

# **Bulletin of Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.**

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



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*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:** The 1930 advertisement from the *Maitland Mercury* was supplied by Judy Nicholson.

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**Location:** 3 Cathedral Street Maitland (opposite Bishop's House)

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

**Committee meetings** are held on the third Tuesday of even months from 5:30-7.00pm.

**General meetings** are held on the third Tuesday of odd months from 5:30-7.00pm.  
Members are invited to attend all monthly meetings.

Meetings are held at the Society's rooms, 3 Cathedral Street Maitland.

Membership fees : \$20 (single) and \$30 (double / family)

**The rooms are open to members and visitors between 11 and 3 on Wednesdays and Saturdays.**

**Patron:** Dr AC Archer AM

### **Current Office Bearers :**

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**Bulletin contributions** are being sought. Please contact the Society via email  
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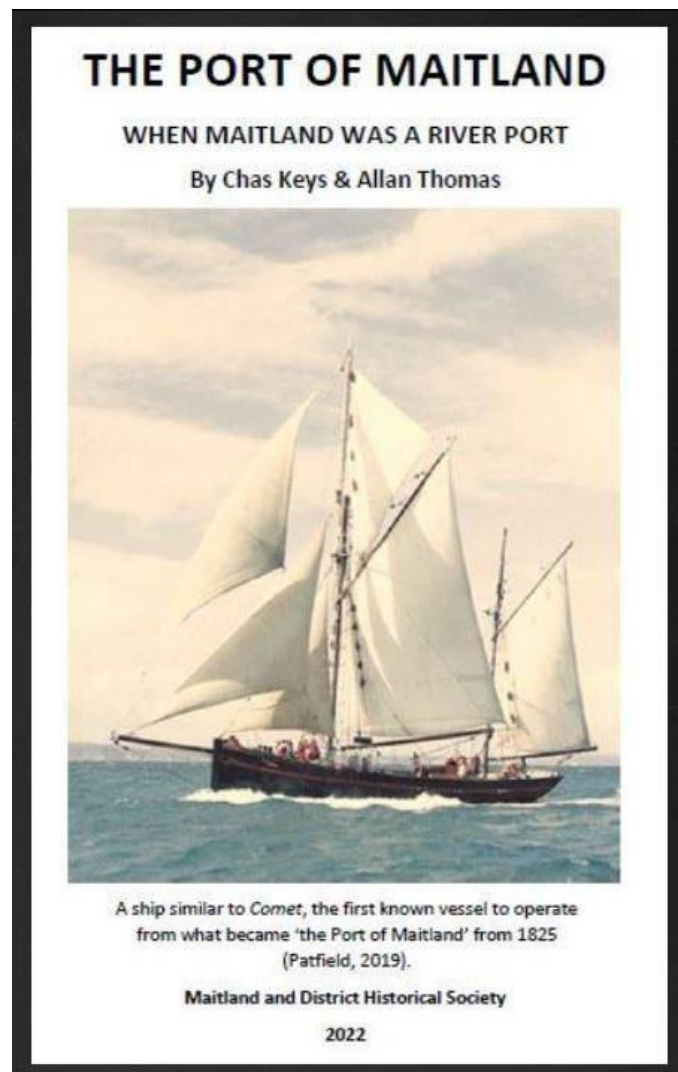
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**Editor's Notes:**

The three articles in this Bulletin offer something for everyone. Judy Nicholson has written a fascinating piece on the Misses McLeod's millinery store. Tony Clift has contributed the second of his articles on the historic property "Clifton" in Lochinvar. The article by Lawrence Henderson on Marmaduke Wilson shines a light on a musician who deserves to be remembered.

A new A5 booklet has just been produced for the Maitland and District Historical Society. Titled "THE PORT OF MAITLAND: When Maitland Was a River Port", it was written by Chas Keys & Allan Thomas. With a price of \$5 the booklet is available in the MDHS rooms. For more information contact the Society.



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## **The Misses McLeod's Millinery Establishment**

'The very newest, always, and dainty novelties'

By Judy Nicholson



The millinery shop of the Misses McLeod is remembered by Maitland residents as the premier place for headwear.

The business opened at 350 High Street on the 15th February 1923, as announced in the *Maitland Mercury*:

### *New Millinery Business.*

*Misses McLeod, of West Maitland, will open their new millinery business at 350 High-street, West Maitland, tomorrow. They have had considerable experience in the trade, Miss N. McLeod, having been milliner for Mrs. Loebel, of the Strand Millinery Parlours, and previously with Misses Edwards. For a number of years she was with them, so that she is opening on her own account with a full experience.*

*A large stock of the latest styles has been secured, and a special display is being made for the opening.*

*Hosiery and children's wear are also being featured.*

Let your Milliners for this year be  
**The Misses McLeod**  
If you require a smartly made Hat, with every detail carried out to perfection, you cannot do better than by placing your order with us.  
— MATRONS HATS A SPECIALITY. —  
**The MISSES McLEOD,**  
Maitland's Leading Milliners, 350 High-st.

The McLeod's were prolific advertisers, with large adverts appearing on at least a monthly basis, with special features for particular seasons.



**Distinctive Millinery and Dainty Novelties**  
**FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON**  
— AT —  
**THE MISSES McLEOD.**  
Beautiful Lace Collars, Handkerchiefs, Hair Bands, Fans, Bags, and Perfumes.  
HOSIERY, all shades in the various Makes—"Kuyper," "Lustre," Dond's, Phoenix, "As You Like It," etc.  
ALSO GLOVES IN A LARGE VARIETY.

**THE MISSES McLEOD,**  
MILLINERY SPECIALISTS,  
PHONE 549, 350-352 HIGH-STREET, WEST MAITLAND.

12 Dec 1923

The business was so successful that adjoining premises were taken in December of 1923, so the Misses McLeod, who could make hats up to any requirement, in addition to stocking an excellent variety of all kinds to suit all ages, were now situated at 350-352 High Street. Their stock also included handkerchiefs, gloves, hosiery, perfumes, novelties, lace collars and all requirements for infant's wear.



## *Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

By 1924 'exceptionally smart furs' were also available in addition to corsets and brassieres.

An expansion to the store was again required in 1927.

*Further extensions having been made to their premises during the year, Misses McLeod have been enabled to add to their stocks of millinery, ladies and children's wear. The display they are now making is bright and one thoroughly in keeping with the Christmas season. There is a fine show of hats in all the popular shapes and shades, and ladies are sure to have their requirements in this direction met. Hats are made up to the wishes of any customer, and each day something dainty comes from the workroom. Misses McLeod themselves are thoroughly experienced milliners and employ competent hands. While specialising in millinery, they also carry good stocks of ladies and children's wear and fancy goods. The latest additions to their premises have been largely utilised to house greater stocks of clothing for children, in all branches of their business will be found many articles that would make acceptable gifts.*

21 Dec 1927

McLeod's also took advantage of advertising in the Back to Maitland Week, 7th-12th November 1927 souvenir booklet.





11 December 1935

#### *HATS FOR SPRING*

*Display at McLeod's - The many fastidious women who have inspected them, acclaim the new hats showing, now at Misses McLeod's as quite the most intriguing and becoming for a long time. The spring time display is provoking wide interest. The advent of spring has been welcomed in a lavish manner with colourful floral motifs, and the new straws, with their fascinating textures, have been cunningly employed to give a charm and chic that will delight the most exacting taste.*

*While something of the spirit of this new millinery mode is to be seen in their windows, the full range of these flattering hats must be studied at one's leisure in the spacious flitting rooms to be fully appreciated.*

*Under the personal supervision of the principals, the courteous and intelligent staff of McLeod's can solve the millinery problems of the woman whose appearance matters.*

3 Sept 1935



30 June 1938

Christmas 1937 saw yet another expansion, this time the opening of a 'branch shop' at 443 High Street, in order to cope with the Christmas rush.

*By advertisement to-day. Misses McLeod the millinery specialists, invite all Maitland ladies to visit their enlarged and remodelled showrooms, which are tastefully decorated in green and cream and present a most attractive appearance. The furnishings are carried out on a sumptuous scale, and the well-known artistry of this firm is accentuated in every fitting.*



Image: Picture Maitland



## *Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.*

After 1939 the Misses McLeod reduced their advertising and business continued, surviving the 1955 flood.

The next major change for Misses McLeod came in 1971, when the business was sold:

*Mrs. Betty Glover of James Street Bolwarra and Mrs. Wendy Haxton of Belmore Road took over from Miss A.M. McLeod. Miss M.E. McLeod and her sister Mrs. V. Harden opened the shop in High Street 45 years ago. Miss A.M. McLeod joined them later, has survived them and will now retire to her East Maitland home.*

*Until she became ill a few weeks ago she went to the shop every day.*

*At one time the shop made all the hats it sold and employed a staff of about 15. Some hats are still made there, but most of them are bought, so the shop has a staff of only 6.*

*They say with pride they are making bridal veils for the daughters of women who had their own veils made at the Misses McLeod...*

*Mrs. Glover feels that the Misses McLeod is part of Maitland's history. She said she did not want to see it closed or 'pass into outside hands.' The Misses McLeod has always been a friendly store. Mrs. Glover is keen to preserve what she calls the personal and friendly atmosphere. However we will be carrying larger stocks and gradually introduce new lines. July 1971*

Only a year later, fire gutted the Misses McLeod premises and an adjoining shop. On Saturday 1 July 1972 after 7.00pm, firefighters took 45 minutes to get the blaze under control.

The Misses McLeod did not reopen and a Maitland icon of fashion and flair came to an end.

Former employees of the store came together for a reunion in July 1992. Former sales assistant, Mrs. Aileen Clark said the millinery existed in an era when young women would buy a hat each week for an important social occasion. Mrs. Clark worked in the store from the age of 14 to her early 30s and remembers it being a happy, busy place, where there was always plenty of action and creativity. 13 November 1992.

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## **Clifton Lochinvar**

by Anthony G (Tony) Clift<sup>©</sup>

(Following on from the article on *Clift's Folly* in the last Bulletin: the history of the building and its site continues ...)



**Clifton** - 2004<sup>i</sup>

Construction of this building occurred in 1861-62 with its initial use being as an Inn, named *Clift's Folly*. (See previous Bulletin article on that period of its life)

When its owner, Samuel Clift (Senior), died in 1862, the executors of his estate initially tried to sell, then lease, the building but that proved unsuccessful. Samuel had bequeathed the equivalent of a life interest in the property to his second son, Joseph Clift, who decided to convert it for use as his family's town house<sup>#</sup> around mid-1864<sup>ii</sup>. His family at that time consisted of his wife, Elizabeth Sophia (nee Dixon) and their children, Jane Sophia Dixon, Clara Ann, Albert Frederick and George Kenneth<sup>iii</sup>.

Joseph split his time between his Lochinvar property and the 200,000 acre *Breeza Station*, on the Liverpool Plains south of Gunnedah, which he part owned with his male siblings. They ran the property under a partnership trading as the *Clift Brothers*.

Under Joseph Clift's ownership the dwelling became known as *Clifton*. The reason behind this naming is unknown but one suggestion is that it originates from amalgamation of the two surnames of the residents with the "*Clift*" part coming from Joseph's family name and the "*on*" from his wife Elizabeth's maiden

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<sup>#</sup> The term, 'town house', refers to a residence located in a settled area and used by the owner when not living on his remote grazing station. Often squatters' family members stayed permanently at the town house, especially if the station was considered too isolated, unsafe or primitive to permanently house females and children. The location of the town house provided the convenience of servants, medical services availability and education opportunities for any children.

name of “*Dixon*”<sup>iv</sup>. It may also have come from a variation of original name of “*Clift’s Folly Hotel*”.

A regular visitor to the Clift family, Reverend Alfred Glennie, the local Church of England cleric at Lochinvar from 1863 to 1870, kept a diary of his time at that Parish but never in his entries did he call the building Clifton. On July 12, 1864, he referred to his first visit to the Clift home in which he stated “... *called on Mr Clift ... He and his family have come to reside at the ‘big house’.*” Quite often his diary stated that he called with Mrs Clift being the only older family member in residence, thus illustrating that Joseph Clift regularly worked away, most commonly at *Breeza Station*.



**Elizabeth Sophia Clift (nee Dixon)<sup>v</sup>**

The transition to the new name appears not to have been a precise occurrence. The first known use of the name, *Clifton*, occurred in 1876<sup>vi</sup> but subsequent to that the property was also called *The Folly*<sup>vii</sup>. Interestingly, in 1881, family newspaper notices referred to it as *The Folly* in a May edition and *Clifton* for one in July<sup>viii</sup>. After that date the later became the norm.

*Clifton* has been described as a finely crafted house of pure symmetrical design, which was unusually old fashioned for its period<sup>ix</sup>, hence resulting in some people predating its construction. The composition of *Clifton* reflects similar attributes of design inherent in two other inns previously erected for Samuel Clift twenty years earlier<sup>φ</sup>. The first of these, *Walli (House)*<sup>x</sup> at 3 High Street Maitland dates from around 1840<sup>xi</sup> while the second, the *(Queen) Victoria Inn* (later known as *Roseneath*), at 9 Day Street East Maitland, came into existence around 1842<sup>xii</sup>. It is likely that Samuel used a variation of the plans of *Walli* for this building.

Built as a large two-storey hotel, *Clifton*, like *Walli House*, also featured a small mezzanine level between its two main floors<sup>xiii</sup>. Materials used in its construction

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<sup>φ</sup> Samuel Clift (Senior) left each of these properties to two of his sons, William and George Clift, respectively, and fortunately both buildings survive today in good condition.

included local colonial bricks for its walls while the hipped roof utilized slate tiles (possibly an 1885 update) as the covering. Two symmetrical brick chimneys form prominent and practical roof ornamentation and service the eight fireplaces in the main rooms on both floors of the residence. A narrow verandah runs around the front and northern side of the dwelling and is replicated on the upper level with turned timber posts providing for its support while a balustrade of timber railings and infill secures the upper level. Sash windows of twelve panes characterise both levels with those on the lower storey having the added security of timber shutters.

Under the building are two large cellars floored with stone and later ceiled with ripple iron sheeting. External access only to these is available by entrances adjoining the northern side of the house. Their original usage included storage of food and liquor for the hotel, while later fruit and preserves, together with possibly locally produced wine, were housed in their cool interiors. At the rear of the house, a covered flagged courtyard provides access to a free-standing stone building, which saw use, until fairly recently, as a detached kitchen and laundry.



*Clifton* (southern side) – Circa 1926

Associated with the main building, extensive pleasure gardens were also developed on the grounds from the very start of *Clifton's* history. Under Joseph Clift's ownership these were further expanded to include a substantial ornamental pond faced with hewn stone together with numerous trees and shrubs, some being of rare species that still survive today<sup>xiv</sup>. By 1900 *Clifton* featured some uncommon and, in some cases, unique improvements for the time including a summer house (a gazebo type structure) plus aviaries, pigeon and canary houses<sup>xv</sup>.

Located near the main structure, various other outbuildings were added over time to aid in the running of the property. These included a set of stables plus a hay store while around the turn of the twentieth century a new brick house for use of the head gardener was built south-east of the main house.

The coach house also survives from around this period. A unique component of the building gave the groom the ability of a drive through access whereby the



carriage could be unhitched in the building and the horses driven out the other side. Staff accommodation and a harness room made up the balance of the building.

One of the long-term detrimental effects of having the railway line being located so close to the house started to show up with cracking and movement of the building. By the late nineteenth century, the train traffic and size had increased substantially on Great Northern Railway Line due to its extension through to north-western NSW and its New England connection at Werris Creek junction providing a linkage to Queensland. Due to this close proximity of the line to the house, harmful vibrations from the trains caused some structural damage to the walls of *Clifton*. Joseph Clift instigated two heavy steel rods to be inserted at 90 degrees to each other through the floor of the top storey to minimise this cracking. Much later a substantial steel girder was added to the cellar roof to act as a bearer and helps support the front of the dwelling<sup>xvi</sup>.

**Joseph Clift  
on the Front  
Verandah of  
*Clifton* –  
Circa  
1910<sup>xvii</sup>**

**Note:** *The  
imitation  
marble  
verandah  
columns and  
mosaic tiling  
to the floor.*



Being of substantial means, Joseph Clift was able to keep the property in immaculate order by providing the necessary funds for quality upgrading and maintenance.

For instance, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1885, he employed the Pender Architecture Practice of Maitland for arranging slating, general repairs and painting to his residence<sup>xviii</sup>. In 1900 *Clifton* and its outbuildings received an extensive and expensive refurbishment and renovation under the direction of architect, CW Holmes. One of the jobs undertaken at this time included the adding of two bands of gold leaf decoration to the front door while another task featured the painting of the verandah columns with an imitation marble coating. An article in the local newspaper reported these and some other undertakings<sup>xix</sup>.



To run this extensive household, the Clift family employed a houseboy, housemaid, cook, a laundress, a groom and two gardeners<sup>xx</sup>. The staff also included a semi-trained nurse, who assisted Mrs Clift due to her blindness suffered over the last 20 years of her life. Showing a significant benevolence and affection for their head gardener, when the family relinquished ownership of *Clifton*, part of the arrangement stated that the gardener could continue to use his house for as long as he wished to<sup>xxi</sup>.

**PAINTING AND TILING AT "CLIFTON" HOUSE, LOCHINVAR.**—The above residence of Mr. Joseph Clift has just undergone external renovations and painting, together with the stables, summer-house, aviary, pigeon house, canary house, hay store, picket fences, and out-buildings. The whole has been thoroughly burnt off, and rubbed down. The front door bronze green, finished with two bands of gold leaf, the columns splash-painted, imitation marble and varnished, and all prominent parts picked out in choice colours. The flagging of the front and side verandahs has been taken up, and rich encaustic, mosaic, and ornamental tiles procured from Messrs. G. E. Crane and Sons, Sydney, placed in their position in best cement mortar, with an easy fall outwards, to allow the water to run off. The entrance to front gate from the verandah has been treated similarly. The columns now stand on concrete blocks 2' feet square. Stone curbing has been fixed to both sides at entrance and round verandah, clean chiselled and rubbed and made to detail. Mr. Lewis Morris was the contractor for the work, and Mr. C. W. Holmes, architect, prepared the specifications and plans, and supervised the work.

From early on Joseph planted vineyards near his town house. When Reverend Glennie visited the property on January 11, 1867, he commented that Mr Clift showed him his vineyard<sup>xxii</sup>. By 1874 Joseph Clift advertised locally Australian red and white wines for sale with very liberal terms available to wholesale customers<sup>xxiii</sup>. It seems likely that these were produced from the *Clifton* vineyards<sup>xxiv</sup>. This vineyard of 25 acres (10 ha), together with cellars, appears to be the same one offered for lease by Joseph Clift in 1882<sup>xxv</sup>.

In the late nineteenth century Joseph Clift and his surviving sons, George Kenneth and Ernest Aldane Clift, were all listed as residing at Lochinvar by the 1894-95 NSW Post Office Commercial Directory. The index registered Joseph and George as farmers whilst in an unusual entry for those times; Ernest's commercial occupation was recorded as that of an artist<sup>xxvi</sup>.

Like all residences in those times, births and non-accidental deaths usually occurred at home. Sadness clouded the family's early residency when Joseph and Elizabeth Clift's first son, Albert Frederick William Clift, died at the property on April 14, 1865. He was aged 5 years and 3 months<sup>xxvii</sup>.

As both parents aged, their youngest son, Ernest (Ernie) Clift, a bachelor, increasingly assumed the role as head of the household. His father, Joseph Clift, active all his life lived to nearly 90 years of age and died at *Clifton* on April 27, 1917<sup>xxviii</sup>. His wife, Elizabeth, survived for another 6 years after Joseph's death and passed away in June 5, 1923<sup>xxix</sup>. On their demise Ernest Clift became the owner of *Clifton*.

In 1928 Ernest Clift gave the property, together with around 200 acres (about 80 hectares) of land plus some stock and farm implements, to the Church of

England for use as an orphanage<sup>xxx</sup> due to a chronic shortage of that type of accommodation at the time. The beneficiaries received it free of debt together with £300 (\$600) per annum for maintenance. The gift was valued at £10,000 (\$20,000)<sup>xxxi</sup>.

Renamed *St Christopher's Home for Little Children*, the Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name, who were based in Melbourne, ran the enterprise. The Bishop of Newcastle, Rev. Dr GM Long, officially opened and dedicated the home on Sunday December 2, 1928<sup>xxxii</sup>. The church converted it to a boys' home for children from 15 months to six years of age<sup>xxxiii</sup> but girls were also known to have been cared for there.

Interestingly it appears that this usage of *Clifton* operated well prior to the gifting to the church when the nuns took over its management. Orphans were known to have been in residence in 1925 and perhaps even a couple of years before then<sup>xxxiv</sup>. Heavy blinds later added to the upstairs verandahs provided extra sleeping areas for the children.

**Children and Nuns in front  
of the Coach House at  
*Clifton* – Circa 1930s<sup>xxxv</sup>**

Ernest Cliff's legacy to the orphanage continued when he died in 1946. From his estate the sum of £5,000 (\$10,000) was given to the Church for investment for specific funding *St Christopher's Home for Little Children* at Lochinvar<sup>xxxvi</sup>.

It was during the orphanage's occupancy that some unsympathetic renovations were made next to the original kitchen however these have since been removed. By the late 1940s the Newcastle Diocesan Synod was questioning the suitability of the property, its running costs and staffing of the home. Two of the main issues of serious concern were that of the poor sewage system and the inadequacy of the water supply having solely to rely on rain water<sup>xxxvii</sup>.



The Sisters stayed until 1950 when a change of direction saw a rationalisation of their role resulting in withdrawal of the activities<sup>xxxviii</sup> with the orphanage continuing to be run by the local Newcastle Diocese until around 1956.

In that year the Church sold *Clifton* to private buyers, who lived there until 1968<sup>xxxix</sup>. Over the next twelve years the property passed through a number of owners, of whom some apparently were never in residence.

In 1980 Alumux Australian Pty. Ltd. purchased the property and other surrounding lands for the site for a proposed aluminium smelter to be located

near the Old North Road<sup>xi</sup>. An intercompany transfer saw their Lochinvar holdings transferred to Abturka Pty. Ltd. just over a year later. Significant public protests on the effects of fallout from the planned enterprise on the local vineyards and grazing pastures resulted in the eventual abandonment of the proposal and the company selling their lands to private purchasers.

One positive outcome of this failed venture came with the classifying of *Clifton* on the National Trust of Australia's Register on April 27, 1981<sup>xli</sup>.

In 1983 John and Claire Morrison purchased the property. They then carried out much needed maintenance and extensive renovations, including removing the out of character Church ownership alterations to the property plus adding some modern practical improvements. Their efforts fully retaining the original character and charm of the home. The gardens and ornamental pond also received their refurbishment attention<sup>xlii</sup>. All their work resulted in a very high standard of restoration.

On their passing *Clifton* has recently changed hands again and hopefully will see out another 160 years.

<sup>i</sup> Reverend Glennie records their permanent residence on July 12, 1864. Reference: Ann & Malcolm Glennie Holmes – ii i Transcription of the Journals (1863–1870) of Reverend Alfred Glennie p.30 – Newcastle Region Library

<sup>iii</sup> Clift family tree researched and produced by AEnone McRae Clift

<sup>iv</sup> Comments by AG (Tony) Clift

<sup>v</sup> Ann & Malcolm Glennie Holmes – *Transcription of the Journals (1863–1870) of Reverend Alfred Glennie* p.30 – Newcastle Region Library

<sup>vi</sup> Cropped image from the author's collection

<sup>vii</sup> *Maitland Mercury* – 2 April 1876 p.1

<sup>viii</sup> *Ibid.* – 6 November 1880 & 2 April 1881 p.4

<sup>ix</sup> *Ibid.* – 5 May 1881 p.1 & 30 July 1881 p.5

<sup>x</sup> *Clifton's* National Trust of Australia listing details.

<sup>xi</sup> "Walli" is pronounced "Wal-eye" not "Wally" as Maitland locals now sometimes call it. Reference: Clift family sources - Ann Christian, the last Clift descendant owner of *Walli*. *Walli* was never licensed with an application for it under the name of the *Waggon and Horses* being refused in 1847. Reference: Report on the Annual Licensing Meeting - *Maitland Mercury* – 24 April 1847 p.2

<sup>xii</sup> Samuel Clift was recorded with his address at *Walli House* in 1841. Reference: Elizabeth Guildford - *Hunter Valley Directory 1841* – Newcastle Hunter Valley Publications (1987)

<sup>xiii</sup> Article on Publican's Licenses - *Maitland Mercury* – 22 April 1843 p.2 & Mitchell, CJ, *Hunter's River* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1984) p.93

<sup>xiv</sup> Plans from the then owners of *Clifton*, John & Claire Morrison & an on-site inspection by AG (Tony) & DG (Gail) Clift – September 2003 & CJ Mitchell – *Hunter's River* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1984) pp.128-129

<sup>xv</sup> Details supplied by then owners of *Clifton*, John & Claire Morrison – September 2003

<sup>xvi</sup> *Maitland Mercury* – 27 July 1900

<sup>xvii</sup> Details supplied by then owners of *Clifton*, John & Claire Morrison – September 2003

<sup>xviii</sup> Image from the author's collection

<sup>xix</sup> Maitland, Barry – Schedule of Works by the Pender Practice – Index of Works - Newcastle University

<sup>xx</sup> Non-referenced newspaper article

<sup>xxi</sup> Mitchell, CJ, *Hunter's River* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1984) pp.128-129

<sup>xxii</sup> Details supplied by then owners of *Clifton*, John & Claire Morrison – September 2003

<sup>xxiii</sup> Ann & Malcolm Glennie Holmes – *Transcription of the Journals (1863–1870) of Reverend Alfred Glennie* p.100 – Newcastle Region Library

<sup>xxiv</sup> *Maitland Mercury* – 22 December 1874 p.1 col.5

<sup>xxv</sup> Comments by AG (Tony) Clift

<sup>xxvi</sup> *Maitland Mercury* – 20 May 1882

<sup>xxvii</sup> NSW Post Office Commercial Directory – 1894-95

<sup>xxviii</sup> *Maitland Mercury* – 18 April 1865 p.1 & NSW Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Reg. No. 4341/1865 – Death Record

<sup>xxix</sup> Joseph Clift's Obituary - *Maitland Weekly Mercury* – 5 May 1917 p.8 and an on-site inspection of his grave at Lochinvar by AG (Tony) & DG (Gail) Clift – September 2003

<sup>xxx</sup> On-site inspection of Elizabeth Clift's grave at Lochinvar by AG (Tony) & DG (Gail) Clift – September 2003

<sup>xxxi</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald* – 14 May 1928 p.12 & 24 May 1928 p.12

<sup>xxxii</sup> *Ibid.* – 24 May 1928 p.12

<sup>xxxiii</sup> *Ibid.* – 3 December 1928 p.14



- xxxiv Church documents in possession of the late John & Claire Morrison of *Clifton & Mitchell, CJ, Hunter's River 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (1984) p.128 Note: The first reference states that 100 acres was given with the property but a later sale notice in 1968 listed the area at 151 acres.
- xxxv Details supplied by then owners of *Clifton*, John & Claire Morrison, in regard to conversations with former orphans, who have visited *Clifton* – April 2004
- xxxvi Photograph from church documents in possession of the late John & Claire Morrison of *Clifton*
- xxxvii Non-referenced newspaper cuttings titled "Rich Bachelor's Big Bequests to Servants" & "Wealthy Man's Estate – Generous Gifts to Charities" – Circa 1946
- xxxviii *Newcastle Morning Herald* – 5 October 1949
- xxxix Mitchell, CJ, *Hunter's River 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (1984) pp.128-129 states that the orphanage ceased in 1930 however an article in the *Newcastle Morning Herald* (dated August 23, 1973) asserted that the orphanage continued until 1955 and is supported by other newspaper articles. Then owners, John and Claire Morrison, stated that the Sisters withdrew around 1950 but the local Newcastle Diocese continued to run the orphanage for several years.
- xL Newspaper article – Newcastle Regional Library - Reference – NS 10 6 1965
- xLi *Newcastle Morning Herald* – 9 February 1981
- xLii Copy of the National Trust Listing supplied by then owners, John and Claire Morrison. Note: *Clifton* has been added as a heritage item to the Maitland Local Environmental Plan 2011.
- xliii On-site interview with John and Claire Morrison by the author – September 2003

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## MAITLAND'S PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

By Lawrence Henderson

Marmaduke Henry Wilson, was born In London on 3 June, 1833 and arrived in Sydney in December, 1858. He was well known in the United Kingdom as a pianist and composer of music, and it is thought he may have come to the colonies to escape his creditors. A notice in the *Edinburgh Gazette* states:

TO THE CREDITORS OF MARMADUKE HENRY WILSON, Professor of Music, residing in Balmoral Terrace, Kilmarnock. THE said Marmaduke Henry Wilson has presented a Petition to the sheriff of Ayrshire, praying to be discharged of all debts and obligations contracted by him, or for which he was liable at the date of his sequestration, on the 13th February, 1858.

He continued his musical career on arrival in Sydney, with a number of concerts at various venues as reported in the *Empire* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Of particular interest were "gems" from the opera, *The Infidel Knight*, composed by him while he resided in London.

### MARMADUKE MOVES TO MAITLAND

By 1861, it appears that Marmaduke Wilson was living in Maitland. The *Mercury* refers to him as: of this town. The newspaper reported on 1 January, 1861, that the New Year's entertainment that evening at the School of Arts would be by a number of artists, including the pianist, Marmaduke Wilson. Two days later the newspaper stated:

The overtures and fantasia were most brilliantly executed by Mr Wilson, who

certainly is the best pianist that has visited Maitland for a long period.

On 10 October, the *Mercury* noted another concert at the School of Arts, featuring among others, Mr M H Wilson, playing on the pianoforte.

#### MARRIAGE AND MUSIC

On 9 April, 1861, Marmaduke Henry Wilson married Miss Margaret Teys, daughter of David Teys of Murrurundi at St. Andrew's Church, Newcastle. The *Newcastle Chronicle* states they were married by special licence by the Rev James Nimmo, M.A. Their first son was born in Murrurundi on 15 December, 1863.

On 5 March, 1863, the *Mercury* reported on the *Maitland Musical Bijou*, a monthly publication produced by Mr J W Hillcoat, music publisher of High Street, Maitland. The first issue highlighted The Night Parade Waltzes, composed by Mr Marmaduke Wilson, and stated that they cannot fail to become popular. Mr Wilson's compositions also appeared in subsequent issues of the publication. The May issue included the Singleton Railway Galop, specially composed for the opening of the Great Northern Railway to Singleton and played for the first time at the Railway Ball. The music was dedicated, with permission, to the Governor General, Sir John Young. A copy of the Galop, with a satin wrapper printed in gold, was presented to his Excellency, during the Ball.

In August, the new organ, belonging to the Rev Mr Thackeray, and recently erected in the School of Arts was played for the first time to a well filled hall. The performers playing the keys were Messrs T V Bridson, M H Wilson and J Broderick.

Music was not a well remunerated profession and Marmaduke Henry Wilson of West Maitland, Professor of Music, once again found him-self insolvent. The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 6 January, 1864 noted he had liabilities of £150 5s. 5d and assets of only £31. His property at Robin Street, Horseshoe Bend, had an assessed value of £13. He was in the habit of providing his services free of charge for charitable occasions such as concerts in aid of St Mary's new church and the Floods Relief Fund. He was perpetually short of income.

The Newcastle Choral Society was formed in August, 1866, at a meeting of interested citizens under the joint conductorship of Dr Charles H Horn (vocal) and Mr Marmaduke Wilson (music), and it was soon considered a great success. The *Mercury* complained in its pages soon after that Maitland had a fine hall (School of Arts) and no choral society and Newcastle had a fine choral society and no hall for concerts. The *Mercury* reported on the third grand concert of the society held in the Christ Church Schoolroom, Bolton Street, Newcastle.



Works of Mozart, Haydn, and Mendelssohn, were performed in a very creditable manner and the performance was considered outstanding.

The *Mercury* noted a very well deserved compliment to Mr Marmaduke Wilson when he was given a grand complimentary concert at the School of Arts on 4 August, 1868. The concert was to thank him having proved to be ready at:

every occasion, to give the use of his fine musical talent in aid of charitable and other public concerts.

A crowded audience attended, partly to listen to good music, but more to show their personal appreciation of Mr. Wilson.

He was a prolific composer of music and one of his final compositions was the Peach Blossom Waltz, published in August, 1870. The *Mercury* stated that it:

will be a welcome addition to the ball-room repertoire.

#### ILLNESS AND DEATH

In September, 1870, a notice appeared in the *Mercury* stating that he had recovered from his late severe indisposition and will resume his professional duties in pianoforte tuition on 3 October, at Bleak Cottage, East Maitland. By November, he had relapsed into a severe and protracted illness, preventing him from continuing with his musical teaching.

A complimentary concert was given to him on 5 November, 1870. The *Mercury* reported:

The programme consisted of a choice selection of vocal and instrumental music, the principal performers being Herr Franz Becker, Miss Wiseman, Mrs M Colley, and a gentleman amateur from Newcastle.

Marmaduke Henry Wilson died on 16 May, 1871, aged 37 years. Strangely, no death notice appeared in the *Maitland Mercury*, but the Sydney journals, carried the news: Marmaduke Wilson, professor of music, died last night. News of his death also appeared in the *South London Chronicle*, on 12 August.

The *Maitland Mercury* did, however, give a few words, on 20 May, in the final paragraph describing the

ANNUAL SHOW OF THE HUNTER RIVER AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION: From the grand-stand the Volunteer Band sent forth at intervals its enlivening strains, which however were exchanged for the solemn tones of the "Gloria" as the funeral procession of the late Mr Marmaduke Wilson came down Devonshire Street, and halted at St. Paul's

Church. The incident induced not a few of the friends of the deceased to bestow a passing thought of regretful sadness upon one who was "a good fellow," well-liked by all who knew him.

In July, the *Mercury* reported that friends of the deceased gathered at the School of Arts in remembrance of:

that gentleman's great ability in the musical profession and in recognition of his readiness at all times to give his services in the cause of charity.

It was resolved to open a subscription list to erect a headstone with a suitable inscription.

Marmaduke Henry Wilson was interred in St Mary's Cemetery, Campbells Hill and later the headstone was erected bearing the inscription: Erected to the memory of Marmaduke H. Wilson, Professor of Music, died 16th May, 1871, aged 37 years. He left a widow and three young sons.

Wilson's widow, Margaret, returned to Murrurundi and on 10 May, 1873, married William Blackburn, eldest son of the late William Dixon, of Newcastle in Staffordshire, England.

#### REFERENCES:

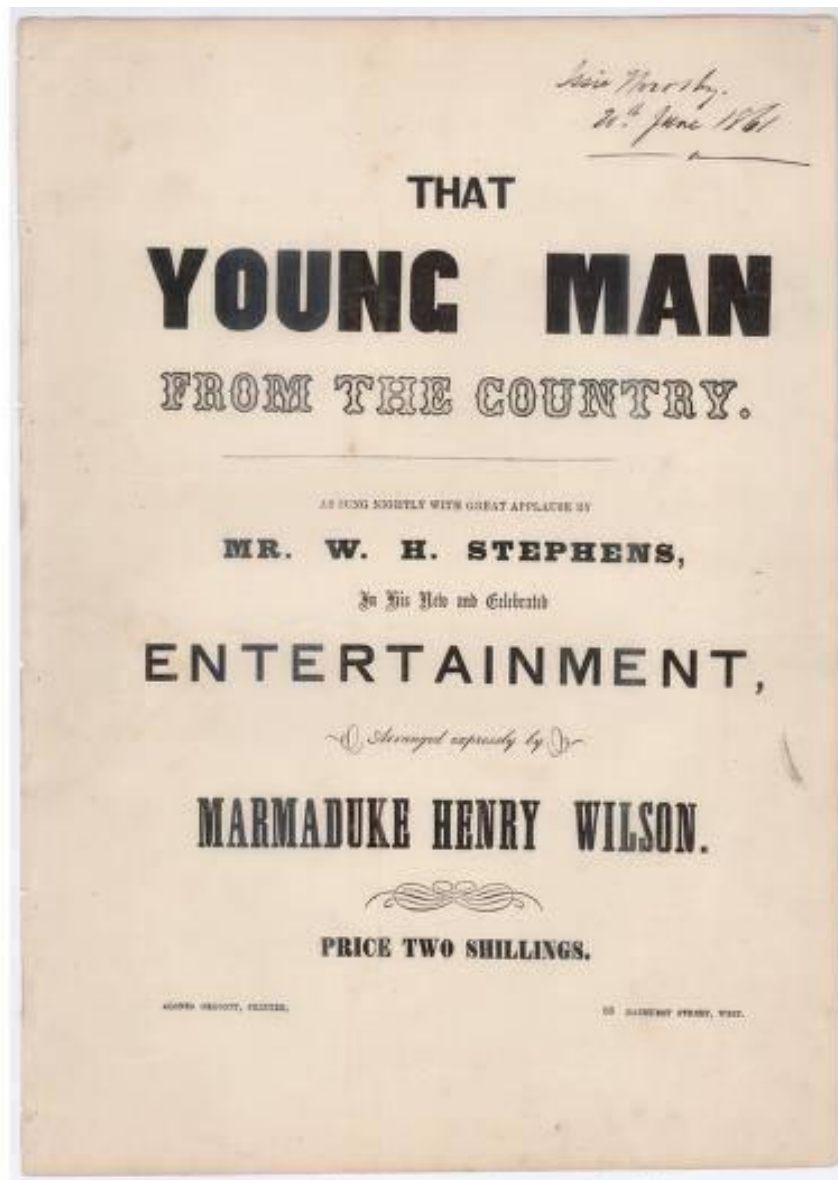
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*Newcastle Chronicle and Hunter River District News*, 1861 - 1866

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From the collections of Sydney Living Museums / Historic Houses Trust of NSW

Music for That Young Man from the Country by Marmaduke Henry Wilson, with the hand written date 21 June, 1861. From the collection of the Sydney Living Museums/Historic Houses Trust of NSW

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Advertisement for the Singleton Railway Galop, *Maitland Mercury*, 2 May, 1863



Marmaduke Wilson's headstone. Note the broken lyre, indicating a life cut short.

Editor's note: Marmaduke Wilson did indeed die too young. He had this in common with Harry Hyndes and Signor Lardelli, the two musicians with a Maitland connection who we have previously featured in the Bulletin.

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