



ALLAN John McMahon

Parents: David Allan and Sophia Johnston

Siblings:

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| 1. Andrew | 6. Henry Blair Watson |
| 2. David Hendry | 7. George Octavius |
| 3. Robert Innes | 8. Mary Antoinette |
| 4. Sophia | 9. Erskine Johnston |
| 5. William Osborne (qv) | |

Half Siblings:

10. Maxwell Rennie
11. Elizabeth Janet

Birth: 1808 Heligoland, a British island 46 km off the German Coast

Death: 22 January 1877 *Teucljde* Sale

Marriage: Caroline 'Bridget' O'Farrell in 1843

Immigration: arrived in Australia with his parents in 1813, on the *Fortune*, returned to Scotland with them in 1819, on the *Surrey*. John together with most of the family returned to Australia on the *Prince Regent* in 1829.

Children:

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| 1. Maria Catherine | b 1846 Portland d 1859 Melbourne (13Yrs) |
| 2. John | b 1848 |
| 3. Francis Erskine | b 1849 Portland d 1917 |
| 4. Agnes Christine | b 1851 d 1926 |
| 5. Caroline Mary | b 1855 Warrnambool d 1942 |
| 6. John William | b 1857 Warrnambool d 1931 |
| 7. Katie Maria | b 1859 d 1929 |
| 8. Henry Octavius | b 1862 Warrnambool d 1930 |

Place of Residence: *Tooram* and *Allandale*, Allansford, and *Teucljde*, Sale, Victoria, Australia

Death & Burial:

The Argus, Friday 2 February 1877

ALLAN.- On the 22nd ult, at his residence, *Teucljde*, Sale, John McMahon Allan, late of Tooram, Warrnambool, aged 68. Buried 23 January 1877 in Sale Cemetery, Section L, Grave 11. A bronze plaque marks his grave in the Sale Cemetery.

Obituary: none found

Life.

Around 1835 three Allan brothers, Henry, John and William worked a station on the Darling Downs for their father, David. Shortly afterwards they decided to move south and look for land in the newly established Port Phillip district. John and William overlanded the cattle from New South Wales to land east of the Hopkins River, taking about two years. John worked in partnership with his brother William until the property was divided sometime in the 1840s.

John assisted and contributed with the development of the district. He was among the first contributors to the Church of England, he set aside a reserve for a school and donated land for the Allansford Presbyterian Church. When his brother Henry died John arranged the sale of Henry's cattle with the proceeds to go to Henry's wife and children. John had a steam sawmill on his property. He was elected to the Warrnambool District Road Board in 1854. He was also a director of the Western Steam Navigation Company. In 1855 he was a member of a committee that was advocating for Warrnambool to be proclaimed a municipality. He subscribed to the Benevolent Society and was the correspondent for the Allansford School Board of Advice. He was responsible for the introduction of annual picnics for school children. Further to his community activities John was appointed a Territorial Magistrate, elected to the committee of the Villiers & Heytesbury Agricultural Association, and was a signatory to the request to elect Warrnambool District Roads Board.

After an Aboriginal Board was set up in Melbourne John had an interest in the local Aborigines and was appointed as a correspondent for this area. The duties, (entirely honorary) involved yearly distribution of blankets and bounties, and to give information to the central board. He was interested in the surviving coast tribes 'and his station was their principal place of resort, where they found food and a home'.

A local aboriginal woman found a small gold nugget in the Otways during a tribal excursion, John led an excursion there, but failed to find gold. In 1862 Richard Osburne formed the 'Cape Otway Gold Exploration Committee' and John was chosen to lead the expedition. They were unsuccessful. John led a second expedition, this time some gold was found but it was decided there was little chance of finding a viable amount.

In 1855 the financial difficulties of Bateman & Co. severely affected John as he had invested in the company. Soon after John subdivided land near the Hopkins Bridge into township blocks thus formatting the town of Alansford.

John laid the foundation stone for the Dennington Bridge in January 1857.

He was listed as a Justice of the Peace in 1858. He was also a trustee of the Savings Bank, a Returning Officer for Ripon and Hampden and a member of the Racing Club.

In 1859 he formed a committee to force the Government to replace the Allansford Bridge. He had been agitating since 1851 for the bridge.

A farewell was held for John on 4 November 1862 and he was presented with 140 gold sovereigns to show the community's appreciation.

In 1863 John was appointed to a government position as arbitrator for the squatter's runs in Gippsland. He spent his last years as an employee of the Lands Department.