New Freugh' were separate irons J.M.D. They were used in 1846 but only registered in 1866. They are now in the Singleton Museum, NSW.

Original taken to Singleton Historical Society, August, 1973, to be placed in Museum together with the old Branding Irons, already sent there by M & F McDouall 1970.

SCHEDULE G.

REGISTRATION OF BRANDS ACT OF 1866.

Certificate of Registration.

No. *1397*

Sydney, *30th Nov* 186*8*

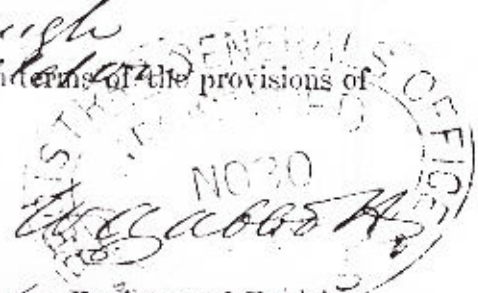
Horse Shoutte

J
M D

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the Brand mentioned in the margin hereof, has this day been duly Registered as the Brand of

*J. G. J. McDouall
New Freugh
Singleton*

the abovenamed Act.



W. G. Abbott
Registrar of Brands.

Er 11-68

Robert died suddenly in 1905 and Patrick stayed on at 'New Freugh' until all lots were eventually sold; then he joined his son-in-law Jim Wilson. Susan, the second Mrs McDouall, had been in need of nursing care for some time and was in a nursing home near Sydney. She died in 1906, aged 86.

In Scotland, the original castle of 'Freugh' has disappeared and is believed to have been destroyed by fire many years ago. 'Balgreggan' was occupied by the RAF during World War II. After the war it was damaged by vandals, and has been demolished. The area is now an airfield, known as the 'RAF Freugh Airfield'.

Entrance to 'Balgreggan' Wigtounshire, Scotland. The old 'Freugh-Balgreggan' McDouall Clan family home, now pulled down (in approx. 1965). Had been rebuilt in approx. 1730.



*"This is the place, Stand still my steed,
Let me review the scene,
And summon from the shadowy past
The forms that once have been"
- Longfellow*



*Side view of 'New Freugh' Singleton, showing tennis ground with John C S McDouall with daughter Maria and niece Chrissie McDouall
Seated is Susan McDouall (née Hartigan) 2nd wife of J C S McDouall, with grandchild*

Of J C S McDouall's 11 children -

1. William - born 1842. Went to New Zealand as a Surveyor, he fought in the Maori war as an officer of the Mounted Scouts of the Defence Force. He returned to NSW in 1871 having been in New Zealand for 7 years. He was then stationed as Surveyor at Moree. But his health had been undermined by the hardship in New Zealand and he died in 1876 aged 34.
2. John - born 1843. Studied Law, later went to Bundaberg, Queensland and was involved in the beginnings of the Sugar Industry. Returning to Sydney he married Bella Gollan, a widow. He had no children and died in Sydney in 1923 aged 80.
3. Ellen - As previously recorded she married Ernest Nardin in 1867. She had 3 daughters and 6 sons. She died at Chatswood in 1932 aged 87.
4. Patrick - born 1848 and as previously stated became Manager of 'New Freugh' for his father, he married 1883 Lily Swanston and lived in the cottage at Castle Forbes until the sale of 'New Freugh' Estate. He went to manage his son-in-law's property 'Raglan' at Dungog and then joined his son-in-law Jim Wilson at Calliope Station, Queensland. He retired in the 1920s to Killara where he died in 1943 aged 95. He had 1 son and 7 daughters.
5. Robert - born 1850. An Engineer, was growing sugar in Queensland with John, but later had the NSW Condensed & Concentrated Milk Co. at Kurrinda near Belford. He went to Europe and America to obtain latest methods for his milk business and could well be the father of the dairying industry of that district. He died from diphtheria in 1905, unmarried, aged 55.
6. Willoughby - born 1852. Went as a lad of 14 years and 9 months to New Zealand to join his brother William. After over a year of hard work camping and helping in the surveying, he had to return to township owing to the Maori war and helped doing garrison duty at night. After the war he remained in New Zealand and he got himself a job with Captain Reid at his general store. He stayed there until 1870 when he joined the Bank of Otago, then to Queenstown for 2 years. In 1872 was sent to Cardrona as Manager to open a Bank there, aged 20. His was an arduous and dangerous time there taking the gold over the mountains on foot leading a horse to Queenstown each month. He was transferred to Dunedin Branch of National Bank and worked his way to be Manager of National Bank at Oamaru where he lived a full and busy life till his death. Died in 1914 aged 62. He married Mary Edith Emily McArdell in 1875. He had 2 daughters and 6 sons.

7. Isabella Kate - born 1854. As a young woman went to live with her Aunt Kate Shortland in Devon - she was never strong and died in England in 1893, aged 39.

8. Gerald - born 1855. Went into the Bank at Singleton, and in 1884 went as Manager to Tamworth for the Australian Joint Stock Bank. He married Florence Stacy of Singleton in 1887. He had no children. After 18 years at Tamworth, he retired owing to oncoming blindness. Died in Sydney in 1909, aged 54.

9. Euphemia Susan - born 1857. Married 1881 Beresford Hudson a grazier at 'Hillsborough' out of Maitland. They had 4 sons and 4 daughters. After her husband's death she built a home at Leura in the Blue Mountains where she died in 1932, aged 75.

10. Herbert Crichton - born 1860. Went to England at age of 18 to do his medical course, as no medical school in Sydney at that time. Went to Kings College, London. Worked under the famous Dr (afterwards Lord) Lister who discovered antiseptics. He obtained his MRCS England, and LRCP London. Returned to Sydney and practised for a short time in Newcastle. In 1884 he took up psychiatric work at Gladesville Hospital, but returned to England to obtain his DPH at Cambridge. In 1899 he again went to England to marry Hester Maria Corry Hartigan and returned to become Medical Superintendent of Callan Park Hospital and then of Gladesville Hospital, where he stayed until he retired to live a busy life at 'Balgreggan' Wahroonga. They had 6 daughters. He died at Wahroonga in 1947, aged 87.

11. Maria - born 1861. Went to England with her brother Herbert and lived with her Aunt Kate Shortland in Devon. There she met and married in 1903 a widower Rev Arthur Sanders, who later became Archdeacon of Exeter Cathedral. She had no children and died in 1934, aged 73.

The descendants of the Clan McDouall of 'Freugh' and 'Balgreggan' have increased and multiplied through the years, and their sons and daughters have been scattered in many lands, including the British Isles, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Egypt, India, China, Malay, Iran, Canada, USA, South America, Africa, Pacific Islands, Antarctica, New Zealand, Australia and Hong Kong. They have served in many walks of life: the Army, Navy, Air Force, Merchant Navy; in many professions: medical, engineering, teaching and scientific; in the Church; in Banks; in political and business fields; the Arts; and (like the pioneers who founded 'New Freugh') as farmers, graziers, and homemakers.

They have been true to their motto:

Vincere vel Mori, pro Deo, Rege, et Patria

The homestead at Singleton is no longer standing. The stones remain on the site, but owing to damage to the woodwork by white ants the structure has collapsed. However the lives that began there have touched many others and, we hope, have made some contribution to the development of Australia.

