

## ARTHUR JAMES McDONALD, Son

Birth: 26 Mar 1862 Place: River Leven  
Baptism: 27 Oct 1862 Place: St Mark's C.E., Deloraine  
Death: ..... Place: .....  
Burial: ..... Place: .....  
Occupation: Farmer (1881) Carpenter (1887 1889) Labourer (1884 1890)  
Residence: Castra Road (1890)  
Father: GEORGE McDONALD (~1801-1878)  
Mother: DELIA FURNER [ALIAS GILLAM] (~1815-1900)

Informant of birth was George McDonald senr., farmer, River Leven. [RGD 1356] Date of birth given as 14 February 1862 in baptism register. Baptism found in Deloraine Parish Register - presumably the clergyman travelled.

Witnesses to marriage were J. McDonald [brother] and A. Anderson [brother-in-law]. [RGD 604]  
Not in 1921 Electoral Roll for Leven.

### Spouse: JEMIMA ANDERSON

Birth: 23 Sep 1864 Place: Port Frederick [Latrobe]  
Baptism: 19 May 1865 Place: Port Sorell Parish, C.E.  
Death: 1 Jun 1942 Place: Hospital, Ulverstone Age: 77  
Burial: 2 Jun 1942 Place: Ulverstone Cemetery [Headstone]  
Occupation: Miller's Daughter (1881) Servant; Dressmaker (1912 1921)  
Father: JAMES ANDERSON (1829-1885)  
Mother: MARGARET BAND (1830-1924)  
Marriage: 17 Aug 1881 Place: House of Mr Anderson, Castra Road, C.E., by Lic.

Informant of birth was Margaret Anderson, married woman, Port Frederick. [RGD 1595]

Baptism gives birth date as 23 July 1864. [C.E. Baptism Register p 33]

Worked for Mrs Thomas Shaw of *Molenda*, Castra Road in 1878 as a 'Nursegirl' at 4/- per week, 'very good tempered but slow'. [Diary]

Died of breast cancer, Ulverstone Hospital aged 77 years. Informant of death was R.W. Broadfield, Undertaker, Ulverstone. Dr L. Gollan. 3 sons living at time of death. Stated to be 'wife of Arthur James McDonald of address unknown'. [RGD 415]

See Advocate 2 June 1942 for death and funeral notice.

Children: JAMES ANDERSON (1884-1978)  
HENRY [Harry] (1887-1974)  
OSCAR ARTHUR (1889-1977)

The baby of the McDonald family was Arthur James, who was born at River Leven on 26 March 1862, although when he was baptised the birth date was given as 14 February. He was the youngest of thirteen, of whom the eight eldest had already left home when he was born, leaving him with three sisters and a brother at home. Arthur was eleven years old when he was first sent to the government school at Ulverstone. He only attended the school for a year and left in 1874, at the age of twelve, to take up bushwork.<sup>1</sup> We would all like to think of our ancestors and their families living the good life, never in want, and of having kind and endearing personalities. But there was no level playing field and the have-nots far out-numbered the haves.

<sup>1</sup> Ulverstone State School Admission Register: Entry No. 80.

I sometimes wonder what life was like for a small boy growing up on a fledgling farm on the Castra Road in the 1860s! Remember they had only moved there about 1858 and the farm had to be claimed from the bush. Was the discipline harsh? Was the family a loving one or had hardships made his mother and father indifferent to the emotional needs of their children? Were there moments of freedom when poverty could be forgotten and simple pleasures appreciated?

What did little boys do with their time? Did they learn to live off the land; become skilled at hunting to supplement the family income; prospect for gold; develop their bodies to become champion axemen and horsemen? Or, was it all work and no play? Did the grandchildren notice (or care) that some of their cousins led an easier more carefree life? Did they even know their more prosperous relatives down in the township?



Having survived to manhood, Arthur married Jemima Anderson at Castra Road on 17 August 1881, when he was only nineteen years old. The witnesses to the marriage were J. McDonald (Arthur's brother Joseph) and A. Anderson (Jemima's brother Alexander).

Jemima was a sister of Jessie Anderson who had married Arthur's brother Joseph in 1879. She too worked for the Shaw's at *Molenda*, going there around 1878 'as a nurse girl at 4/-, very good tempered but slow'.<sup>2</sup> Jemima was born at Port Frederick on 23 September 1864, but the baptism entry in the Church of England register states she was born at Latrobe; the date of birth is different too, being given as 23 July 1864.

Their first child, a son, was not born until 12 August 1884 and was named James Anderson McDonald. Henry was born in 1887 and Oscar Arthur in 1889. A well-spaced family!

Family hearsay has Arthur deserting Jemima and the children at an undetermined date; this may have been in 1898 as Jemima received a Charitable Grant of fourteen shillings per month from April 1898 to the end of 1901 when payment ceased.<sup>3</sup>

In his sister Hannah Curran's will of 1925 he is described as the 'late' Arthur James McDonald but is referred to as of 'address unknown' on the death certificate of his wife Jemima in 1942! Did Hannah know what his children didn't know? Some members of the family believe Arthur went to New Zealand and that he may have died there.

The disappearance of Arthur may not have been as sinister as outright desertion—he could have left to find work during the depression of the 1890s—to a child it would have been difficult to understand. Rumour and innuendo can play havoc with the truth and destroy a reputation.

Whether widowed or deserted life for Jemima would still have been hard, making her dependent on kin and charity for the existence of herself and her children. She died of breast cancer in 1942 at the age of 77 years:

*The funeral of the late Mrs Jemima M'Donald left the residence of her sister Mrs J.J. Devlin, Patrick Street, Ulverstone on Tuesday afternoon for the general cemetery, there being a large attendance and a profusion of flowers. The services at the home and graveside were*

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<sup>2</sup> Diary of Hester Shaw, *Molenda*, Castra Road, p27.

<sup>3</sup> Hearsay: Late Harry McDonald. See also AOT: SWD 47/49 *Ledger of Monies paid to various persons in East & West Devon from Outdoor Relief, March 1895–October 1914*. Charitable Grants Department.

*conducted by Rev. J.B.H. Robson. Deceased leaves 3 sons Henry (Ulverstone) Oscar (Westbury) and James (Victoria). She had lived all her life in the Leven Municipality where she was highly respected. The chief mourners were 2 sons Henry and Oscar, brother Mr W.J. Anderson, brother-in-law J.J. Devlin, and nephews Messrs C. and A. Frimley. Carriers were 4 nephews, Messrs H.J., Ernest, Allan, and William McDonald and pallbearers Messrs A.A. Devlin, J.T. Brain, H. Stratton and W. Frith.<sup>4</sup>*

**JAMES ANDERSON McDONALD**, Grandson

Birth: 12 Aug 1884 Place: Castra Road  
 Baptism: 8 Dec 1884 Place: Forth & Leven C.E.  
 Death: 8 Apr 1978 Place: Caulfield, Victoria Age: 93  
 Burial: 10 Apr 1978 Place: Melbourne, Victoria  
 Occupation: Employee, Glass Factory; Chauffeur  
 Residence: King Edward St., Ulverstone (1912)  
 Residence: Victoria (1942)  
 Father: ARTHUR JAMES McDONALD (1862-)  
 Mother: JEMIMA ANDERSON (1864-1942)

Informant of birth was Delia (x) McDonald, Grandmother, Castra Road. Father was Arthur James McDonald, labourer, and mother was Jemima McDonald, formerly Anderson. [RGD 3242]

Enlisted at Hobart in the 8th Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse for service in South Africa No. 08/333, 21 April 1902. Stated he was 20 years and 8 months, a labourer, single, son of Mrs J. McDonald, Ulverstone. Willing to serve in South Africa. Church of England. Of Ulverstone. 5'8" tall, chest measurement 36 inches, complexion fresh, eyes blue, light brown hair and a scar on his right wrist." [NAA: B4418, MCDONALD JA]

Left for South Africa: 21 May-2 June 1902 on St Andrew. Service: arrived after war ended

Returned to Australia: late July 1902 on Manchester Merchant "

[<http://www.bwm.org.au/site/Contingents.asp#T1>]

For marriage see VIC RGD 6003/17. For death see VIC RGD 07523/1978.

Living 'Nietta' 13 Bent Street, Caulfield SE8 Melbourne (1942)

**Spouse: LYDIA FLORENCE ADELAIDE LOCKHEAD [nee TORR]**

Birth: 25 Jul 1887 Place: Williamstown, Victoria  
 Death: 5 Jun 1978 Place: Melbourne, Victoria Age: 90  
 Burial: ..... Place: Melbourne, Victoria  
 Occupation: Domestic Duties  
 Father: WILLIAM ISAAC TORR  
 Mother: MINNIE ELLEN BERRIE  
 Marriage: ca 1917 Place: Victoria

For birth as Lydia Florence Adelaide Torr see VIC RGD 24966/1887. For death see VIC RGD 12464/1978. Married firstly, Robert Lockhead in 1911.

For birth as Lydia Florence Adelaide Torr see VIC RGD Births Index No. 24966/1887.

For death, as Lydia Florence Adelaide McDonald, see VIC RGD Deaths Index No. 12464/1978. Age given as 90 years. Parents William I. Torr and Minnie Helen Berrie.

Married firstly, Robert Lockhead in 1911. [See VIC RGD Marriages Index No. 10041. Robert was born Queensland, Lydia was born Williamstown. No children found in Victoria for this marriage. No death found for Robert Lockhead.

No Children:

<sup>4</sup> Advocate: Thursday 4 June 1942 p2.

**J**ames Anderson McDonald was born at Castra Road on 12 August 1884 and named for his maternal grandfather James Anderson. As a six-year-old he was admitted to the Ulverstone school on 10 February 1891.<sup>5</sup>

He left Tasmania for Melbourne as a young man and was living there when his mother died in 1942. He married the widowed Lydia Lockhead there in 1917 but does not appear to have had any children. Was it home-sickness that led him to name his home *Nietta*?

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<sup>5</sup> Ulverstone State School Admission Register: Entry No. 672.

## **HENRY [Harry] McDONALD**, Grandson

Birth: 10 Mar 1887 Place: Castra Road  
Baptism: 6 Jun 1887 Place: Forth & Leven C.E.  
Death: 26 Aug 1974 Place: Mersey General Hospital, Latrobe Age: 87  
Burial: 28 Aug 1974 Place: Ulverstone [Methodist] [Headstone]  
Occupation: Mechanic (Cycle) (1910 1921 1936 1953 1964)  
Occupation: Bicycle Mechanic (1912)  
Residence: Ulverstone (1910 1942) Main Street, Ulverstone (1912 1921)  
Residence: Quadrant, Ulverstone (1953) 30 Kings Parade, Ulverstone (1964)  
Father: ARTHUR JAMES McDONALD (1862-)  
Mother: JEMIMA ANDERSON (1864-1942)

Informant of birth was J. McDonald, Uncle, Castra Road. Father Arthur James McDonald, carpenter. Mother Jemima McDonald, formerly Anderson. [RGD 3378]

"Leven Cycling Club. - The Leven Cycle Club held its first registered race on Saturday over a distance of 8 miles. There were 12 starters, among whom were some of the fastest men in the State. The result, after a good race, was a win for C.J. Wright (1 min.) in 21 min. 59 sec., E.G. Duffy (10 sec.) being second (time 21.44), and R.M. Mitchell (50 sec) third (time 22.10). J. Graham was fourth. This club is becoming popular and attracts a good deal of attention by cyclists.

Leven Cycle won again on Saturday, ridden by C. Wright, in the great 8-mile race. H. and W. M'Donald, Ulverstone, have proved it to be the fastest machine in Tasmania. Lew. M'Donald, the week previously, won a magnificent race at Devonport on a "Leven," giving additional proof that it is the best on the market." [Advocate Monday 27 January 1920]

Photo Advocate 83rd birthday Thursday 12 March 1970 p3.

See Advocate 28 August 1974 for death notice.

### **Spouse: RUBY CLARECE BURNS**

Birth: 6 Jul 1890 Place: Thomas Street, North Hobart  
Baptism: 6 Aug 1890 Place: Hobart  
Death: 22 Apr 1965 Place: 30 Kings Parade, Ulverstone Age: 74  
Burial: 24 Apr 1965 Place: Ulverstone [Headstone]  
Occupation: Tailoress (1910) Domestic Duties (1912 1921) Home Duties (1953 1964)  
Father: JAMES WILLIAM BURNS (1862-1925)  
Mother: EMMA SHIELDS MILES (1859-1938)  
Marriage: 20 Apr 1910 Place: Residence of bride's parents, Ulverstone, Methodist,  
by Lic.

Children: ZELMA CLARICE (1910-2000)  
GLADYS KATHLEEN (1913-2002)  
EDNA RUBY (1917-1986)  
EMMA EILEEN [Eileen] (1920-1978)  
HENRY MILES [Harry] (1922-1981)

Also Ruby Clarice. Informant of birth was Emma Burns mother, Thomas St, North Hobart. Father was James William Burns, tailor. [RGD 645]

'A quiet wedding took place at the residence of the bride's parents yesterday afternoon, when Miss Ruby Clarice, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W. Burns, was married to Henry, son of Mr W. [sic] M'Donald, of Castra Road. The Rev. A.E. De la Rue officiated. Miss Rita Burns acted as bridesmaid and Mr James M 'Donald as bestman.' [North West Post 21 April 1910]

See Advocate 23 April 1965 for death notice. See Advocate for obituary.

**H**enry McDonald was born at Castra Road on 10 March 1887. In 1903 when he would have been about 16 Harry went to work at Frith Bros. Cycle works where he learnt the trade. Eventually he bought the firm out in 1922 and moved into new premises in Reibey Street, where clients could expect to see “an even better model of the Leven cycles than the renowned make of the past.”<sup>6</sup> Harry married Miss Ruby Burns “quietly” at her parents' residence, Ulverstone on 20 April 1910 with his brother James and uncle James Joseph Devlin as witnesses.<sup>7</sup> Ruby was born 6 July 1890 at North Hobart where her father, James William Burns, was a tailor. Ruby also followed that profession.



There were five children of the marriage: Zelma (Mrs Horace Whiley), Gladys (Mrs Reg Bennett), Edna (Mrs Crowden), Eileen (Mrs Rattray) and Henry Miles. Harry and Ruby celebrated their golden wedding at Ulverstone in 1960.<sup>8</sup>

Harry died at the Hospital, Latrobe on 26 August 1974. Ruby predeceased Harry on 22 April 1965 and from her obituary we learn:

*A patient sufferer for 53 years, the late Mrs. McDonald, through her brave spirit in bearing the painful affliction of arthritis, has won the admiration of all who knew her. Born in Hobart, she was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Burns. At the age of seven she moved with her parents to Ulverstone, where her father had a tailoring business. Thirteen years later, Ruby Burns and Henry McDonald were married by the Rev. Davey, in the Methodist Church, Ulverstone... In spite of the handicap of her*

*affliction, Mrs. McDonald had many outside interests through her connection with the women's committees of Ulverstone Football Club, Cycle Club, Show Society, Fire Brigade and Rowing Club. She was also a member of local branches of the Country Women's Association, Red Cross Society, and the Hospital Auxiliary; and a life member of the A.L.P.*<sup>9</sup>

Harry was one of the Coast's unique sportsmen: as a 'rower, athlete, cricketer, footballer, bike rider and pigeon fancier...[he was] honoured with life memberships of five sporting organisations'. He was interviewed by *The Advocate* on his 83rd birthday:

*Mr McDonald, who played more than 400 games with Ulverstone, believes the standard of football is no better today than it was in his era. 'We had a lot of footballers who would command a lot of money today. They say the game is faster, but it's not'. Mr McDonald never rode on the track, only the road; but he won enough races to become a scratch marker. After leaving School, he started work as a farm hand, and received 6/- and food for a seven-day week. He gave that up to dig potatoes at 5/- a day. Later he spent 51 years in the bicycle*

<sup>6</sup> Advocate: 3 June 1922.

<sup>7</sup> North West Post: 21 April 1910.

<sup>8</sup> Advocate: 22 April 1960 p2.

<sup>9</sup> Advocate: 1965.

*trade. In his early years in the trade, the bicycles were fitted with solid rubber tyres. 'People didn't know anything else and felt they were having a beautiful ride'.<sup>10</sup>*

Ken Pinchin, in *A Century of Tasmanian Football 1879-1979* writes:

*The late Harry McDonald was regarded as the grand 'old man' of coastal senior football, playing more than 300 games with Ulverstone and the N.W.F.U., in 20½ seasons between 1903 and 1915 and 1921 and 1928...His playing days at Ulverstone actually spanned 25 years and he was 41 when he retired! He won the Oscar Gregory Medal for Ulverstone's most consistent player in 1923 and another similar award in 1920. Harry retired from playing in 1928 and took up umpiring but was soon recalled to the Robins team and played in the forward position finishing the season with forty seven goals in ten matches.*

He played in that infamous match at Ulverstone on 18 July 1908 which has been described as 'probably the wildest melee ever staged at a football match on the coast': Tempers flared in the final quarter of a toughly fought match in which the Mersey side were ahead on points. Angry players converged and an all-in brawl developed with supporters joining in, resulting in the umpire leaving the ground and the match being abandoned.

There were ugly scenes at the railway station with the Mersey team and their supporters being seen-off with a hail of stones as the train departed.

Harry was disqualified for 12 months for alleged 'striking' of Mersey player Harold Gibbins. This disqualification was never served as Latrobe, Ulverstone, and Penguin broke away to form the N.W.F.L. in 1909.<sup>11</sup>

On his death in 1974 Allan Leeson, sporting editor for the Advocate newspaper wrote of him:

*...football was his forte and, it is doubtful whether anyone but the great Darrel Baldock and Harry's Latrobe contemporary Harry Coventry will ever amass a better record on the Coast. He joined Ulverstone in the dungaree and sheep-skin lace-up guernsey days of 1903 and was still with the Robins 25 years later, at the age of 41...The unique part of all this was that although only rover size at 5 ft 7 in. and weighing 10 st. 6 lb. he was usually chosen as first ruck in club or intrastate clashes.<sup>12</sup>*

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<sup>10</sup> Advocate: 12 March 1970 p3.

<sup>11</sup> Pinchin, Ken 1979, *A Century of Tasmanian Football 1879-1979*, Tasmanian Football League.

<sup>12</sup> Advocate: Wednesday 28 August 1974.

**OSCAR ARTHUR McDONALD, Grandson**

Birth: 2 Feb 1889 Place: Ulverstone  
Baptism: 22 Nov 1890 Place: Forth & Leven C.E. Age: 1  
Death: 21 May 1977 Place: Invercargill, New Zealand Age: 88  
Burial: 23 May 1977 Place: Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill, New Zealand  
Residence: Ulverstone (1910) New Zealand (1910)  
Residence: Oakley, Westbury (1934-1958 1965)  
Occupation: Railway Porter (1910) Bridge Carpenter (1934-1958)  
Father: ARTHUR JAMES McDONALD (1862-)  
Mother: JEMIMA ANDERSON (1864-1942)

Informant of birth was Margaret Risby, Grandmother, Ulverstone. Father was Arthur James McDonald, carpenter. Mother was Jemima McDonald, formerly Anderson. [RGD 3287]

Date of birth at baptism given as 9 February 1889.

Witnesses to the marriage were Ernest McDonald [cousin] and Alice May Brown, both of Ulverstone. [Methodist Marriage Register entry No. 40]

Worked at the Ulverstone railway station as a porter - Left for New Zealand 7 June 1910. [North West Post 8 June 1910]

Split with Myrtle and returned to Australia after Flora and Lou were born. [Maureen Smith/Daphne Lindsay May 2004]

See Advocate 31 May 1977 for death notice.

Marriage: 4 Jun 1910 Place: Methodist Church, Ulverstone, by Lic.

**Spouse: MYRTLE IVY TITMUS**

Birth: 24 Feb 1891 Place: Ulverstone  
Death: 17 Jul 1927 Place: New Zealand Age: 36  
Burial: ..... Place: New Zealand  
Residence: Ulverstone (1910) New Zealand (1910)  
Occupation: Domestic Duties (1910)  
Father: LEVI TITMUS  
Mother: FRANCES FOSTER

Informant of birth was father, Levi Titmus, Blacksmith, Ulverstone. Mother was Frances Titmus, formerly Foster. [RGD 3487]

Children:  
FLORA MARGARET McDONALD (1910-2008)  
LEWIS McDONALD



Oscar, the youngest son, was born at Ulverstone on 2 February 1889, and his birth was registered by his maternal grandmother, Margaret Risby (formerly Mrs James Anderson). As seems to be the way with this line of McDonalds' his birth date at baptism differs from the registered date. In this instance it was given as 9 February 1889.

Oscar played the euphonium and was a member of the Tasmanian Rangers Band and took part in the Band Competitions at Burnie in January 1910.<sup>13</sup>

An article published in the Examiner states:

*Amongst the players who became proficient while members of the Ulverstone band may be mentioned Mr. Oscar McDonald, now solo euphonium player in a leading New Zealand band.*<sup>14</sup>

A few months later, on 4 June 1910, he married Myrtle Ivy Titmus, daughter of local blacksmith, Levi Titmus and his wife, Frances Foster. The marriage was witnessed by Alice May Brown and his cousin Ernest McDonald. At the time of his marriage Oscar was a railway porter. Three days after their marriage the couple left Tasmania *en route* for New Zealand.<sup>15</sup>

The marriage was not a success and he returned to Tasmania for a time and was living at *Oakley*, Westbury at the time of his mother's death in 1942. His occupation was bridge carpenter. He later returned to New Zealand and died in Invercargill, New Zealand in 1977.



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<sup>13</sup> North West Post 4 January 1910.

<sup>14</sup> Examiner: Monday 12 February 1917.

<sup>15</sup> North West Post: 8 June 1910.