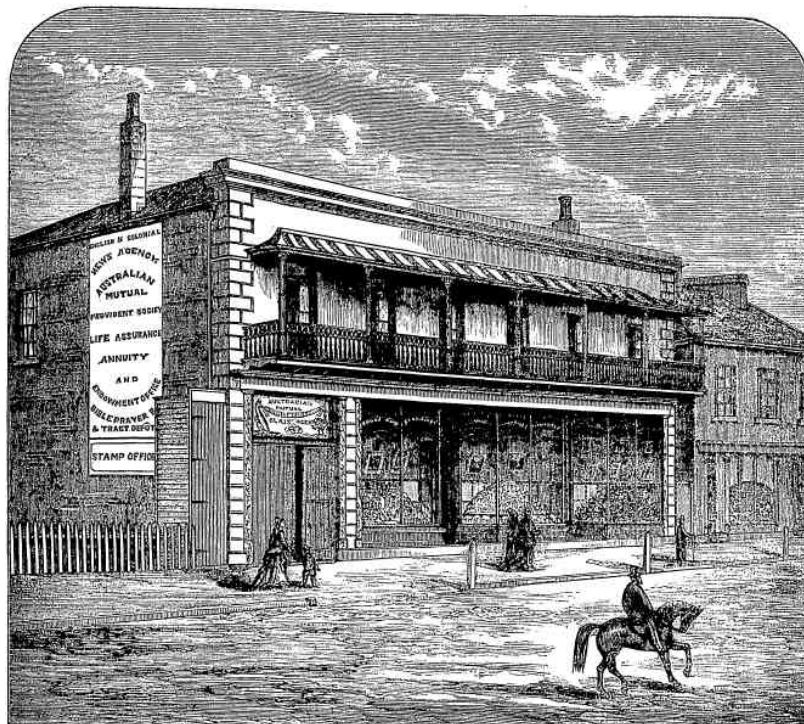


Bulletin of Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

(Established March 1977)

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society and
Museum and Galleries Hunter Chapter



Mr. Blair's Book, Stationery and Fancy Warehouse

Volume 20, Number 2

May 2013

*The Aims of the Society are to
Discover, Record, Preserve, Advise on and Teach the History of Maitland and the District*

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

Cover: Australian Town and Country Journal, Saturday 16 December 1871

Correspondence : P.O. Box 333, Maitland NSW 2320

Telephone : 0438 623 299

Email : maitlandhistorical@gmail.com

Website : <http://www.maitlandhistorical.org>

Meetings are held at 3 Cathedral Street Maitland (opposite Bishop's House)

Lecture meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm as a forum
for lectures, talks and presentations

Business meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm

Membership fees : \$15 (single) and \$20 (double / family)

Patron: The Hon. Milton Morris AO

NSW Member for Maitland 1956-1980

NSW Minister for Transport 1965 - 1975

Current Office Bearers :

President : Ruth Trappel

Vice Presidents : Peter Smith, Keith Cockburn

Treasurer : Kevin Short

Secretary : Tom Skelding

Bulletin Editor : Judy Nicholson

Consultant Editor : Ruth Trappel

Bulletin contributions are being sought. Please contact the Society via email

maitlandhistorical@gmail.com

While every care is taken in the compilation and editing of the information contained in this bulletin, Maitland and District Historical Society Inc. and its editors do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

President's report 2013

Over the past twelve months, the Maitland and District Historical Society has consolidated our premises with the continued rental of the rooms. Thanks to the Catholic Church.

During the year our guest speakers included John Whittaker, Judy Nicholson, Peter Bogan, Paris and Mitty Osbourne and Keith Jones.

The society has been successful in gaining numerous grants over the past year. Various items have been purchased with this money. One grant in particular will allow one of our members, Ziggy Szyda, to produce a book covering the Tarro area.

In June 2012, Peter Bogan proposed that the society create an award recognising a business or an individual's work in preserving the history of the Maitland Region. Peter, along with Ruth and Kevin, produced the design for approval of the committee. Once done, the first award was presented to the Maitland Mercury in recognition of their ongoing recording over the past 170 years.

August saw a very significant donation via Peter Smith and his cousin in Sydney. In his possession were labels, bottles and a painting from the Morris Cordial Factory. The painting, came to us folded up and deteriorating. After obtaining a quote from restorer, Duncan Hardy, one member Chic Cooper donated the full cost, which included framing. Thank you Chic for this generous donation.

Other donations ranged from books to bricks, cameras to pictures, Coins and Stamps and a \$500 donation from the East Maitland Bowling club.

To enable us to keep the fees low, the society undertakes various fundraising activities through the year. These include BBQ's at the Bunnings and Masters hardware stores. These days help us cover our rent each year. Many thanks to the members who have helped out at the events.

Members have also attended various functions with the most notable being the launch of Scott Bevan's book – The Hunter at the Morpeth Museum.

Sub committee's coming under our umbrella are the George Boyle White and the Museum in Maitland. Now that the internet is working correctly, members have been dealing with numerous enquiries. Many thanks to those who answered these emails.

However, I am disappointed that the Mosaic project seems to have stalled over the past year. This should be given the highest priority, as it will assist members greatly in finding material on display.

The society was also asked to attend various community events, such as AromaFest, Australia Day and SteamFest. Whilst, not known as a great fundraiser, our presence is more for the PR. In the case of Steamfest, we were asked to help out as the information booth.

In closing, I would like to thank the outgoing committee and other members, who have dedicated their time over the last year to keep the society going and manning the rooms each Wednesday and

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

Saturday. I will not be standing for re-election this year and I would like to congratulate the incoming committee.

Regards

Kevin Parsons Outgoing President.

Incoming President's report

In 2009 the re vamped and rejuvenated committee of the Maitland and District Historical Society commenced. We are moving forward quickly with many historical collections being given to the Society for safe keeping. I thank Kevin Parsons and his committee for the good work and effort that they put into last year. The Society was represented at all of the Maitland Councils Festivals. We had guest speakers on the first Tuesday of every month, everyone who attended had an interesting and enjoyable time. We cooked sausages at Bunning's and Master's to fund raise. We gave walks and talks and participated in others. We visited Dunmore House.

The most important thing to happen was that we are now being recognised for what we do, and what we can do for Maitland. Our membership is increasing and the "historical collection" is growing daily. We have been given some quite significant items in the last year. Milton Morris's collection of items associated with his time as the Minister of Transport in the New South Wales Government, and the years of "Mr. Maitland". The original Maitland Mercury's from 1844 to 1869, 29 years of the most wonderful history. Very old photos of floods in the 1800's. The "Morris Cordial Factory" painting, bottles, labels and the Morris family history. We have been given leather bound journals from the Gas Co. of 1910's and the log of the Fire Brigade from 1895. Mr Bill Tipper's collection arrived last week. Records dating from 1850's onwards. This is a small part of the items that we receive weekly.

One of the main issues that was discussed last year was that of running out of space to store and display our collection. We are forever on the lookout for bigger premises. One suggestion was the old Mercury Building, a committee was formed to investigate our options, with an end result of calling for a public meeting to gain support and further suggestion on what to do next.

We have a wonderful diverse group of members, we are extremely lucky to have a very hard working committee who are available for our open days on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

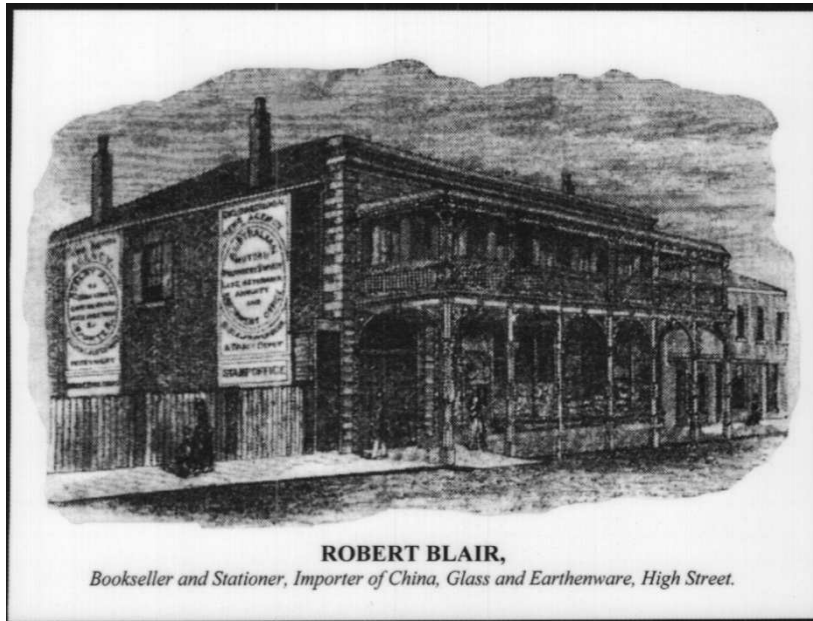
The next year will be happy, fruitful and challenging as our collection and membership grow. We will need to ask all of the members if they can spare some time to help with the many activities, cataloguing, working bees, covering of maps and documents, and meet and greet on Wednesday's and Saturdays.

I thank you all for your help and encouragement and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Regards

Ruth Trappel Incoming President

Robert Blair (1819-1884) Bookseller & Stationer



Robert Blair, bookseller & stationer, started his business in West Maitland in 1854 occupying part of the premises of Mr. Partridge, a chemist. He announced his intention in the Maitland Mercury on Saturday 7 October 1854:

Robert Blair, Bookseller, Stationers &c., advises the inhabitants of Maitland and vicinity that he has commenced business in the above line, in the shop of Mr. Partridge, Druggist, High-street, West Maitland. His large supply of Interesting and Useful Works of which more detail would be given at a future day. In the meantime he invited inspection of School Books in great variety, Stationery of every description and also the 'Sunday at Home'.

On Monday, 28 May 1855, The Sydney Morning Herald published a notice of marriage that on May 24, Mr. Robert Blair and Miss Catherine Porter Webster were married at the residence of the Rev. David Hazlewood, at West Maitland.

In 1865 the public were advised that Mr. R. Blair had been appointed to distribute stamps under the Stamp Duties Bill now being passed through Parliament. This required him to send a requisition for the required number of stamps and the cash to pay for them at the same time.

By 1868 in a Mercury Report on June 25th, under the title Town Improvements, mention was made of a new building being erected in High Street. This building, designed by the architect, Mr. White would occupy the site of the old tallow and chandlery establishment for many years tenanted by Mr. W. Heugh. Mr. Wolstenholme was the builder. Mr. R. Blair,

the present owner of the land intended to use the new building as premises for his business as bookseller and stationer.

By the end of January 1870 it was reported that Mr. Blair was now established in his new store. This building was erected on the riverside of High Street, between Church and Elgin Streets.

Catherine (Kate) Blair died in 1878. She was survived by her husband, sons Hamilton and Edward, and daughters Kate, Emma and Maria. Hamilton Blair married Emily Pearson Owen, daughter of Samuel and Mary Owen. Samuel Owen was a partner in the business Owen & Beckett, of Maitland. Edward Blair married Ada Eliza Lee, daughter of John Lee, owner of John Lee & Co., of West Maitland and Maria married John Kingston Falkiner of Wahgunyah, Singleton. Daughters Kate and Emma remained spinsters.

When Robert Blair died in September 1884, his sons Hamilton and Edward carried on the running of the business. But by January 1890 it appears there was a split between the two brothers with Edward placing this notice in Maitland Mercury on January 4:

Preliminary Announcement. - Edward Blair - (Late of the Firm of Messrs. R. Blair & Sons)

Has much pleasure in announcing that he intends opening in Maitland as a

Bookseller, Stationer, and Fancy Goods Warehouseman,

And has secured those CENTRALLY SITUATED PREMISES NEARLY OPPOSITE THE POST

OFFICE, and at present occupied by MR. C. M. CLARK.

The date of opening will be duly intimated through the columns of this paper.

The firm of R. Blair & Sons continued trading and advised that their 'Cricketing Material Price List for the Season 1892-1893' was available.

The death of Mr. Edward Blair happened suddenly in 1901. He had left Maitland and with his wife was living in Brisbane. He died on a visit to Parramatta. Hamilton Blair died at West Maitland in November 1906. Their three sisters survived them. Kate and Emma both died in 1926 and Maria who married John Falkiner died at Quirindi in 1942.

A search of the Maitland Mercury after 1900 is needed to ascertain the exact date that the businesses closed. Taking into account that Edward died in 1901 and Hamilton in 1906 it could be about that time. Blair's bookstore became the premises of draper, George Galton who later expanded his business to occupy additional adjoining space on High Street.

Another interesting fact arises in this profile. Births for Hamilton and Emily Blair's children, state born at Eyre Cottage, Church Street, West Maitland. Eyre was Emily's mother's maiden

name and we know that Mr. Owen and Mr. Beckett owned the two residences on Church Street, Grossman House and Brough House, but where was Eyre Cottage?

Please send an email if you know: maitlandhistorical@gmail.com

Compiled by Val Rudkin - March 2013 for Maitland & District Historical Society Inc.



The Maitland Sports Depot.

Season 1887.

JUST OPENED, A SPLENDID LOT OF SPORTS MATERIALS
direct from the various makers, and which are offered at PRICES
WHICH DEFY COMPETITION.

OUR MOTTO:—"WE SELL CHEAPLY."

Lawn Tennis Rackets

(ASSORTED WEIGHTS).

The FEDERAL
AT
UNION
CHAMPION
DOUBLE STRUNG
ZINGARI
CHALLENGE

SPECIALLY
SELECTED,
AND
ALL NEW
GOODS.

And many other popular shapes and
stringing.

Ladies' Rackets a Speciality.

Lawn Tennis Balls.

CHAMPIONSHIP
SEAMLESS
WIMBLEDON
ENAMELLED
GERRY RUBBER

SPECIAL PRICES
FOR
CLUBS.



SUNDRIES—Racket Prosses, Waterproof Nets, Racket Bags, Scoring Books, Latest Rules, &c., &c.

FOOTBALLS.

OUR STOCK CANNOT BE SURPASSED FOR QUALITY, ASSORTMENT, AND PRICE.

GILBERT'S (RUGBY)

MATCH, No. 2, as
used by all leading
Clubs.



YOUTHS' FOOTBALLS
No. 1 and 2
PRACTICE FOOTBALLS
No. 5 and 6
Extra Bladders kept in
stock.

FOOTBALL INFLATORS AT LOW PRICES.

BOXING GLOVES.

R. B. & SONS have to thank
those patrons who so kindly for-
warded their orders last year,
and would solicit their further
commands this season. Better
arrangements have been made
in the buying, and the assortment
is larger than any other season's.



SPECIAL ATTENTION is
directed to the Glove as shown
in the illustration.

Prices—15s
15s 6d
18s 6d
20s
21s and 22s.

UPCOUNTRY ORDERS RECEIVE OUR BEST ATTENTION.
PRICES FORWARDED ON APPLICATION.

ROBERT BLAIR & SONS,

Robert Blair - Maitland Sports Depot MM Saturday 30 April 1887

Newspapers @ Trove

Some useful additions recently published via Trove newspapers:

The Cessnock Eagle and South Maitland Recorder, 1913 – 1954.

The Land, 1911-1954. The Land commenced in 1911 and focuses on rural Australia, the people and the work in relation to 'the land'. Information ranges from floods and droughts as well as farming practices, and all things agriculture.

New titles coming!

The following titles are intended to be made available to the public during the current financial year. Multiple titles may be processed and made available at any given time. Dates of when specific issues will be available unfortunately cannot be provided.

- The Maitland Daily Mercury, 1894 – 1939
- The Maitland Weekly Mercury, 1894 – 1931
- The Newcastle Argus and District Advertiser, 1916
- The Newcastle Chronicle, 1866 - 1876
- The Newcastle Chronicle and Hunter River District News, 1859 - 1866
- Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, 1876 – 1954
- NSW Government Gazette, 1832 – 2001

A full list of titles to be released is available at the Trove website:

<http://www.nla.gov.au/content/new-titles-coming>

Coalfields Photos on Flickr



The Coalfields Heritage Group, based at Sir Edgeworth David Museum in Kurri Kurri, have recently made available 136 images via the University of Newcastle Cultural Collections site on Flickr.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/sets/72157632964991523/>

Early Lochinvar and the North British Australian Loan Company

Lisa and Allan Thomas

In 1840, when Leslie Duguid subdivided and auctioned his original 1822 land grant, which included the lots which would become the village of Lochinvar, the resulting land speculation reached all the way to Scotland. Duguid, a Scot from Aberdeen, was more than just the father of Lochinvar. He was directly responsible for the founding of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, which, since 1981, has been a wholly owned subsidiary of NAB, and he was indirectly responsible for the formation of two Scottish companies which were early investors in Lochinvar.

In the late 1830s Duguid was writing regularly to people in Aberdeen about the good investment opportunities in Australia. Among his many claims, he suggested that money in the Colony could achieve 20% with little risk (MacMillan, April 1960); the result was the establishment of two investment companies. The history of the Scottish Australian Investment Company, formed in Aberdeen in November 1840, is relatively well documented. The history of the North British Australian Loan and Investment Company (the “North British Company”), formed in Aberdeen in June 1839, is less well known locally, even though this company played a major role in the early history of both Australia and New Zealand. Because the geographic mandate of neither company limited them to any particular area of the Antipodes, and both did indeed invest widely, it was clearly the Duguid connection which led them to Lochinvar.

The North British Australian Loan and Investment Company had raised an initial sum of £50,000 for investment in the Colonies. The directive of the North British Company, as with that of the Scottish Australian Company, was to turn a profit in the Colonies which would be returned to the, mostly middle-class, investors in Scotland. The means by which the directors of the North British Company believed this profit would be achieved were twofold. Loans were to be advanced to land purchasers, and Crown lands were to be purchased for the company (Bain, 1849).

The following paragraph has been excerpted from MacMillan’s 1960 histories of the Scottish Australian Investment Company, which also dealt with the North British Company, and illuminated the relationship between the two Aberdeen companies, although the property

interests of the Scottish Australian Investment Company, including those in Lochinvar, are outside the scope of the present review:

Shortly after its founding, a land surveyor named J. F. Beattie was sent to New South Wales as the British Company's manager in the colonies, with an accountant named John Rae as his assistant. In 1841 the Aberdeen office of the new Scottish Australian Investment Company received a letter from Beattie, saying there was "room for both our companies" to operate in the Colonies. It should be noted that the North British Australian Loan and Investment Company and the Scottish Australian Investment Company were rivals. However, they could also work together when it suited them. The discovery of rich copper deposits in 1844 at Burra Burra in South Australia was one of those opportunities. By May 1845 the two Aberdeen companies had purchased four hundred acres adjoining the Burra workings.

The Beattie named by MacMillan was James Forbes Beattie. In the list of Lochinvar District residents in the early 1840s he was identified as a settler in Patrick Plains, Lochinvar, and No. 2 Fort Street Sydney (Wood, 2005, p. 30). Together with John Rae, the secretary/accountant of the North British Company, he was the initial purchaser of lots 1 to 12 in Duguid's 1840 estate sale. Lot 1 contained Duguid's original house, variously known as "Kaludah" or "Lochinvar House".

Beattie came from a professional family, and had a successful career both before and after his connection with the North British Company. The following information was sourced from the on-line database of Scottish surveyors:

John Forbes Beattie was born in 1801 to a doctor in Kincardineshire, Scotland. He was articled to a surveyor in Aberdeen and became a partner in the firm in 1829. He went to Australia in 1839 to manage the copper company. He returned to Scotland in 1845 and became Assistant Commissioner for Scotland under (Prime Minister) Peel's Drainage Act. He later returned to architectural work in Aberdeen. His work encompassed the roles of architect, land surveyor, civil engineer, and garden designer. At his death in 1877 he left an estate worth £27,833.

As shown in the following illustration from the on-line history of the Colonial Bounty System, Beattie was active in bringing Scottish immigrants to New South Wales in the early years of the North British Company's involvement in Australia.

<i>Scottish Operators under the Colonial Bounty System, and Total Numbers of Scottish Immigrants brought in, 1837-42</i>	
Operators	Numbers introduced
1. Gilchrist and Alexander, Sydney	746
1a. John Miller of Glasgow (for Gilchrist and Alexander)	183
2. Francis Reid, Glasgow	413
3. A. B. Smith and Co., Sydney	311
4. Andrew Lang of Dunmore	253
5. Robert Home and Co., Sydney	93
6. D. McIntyre, Sydney	86
7. G. Ranken and G. Bowman, Sydney	61
8. J. F. Beattie, North British Australasian Company	60
9. Alexander Campbell, Sydney	38
10. Alexander Duncan, Sydney	28
11. W. Walker and Co., Sydney	19
12. P. McIntyre, Sydney	16
13. Thomas Walker and Co., Sydney	16
14. Alexander Dick, Sydney	15
15. D. J. Lyon Campbell, Port Phillip	13
16. A. B. Spark, Sydney	12
17. Craig and Broadfoot, Port Phillip	6
	<hr/> 2,369

Beattie's March 1842 importation of sixty people from Scotland was apparently intended, in part, to provide workers for lands which the North British Company had already acquired in the Hunter Valley.

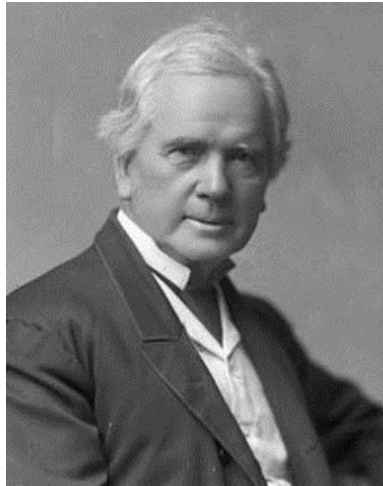
The exact reasons for Beattie's return to Scotland in 1845, and for the severance of his ties with the North British Company, may never be clear. As noted, there are many suggestions that he was a talented, energetic, and apparently honest man, who had a respected career in Scotland both before and after his time in Australia. However, the 1849 "Letter to the Proprietors of the North British Australian Loan and Investment Company", written by Donald Bain, an Edinburgh accountant employed by certain members of the North British Company, cast aspersions upon Beattie's abilities as a business manager.

John Rae, Beattie's professional colleague within the North British Company, warrants more local interest than he has as yet been accorded. The following paragraph has been sourced from the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*:

John Rae (1813-1900) was a public servant, author and painter. He was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, and was the son of George Rae, who was a banker. Educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and Marischal College, University of Aberdeen (M.A., 1832), he was articled to a firm of solicitors then continued his law studies and literary interests in

Edinburgh. Deciding to migrate to Australia in 1839 he became secretary and accountant to the North British Australasian Loan and Investment Co., and arrived in Sydney on the “Kinnear” on 8 December. Because of unwise land investments the company had almost expired by December 1843.

Rae owned Lots 1 through 12 (the Kaludah Estate) in common with Beattie from 1840 through 1843. Rae’s departure from Lochinvar coincides with his employment by the Sydney municipal council. Rae became its first full-time town clerk on 27 July 1843 at a salary of £400, reduced to £300 in December. He was required to be secretary, administrator and chief adviser to the council; he was also legal officer, pioneering the interpretation of the Sydney Corporation Act, and the framing of by-laws and regulations (*Australian Dictionary of Biography*). His subsequent history showed him to have been a man of broad abilities. However, Rae’s actions on behalf of the North British Company, like Beattie’s, were also heavily criticised in Bain’s 1849 open letter.



John Rae.

Courtesy of the State Library of NSW

Several other people with property ties to Lochinvar can be positively identified as working for, or on behalf of, the North British Company subsequent to 1843. Between 1843 and 1844 Beattie and J. Taylor were identified as the owners of Lots 1-12. J. Taylor is likely John Taylor, who in 1844 was operating as an agent for the North British Company in Sydney and Auckland, New Zealand. J. Taylor was the sole owner of Lots 1-12 between 1845 and 1855, Beattie having returned to Scotland in 1845. An article in the *Maitland Mercury* (29 May, 1847), sourced by Cynthia Hunter and reported in Wood, noted that a “Mr King has, we believe, been boiling cattle largely, among other parties for the Scotch company represented by Mr. Taylor.” The “Scotch company” was the North British Company.

As yet no definite company connections for owners H. Mackay and E. J. Spence (1855-1858) have been identified. However, an E. J. Spence was identified as a director of the Trustees, Executors, and Agency Company of New Zealand, Ltd. in the *Otago Daily Times* of 11 March 1887. If this is the same man, it would be another connection between operatives of the North British Company and New Zealand, noted in more detail below. J. W. Buckland, the owner in 1858-1859 was James Warwick Buckland. In the *Te Ara Encyclopedia* he is identified as the manager of the North British Australian Loan and Investment Company. In 1859 the connection between Lots 1-12 and the North British Company was finally broken when the property was sold to vigneron John Frederick Doyle.

The North British Company had not realised the financial dreams of its investors during its years in Lochinvar. In 1841 and 1842 the dividends on the colonial investments overall had totalled £6,669, or around 13% of the original capital, but profit turned to loss during 1843 and 1844. The difficulties arose due to the drop in the value of rural land in the Colonies, the rise in loan defaults, and reportedly inexperienced management of assets. It was estimated that expenditures on the Lochinvar lands in the first two years alone were upward of £11,000, and that these were unlikely to be recovered (Bain, 1849).

During its years in Lochinvar the Company had become involved in agricultural ventures. Until 1843 they had a partnership with a Dr Imlay to raise cattle, and there was a similar arrangement with a Captain Mayne. The St Clair estate near Singleton was purchased from James Atkinson for £20,000 in January 1841 for cattle breeding. This land is now, apparently, submerged due to the damming of the Glenys Creek. Other stations employed by the Company for cattle breeding included Bundinburra and Rozenthal. The Lochinvar estate itself in the earliest years seems to have been devoted to sheep and for stores (Bain, 1849). The vineyards at Kaludah were apparently a slightly later development. As noted in Wood (pp. 80-81), a *Maitland Mercury* article of 16 November 1865 reported that there were 33 acres planted in grapes, the plantings dating from 1845.

The North British Company also had interests in New Zealand. Kawau (Kaw-aw) Island, in the Hauraki Gulf, was purchased in 1840 for £197.9.0 by Mr W. T. Fairburn, who was acting on behalf of Mr. Henry Tayler, an agent for the North British Company. As a result the island passed into the ownership of J. F. Beattie. In 1842 John Aberdeen, another agent of the company, was sent to the island to investigate the possibility of farming and pastoral settlements there. These plans were altered when copper was discovered on Kawau.

The following is a transcription of a letter sent by Henry Tayler in Auckland to Beattie in Sydney on 12 April 1844.

My dear sir,

I have scarcely a minute left to write a few lines by the Tryphena. I am quite delighted and I am certain you will be too, to hear that Kawau abounds in copper. I have just seen a specimen brought up here by Mr Kinghorne who has been superintending the copper mine at the Barrier. It is a very rich specimen of grey copper ore the locality is exceedingly convenient for working and to cut the matter short, the place is worth at from 20 to 80 thousand pounds!!!

Accept my warmest congratulations

I am too overjoyed to write more at present.

Yours faithfully

(signed) Henry Tayler

In the belief that the New Zealand copper deposits would revive the fortunes of the Scottish investors, Beattie formed the Kawau Company and instructed John Taylor to hire a professional copper miner in Sydney. By 1848 there were 220 people on the island.

The later history of Kawau does not directly figure in the present review, and the Kawau copper venture did not prove to be an unqualified success for the Company. However, the development on Kawau does indicate the breadth of the commercial interests of the North British Australian Loan and Investment Company during the years when it was a landowner in Lochinvar.



References

Bain, D. (1849). Letter to the Proprietors of the North British Australian Loan and Investment Company. (printed in 1850) Aberdeen: A. Brown & Co.

MacMillan, D. S. (April 1960). "The Scottish Australian Company, 1840-50: The origins and growth of an Aberdeen venture in Colonial development". *Scottish Historical Review*, Vol. 39, 127.

MacMillan, D. S. (June 1960). "The Scottish Australian Company and Pastoral Development in Queensland 1860 – 1890." A report presented to the 23 June meeting of the Scottish Historical Society.

Wood, L. (2005). *Lochinvar: A History of the Township and Local District*. Printed by B. & D. Dimmock.

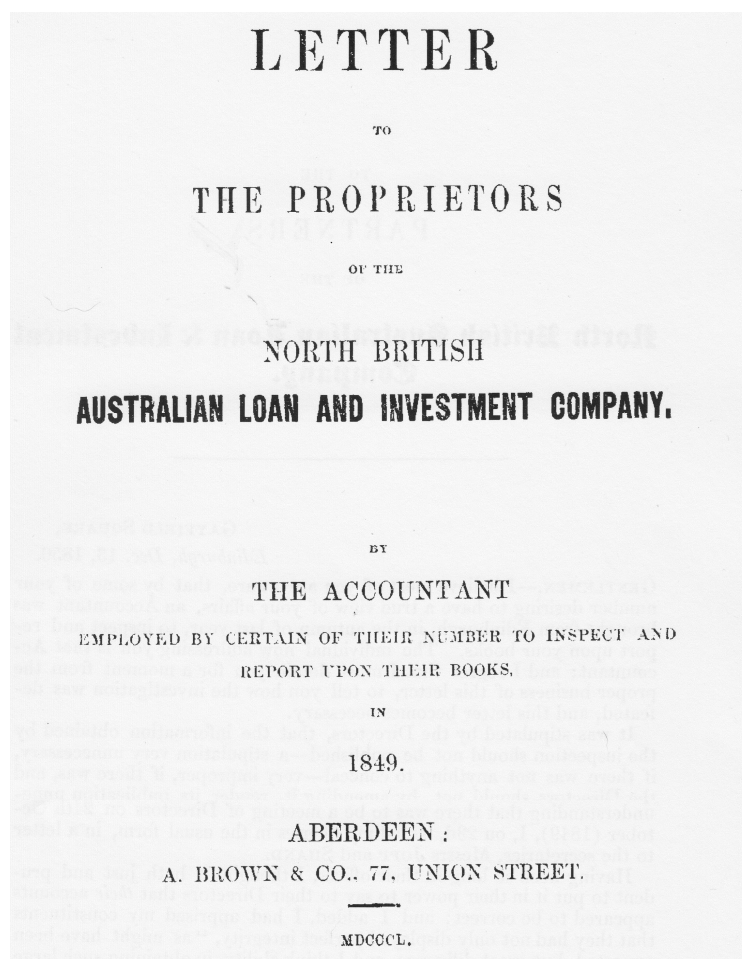


Note: We are indebted to Cynthia Hunter for her research on the Kaludah conveyancing deeds. Her identification of the early owners of Lots 1-12 facilitated our research into the North British Australian Loan and Investment Company.

Confusion over the different company connections in Lochinvar goes back many years. It is not surprising that the North British Company's connections to Lochinvar were overlooked in the past. Earlier references frequently mentioned simply the "Scotch company" or the "Aberdeen Company". The natural assumption would have been that these referred to the Scottish Australian Investment Company, which had a long history in the Hunter, and not to the North British Australian Loan and Investment Company, which, even more confusingly, was occasionally identified as the North British Australasian Loan and Investment Company. Unfortunately, many of the source documents for both the Scottish Australian and the North British companies were, apparently, informally removed to Canada in the 1960s. We fear that they may have been lost.

Further information on the Kawau Island development can be obtained through the Kawau historical society.

The following are reproductions of selected pages of Bain's lengthy critique of the operations of the Company. These pages provide confirmation of both Beattie's and Rae's connection with the Company, as well as the Company's connection with Lochinvar and Kaw-aw.



transfers from Rosenthal. Yet these are said to have been "*sent to Limestone, to be boiled down.*"

The omission of credit here would be£212 17 0 and *if it is not an omission*, the entries in these books are surely very carelessly worded.

The following are trifling ; but, like straws, they show the current, and, if due, may be got :

1841. Dec. Mr Jopp lends to a Mr Merton L.5 0 0

In Oct. 1842, the debtor pays 10s. interest in Australia. The principal is after that variously bandied about, but at last landed on the Company. It is now, with interest, ... 7 0 0

1843. June. Mr Beattie is debited to sundries, viz. To Sheep station—cash from J. Chalmers on account of L. Forman's bill, p. L.49 17 6

Mar. 13. Sheep sold, L.20 0 0

June 16. Do. do..... 11 12 0

Inches' order for sheep, 3 2 0

34 14 0

L.15 0 6

If this entry is correctly understood, the balance is unaccounted for. It is not observed to be stated as either desperate or outstanding. With interest,

5 12 9

It is, ————— 20 13 3

I must now take leave of Australia. It is needless to torture the Company with recapitulations of losses that are irrecoverable ; I have spoken only where it seems necessary with a view to future utility. In these two last instances, and in which the guarantees of the Parties were doubtless strong ingredients in the original temptation to the Manager to embark, the interests of the Company seem to have been voluntarily sacrificed, at least to the extent of the property relinquished ; about - - - £10,600 0 0

Neither did all the other losses proceed "from the fall on Colonial property." The losses from improper loans and bad securities were very great. Yet scarcely greater than might have been anticipated, from sending out, and to a new settlement, a man to act as a BANKER and MONEY LENDER, who had been bred to neither. Nor are FARMING and CATTLE DEALING the most simple professions in this country ; yet the Purchaser and Manager in the enormous undertakings of this description for this Company, was ignorant of both.

Neither was it wiser to perpetrate what I have noticed at the eleventh hour (and only at the eleventh hour,) Art. IV. of the Contract of Co-partnery discloses, viz. That while it appoints a Land-surveyor to be Manager of this Loan and Investment Company, it appoints "JOHN RAE, *Writer* in Aberdeen, Accountant to the Company in Australia."

Mr Rae, from his education as a lawyer, might have been useful as an Assessor to the Manager, had he known anything of Colonial, that is, of English law ; but he was nearly the last to have been thought of as a COMMERCIAL BOOK-KEEPER, *without special training.* This designation, too long unnoticed, accounts completely for the state of the books during

his management; and as his successor appears to have been bred under him, that accounts for the rest.

There is an over-sight nearly as great, and perhaps more unpardonable; and that is, in a Committee of professional men sticking up for commercial books constructed by a "writer," or any one instructed by him, after their errors in *principle and in detail*, have been pointed out, in a manner that ought to have rendered them palpable to the most limited experience.

Here are a few of the entries, that must for ever render such books useless, as intelligible records of such transactions.

CATTLE ADVENTURE.

1840. Sept. B. P. No. 35, (meaning, of course, bill payable)	£200	0	0
Dec. Mr Rankine's dft. for expenses,	150	0	0
1841. May. B. P., No. 85,	150	0	0

It is clear that, *somewhere*, the nature of these charges should have been stated; and if they were for different purposes, analysed; but they are not.

LOCHINVAR.

1841. Dec. To St Clair, stock,	-	-	-	L.336	11	10
1843. Aug. To St Clair, stock,	-	-	-	359	0	0
1847. June. To St Clair, stock,	-	-	-	431	0	0

If a merchant should treat his goods so, he would hardly know what paid; or what of the different species should be on hand.

SHEEP STATION.

1841. Feb. Bill for Slops.	-	-	-	-	L.120	17	11
Do.	-	-	-	-	157	10	0
March. B. P.,	-	-	-	-	144	13	10
April. B. P.,	-	-	-	-	75	11	0
May. Bill,	-	-	-	-	109	10	6
Sept. Bill,	-	-	-	-	293	15	0

Need I say that *not one of these entries* should have appeared in its present state? These bills should *all* have been debited to the parties receiving them, the farms only debited with the wages paid in lieu of the slops; or with such other things as fell to be charged to them, from properly classed accounts.

The cash payments during the same period, equally indefinite, amount to

to	-	-	-	-	L.1081	14	2
And the loss, in whole, amounts to	-	-	-	-	L.14,181	15	0
But this, including the foolish estimated profit of	-	-	-	-	2,634	19	4
turned into a debt;	-	-	-	-			
but leaves still,	-	-	-	-	11,546	15	8

Neither have Mr Rac's talents, as a legal man, been much more useful to the Company; for, on 11th Aug. 1840, Mr J. S. Clarke, Solicitor, Sydney, obtains a loan of - - - - - L.500 0 0 for six months, on "Warrant of Attorney," the most stringent of all securities. But Mr Clarke never pays a *farthing*, principal, interest, or expenses; and in December, 1844, the debt is wiped off, with the simple observation, "security bad." Did it never occur to the Directors to ask, why bad? Was there not a legal adviser? And if not, why? And if there was, are they not liable in Australia in the consequences of taking a bad security, as they are in Scotland?

A Mr Smith, also an Attorney, ruins sundry of the debtors of the Company, and recovers its money with heavy expenses; but is allowed to keep this money to himself, to the extent of L.1318 13 1 Being, in January 1843, intrusted with cash, L.250 0 0 With a bill past due for - 750 0 0 that bill being granted in part of recoveries for the Company; and other large sums received for it, also unaccounted for.

But I perhaps should not have mentioned these, had I not observed the following :—

1846. June. Mr Beattie's account is credited, by cash from Thomas Clarke, on Smith's claim, - L.294 6 6

Mr Beattie does not seem to have followed any business; and "Thomas Clarke" *may have been* paying for "J. S. Clarke," on a claim in name of "Smith," as the Company's Attorney.

All these might have been explained in private, but the Directors would not; and whose word else could I receive on such subjects?

KAW-AW.

Kaw-aw is now the hope of the Company, and the immediate question will be, are things better or otherwise managed there than at other places? and I answer, not in the least.

The outlays there have exceeded £34,600, and give rise to accounts of several hundred entries, hardly one of which appears in the shape in which it ought to appear; and as already mentioned, the very gross error of turning an assumed *profit* of £992 12s 6d into a debt, is repeated in this place.

To shew the entries as they appear, I extract the following :—

1843.	Dr.		Cr.
Jan.	To Sundries, -	£ 73 6 11	
	To Mayne Disbursements, -	411 17 4	
	(N. Mayne appears a clerk, and not W. C. Mayne, though he may be a connection.) -		
	To Sundries, -	61 19 8	
	(per Journal, Fts. of Copper, &c.)		
Feb.	I have detailed in my notes,		
	Rent of Store, -	80 0 0	
	Wages, -	42 0 0	
	Passages, -	77 10 0	
	Slops, -	66 0 0	
	Stores, -	20 17 4	
	Goods per Graham, -	254 12 1	
	Mayne Disbursements, -	565 17 5	
March.	To Sundries, -	120 13 1	
	(Detailed by me)—		
	On Account of Mining, -	167 2 7	
	Smelting, -	2 7 0	
			By Mayne—for January and February, £235 19 9
			(Supposed Returns for Stores,)—entered in April.

'Ghost' signs

The last episode of 'Ghost' signs featured the building at the corner of Lawes and Melbourne Streets at East Maitland.

If you'd like to add further information about the business or building, send an email to the Historical Society: maitlandhistorical@gmail.com



The advertisement painted on the side of the building was for 'Maxam cheese'.

This advertising image was sourced from the *Australian Women's Weekly*, Wednesday 9 March 1955.

The Women's Weekly is available on Trove!



Diary Dates

May 2013

Sat/Sunday 18-19th - Friends of Grossman Heritage weekend

Tuesday 21st Business meeting 5.30 at the rooms. Please bring with you anything you have to donate for the Garage Sale

Thursday & Friday 23rd /24th Pricing and marking goods for the Garage Sale

Saturday 25th 7am start - Garage Sale for the Historical Society at the rooms. Volunteer are needed, you will have an enjoyable time getting to know your fellow members. Lunch provided.

June

Saturday 1st Museums and Galleries Meeting

Tuesday 4th Guest Speaker 5.30 at the rooms

Tuesday 18th Business meeting at the rooms

Thursday 20th Look who's talking – Gaol Birds – Dr Pamela Harrison will present the fascinating results and stories from her current research, Life and death in Maitland Gaol. 6-8pm at Maitland Gaol. \$15 includes wine and canapés. Booking Maitland Library



**Victoria Bridge
Spanning Wallis Creek,
Maitland**

**Linking East and West Maitland
(1852-1896)**

**National Library of Australia,
J.R. Clarke 1857**