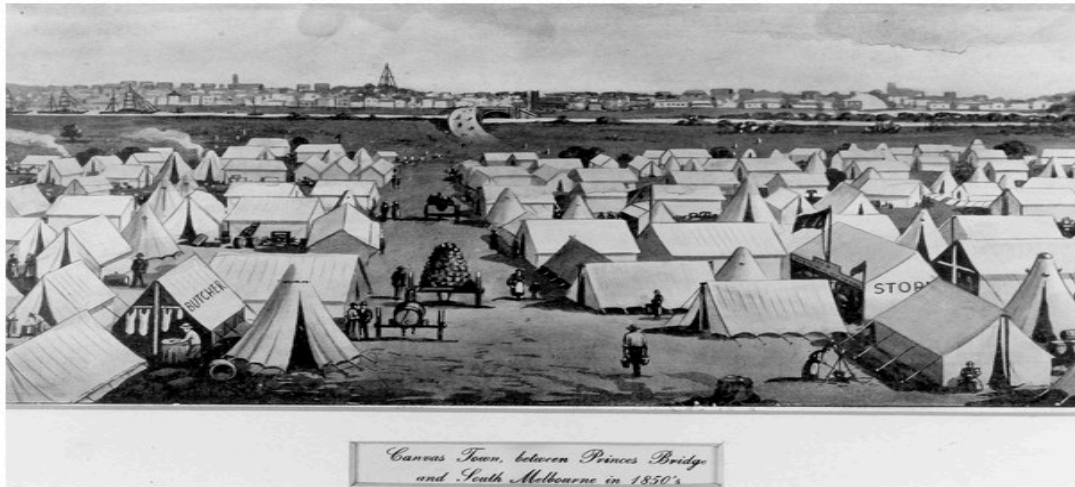


John Smith & Margaret McDonald's arrival in Australia

In 1852 John Smith 23 & Margaret McDonald 21 arrived in Melbourne on the ship 'Theodore' together with many other emigrants from Scotland. John & Margaret were married at St Johns in Glasgow and left for Australia just 10 days later. The ship 'Theodore' left Liverpool 23 Aug 1852 and arrived Melbourne 8 Dec 1852.

On arrival they lived at Canvas Town. Canvas Town was between Princess Bridge and South Melbourne set up during the gold rushes to accommodate huge influxes of new arrivals.



Not long after moving into Canvas Town a Mr Kerr & Mr Neill from Loddon employed them, together with a small group of men for 20 shillings a week including rations. I'm not sure about the wives...if and how they were employed, for they certainly travelled with their husbands

Carpenter	John Smith 23 & wife Margaret Smith 21 from Lanark
Mason	George Graham 27 & wife Catherine 28 and babe (born on board) from Lanark
Mason	Joseph Keiller 28 & wife Eleanor 27 from Aberdeen
Ag Lab	Donald McCall 43 & wife Annie 42 and daughter Elizabeth 5 from Argyle
Ag Lab	William Donald 27 & wife Elizabeth 28 and children James 2 & Ann 0 from Forfar

These families from the ship were employed by Kerr & Neill to build a house on the property. Fernihurst is in the Loddon Plains on Kinypanial Creek, about 25 k south east of Boort

One of the Slab Huts at Fernihurst that they lived in when they arrived



The new House at Fernihurst built by the Scottish Immigrants



Most of the group who were employed by Kerr & Neill later moved onto the goldfields, and possibly stayed friends - a Mrs Graham helped deliver one of Margaret Smith's babes at Dunolly.

It seemed that most had left the Loddon property 'Fernihurst' by at least 1855(See **)

John Mitchel Smith (1829-1898) & Margaret Boice McDonald (1832-1906) m. 1852 Glasgow

Before 1855 - birth & death of son James unknown - possibly Fernihurst

1855 Tarnagulla...birth of eldest daughter Margaret Bowie (GGGG mother)

1857 to 1864 Dunolly - birth of four more children

1867 Talbot (Amherst) with birth of three more children

John & Margaret died at Talbot, and were buried at Amherst Cemetery

George Graham (1831-1878) & Catherine Stewart (1824-1896) m. 1851 Glasgow

1853 child David Stewart born unknown where - possibly Fernihurst

1855 - Tarnagulla birth of children

1857 - Dunolly birth of children

George & Catherine brought land at Murphy's Creek. They are buried at Tarnagulla cemetery

Joseph Keillor (1825-1892) & Eleanor Lyall Groundwater (1835-1911) m.1852 Aberdeen

1854 Loddon - child Mary Ann was born...possibly Fernihurst

1856 & 1857 - two children born in Melbourne

They had returned to Aberdeen Scotland by 1859

William Hosea Donald (1825-1896) & Elizabeth Strang (1828-1899) m. 1849 Forfar

1857 Dunolly - birth of three children (two children had arrived with them)

They died at Dunolly, buried at the Old Dunolly cemetery

Donald McCall (1811-1858) & Annie McIntyre (1810 - 1878) m. 1846 Argyll

Their daughter Elizabeth was born 1847 in Argyll.

A Donald, Anne & Elizabeth McCall died in Kyneton - Elizabeth who never married died in 1930

On the hunt for Kerr & Neill I came across John Hunter Kerr (1821-1874 m.1861 in Victoria)
It is understood that his wife Frances Grace Murphy contributed to this memoir.

Glimpses of Life In Victoria, by John Hunter Kerr (Published 1872)

Chapter X11 'Journey to Melbourne' Pages 168 to 170

were numerously attended. My business in town being completed, and having laid in large supplies of station stores, I prepared to return home. I had occasion to hire a shepherd, and found one willing to accept the situation, who had arrived by ship only a few days previously. It appeared that he was well pleased with the engagement, hearing that the station was near some of the principal gold-fields, whither he was bent on proceeding as soon as he should have amassed a little money. His shipmates hearing of his destination were desirous to accompany him; accordingly I was beset by a group of able-bodied men, who requested that I would engage them. They were Aberdeen stone-masons, good labouring men, but possessed of small resources, all anxious by any means to reach the diggings, and all needing a little money to assist in their first start. "We'll big you a hoose, master," they urged; "and if ye'll hire us we'll engage to stay with you six months." I weighed the proposal in my mind, and finally agreed with them, they consenting to accept £1 wages per week, and to remain at the same rate for the stipulated six months. Although this was for that time an exceedingly moderate remuneration for their labour, the vicinity of the station to the gold-fields was to them an all-powerful inducement. I selected four stone-masons, a carpenter, and a blacksmith, all young and strong men, who appeared to have been newly married before they left home, for they had all young wives, and as yet no families. Our dwelling-house being only a slab hut

of small dimensions, I was glad to meet with a chance of building a better residence on such reasonable terms. Besides these persons I took home with me two Chinese waiters, who had been imported by a friend, among whose staff of Christian domestics he now feared they would be considered unwelcome intruders. The wages they asked were far below those commonly current, and they turned out far superior to the class of servants usually to be had in the colony, and acquitted themselves skilfully in the several capacities of cook and waiter. Their appearance was far more refined than that of the ordinary class of Chinese immigrants who frequented the diggings; with these they never associated, but seemed to look upon them with sovereign contempt as "canaille," being themselves members of a superior class. They were scrupulously clean in their habits and attire, and when I first saw them were dressed in flowing garments of Chinese silk, with gold-edged caps; they were followed through the streets by a train of urchins, making choice remarks on their long pig-tails and loose dress. I may add here that I had never cause to regret engaging these men, who served me faithfully for some eighteen months; they never tried their fortunes at the diggings, but having carefully saved their wages, returned to their wives in China with what to them was no doubt a competence. We were a large party returning to the station, including the labourers, their wives, the two Celestials, and a few young men of a higher class in search of employment, and most of them personal friends, who were to stop at our station on their way. Six drays accompanied us, loaded with station stores, the packages of the

emigrants, and a stock of flour to be disposed of on the diggings. The new arrivals from Aberdeen were located in the large wool-shed, where each family was accommodated in a separate bin or partition. This arrangement, however primitive, was nevertheless an undoubted improvement on the squalor and turmoil of Canvas Town, and the crowded Melbourne wharves, where the emigrants had made their first uncomfortable experience of the ways of the colony. Stout frames and stout hearts were needed by the emigrants in those days; but I found these well content with their work and situation. Blue stone and granite were obtainable within a short distance of the homestead; the foundations were soon dug, and the solid dark walls of a good-sized house rose steadily under the hands of the workmen. Not till their allotted time was past, and a considerable portion of the house completed and fitted for use, did they leave the station for the more alluring prospects of the gold-fields. It is a singular circumstance that not one of these men was particularly successful at the diggings, proving how complete a lottery after all is the search for gold.

LINKS:

Glimpses of Life In Victoria, by John Hunter Kerr

https://books.google.com.au/books?id=8csNAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA111&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=3#v=onepage&q=kerr&f=false

Fernihurst Heritage Listing

http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/search/nattrust_result_detail/68774

John Hunter Kerr: article & photographs at Fernyhurst 1850's by Elizabeth Willis

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:N4wEH-4xluMJ:www3.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/issue/latrobe-76/t1-g-t4.html+&cd=3&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=au&client=safari>

Ship Theodore

Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839–1923

<http://ancestors.com.au>

**** Families**

John Mitchel Smith (1829-1898) & Margaret Boice McDonald (1832-1906) m. 1852 Glasgow

Before 1855 – birth & death of son James unknown – possibly Fernihurst

1855 Tarnagulla...birth of eldest daughter Margaret Bowie (GGGG mother)

1857 to 1864 Dunolly – birth of four more children: Mary McDonald b 1857, William McDonald b

1859, Grace Davie b 1862, Charles James b 1864

1867 Talbot (Amherst) - birth of three more children: John Mitchell 1867, Elizabeth Jane McDonald 1869, James Gordon 1871, George Graham 1874

John & Margaret died at Talbot, and were buried at Amherst Cemetery

According to family history John a carpenter & carver built a church organ

John Mitchell Smith b 1829 Glasgow

F: James Smith

M: Mary Fife

Margaret Boice McDonald b 1832 Glasgow

F: William McDonald

M: Margaret Bowie

George Graham (1831-1878) & Catherine Stewart (1824-1896) m. 1851 Glasgow

1853 child David Stewart born unknown – possibly Fernihurst

1855 – 1859 Tarnagulla birth of children: John Stewart b 1855, Jane Stephen b 1859

1857 – Dunolly birth of child: Agnes Elizabeth McKellar b1857

George & Catherine brought land at Murphy's Creek.

They are buried at Tarnagulla cemetery

George Graham b 1831 Glasgow

F: David Graham

M: Jane Stephen

Catherine Stewart b 1824

F: John Stewart

M: Agnes McKellar

William Hosea Donald (1825-1896) & Elizabeth Strang (1828-1899) m. 1849 Forfar

1857 – 1868 Dunolly – birth of four children Isabella Barbara b 1857, Jane Ross b 1862, William b

1864, William b 1868 (two children James b 1850 & Ann b 1852 had arrived with them)

They died at Dunolly, buried at the Old Dunolly cemetery

William Hosea Donald b 1825

F: David Donald

M: Barbara Dunn

Elizabeth b 1824

F: William Strang

M: Annie Laird

Donald McCall (1805 to 1811-1858) & Annie McIntyre (1806 to 1810 – 1878) m. 1846 Argyll

Their daughter Elizabeth was born 1847 in Argyle.

Donald, Anne & Elizabeth McCall died in Kyneton - Elizabeth died in 1930

Donald McCall b 1805 Argyle

F & M unknown

Annie McIntyre b 1806 Argyle

F: Donald McIntyre

M: Elizabeth Fraser

Joseph Keillor (1825-1892) & Eleanor Lyall Groundwater (1835-1911) m.1852 Aberdeen

1854 Loddon – child Mary Ann was born...possibly Fernihurst

1856 & 1857 – two children born in Melbourne: Joseph b 1855 & Isabella b 1857

They seemed to have returned to Aberdeen Scotland by 1859