

The McCabe Family in New Zealand

Patrick & Jane (nee Burns) McCabe.

They were our first McCabe ancestors in New Zealand.

Patrick was born c 1852 in Drogheda, County Lough, Ireland. We have no idea if this date is accurate as we have been unable to find any birth or baptism for him.

Drogheda is a lovely place about an hours drive north of Dublin. It was the scene of a massacre of the townsfolk in 1649, by Oliver Cromwell, when he was conquering Ireland (over 2,000 slaughtered).

At some stage **Patrick** shot through to Australia, and then disappeared. He was described as a Labourer on all the children's birth certificates and was probably illiterate, like Jane (some of the birth certificates and her will were signed with an x).

I have heard two stories, one he went there for sheep shearing & the other for gold mining.

Jane was born c 1857 in County Meath. I have no idea if this date is accurate as we have been unable to find any birth or baptism for her.

However I do know from another certificate that her parents were John & Jane (nee Flanagan) Burns. He was a butcher.

On her death certificate it states she is 41 at time of death which equates to being born in 1857.

She was buried in Wyndham without a stone or any other fixture. (I have twice looked and could not find the site, despite having a map.) One of the Great Grandsons (Philip) has arranged (2019) for a plaque to be placed at her grave.

The death certificate also states she had been in the country 27 years which equates to arriving in 1871. (And therein lies one of our problems – (see below).

This death certificate (filled out by one of her sons) states that **Patrick & Jane** were married in Drogheda in 1866 and that she was 14 at the time.

If we use the two dates above then this would have made him 14 & her 9. This would suggest the 1866 date is incorrect. If she was 14 when married (if married) then the marriage would have taken place about 1871, when they are already in NZ.

In fact I have not been able to find any marriage for them, in Ireland (or in New Zealand), even using the services of a local expert in this field of Irish research. Maybe they weren't married.

According to some information I found in the Dunedin archives they came to NZ in the "E P Bouverie" which arrived at Port Chalmers on the 27 January 1868.

It showed the following passengers:
Patrick McCabe, James Bryne & William Burns (her brothers).

Again this just does not tie up with the birth certificates we have which shows the first child was born, in Dunedin, in December 1866, and the next in September 1870.

Despite being illiterate **Jane** must have done pretty well (considering), as she owned at least three properties at her death.

Her will stated that all clothing & books went to **Elizabeth Mary**, Section 16, Block 6 at Wyndham to **Peter**, Section 22, Block 3 at Wyndham to **John & Philip**, Section 18, Block 7 at Wyndham to **Harry & Elizabeth Mary**, and all other furniture & effects to **Elizabeth Mary**.

Note: Nothing for **Mary Jane & Angelina**.

Why did they end up in Wyndham?

It is a very long way from Dunedin where their first three children were born. Information I obtained from the Wyndham museum stated that there was a mini gold rush there. I could imagine that this would have been a good reason to travel so far for a labouring family. It was also an area where the Government broke up the large stations, so plenty of work for farm hands & labourers.

Note too that the Burns family also resided in Wyndham. There is newspaper evidence to show that at least three Burns brothers & two sisters of **Jane** lived there too. (The Burns, in particular were known as petty thieves and there was a bit of in-family violence.)

Patrick & Jane's children:

Mary Jane: 1866 - 1943

John: 1870 - 1927

He had five children:

Philip Aubrey 1900 – 1945

Halsted Burns (Snow) 1903 – 1986

Colin Lionel (Jock) 1905 – 1942 WW 2 casualty

Mytilla Annie Halsted 1908 - 1983

Henry Trevor (Mac) 1911 – 2001 adopted into sister's family Geertson

Angelina: 1872 -

Patrick (Harry): 1876 - 1937

Peter: 1877 - 1951

He had eight children:

Leonard Henry 1904 – 1932)

Lorna Thirza Jean	1905 – 1996
Florence	1906 – 1906
Hector Lionel	1907 – 1987
Peter Errol Edward	1909 – 1993
Alexander William (Alec)	1912 – 1949
Maud Florence	1915 – 1995
Freda Joyce	1917 – 2003

Bridget Eliza: 1879 - 1968

She had four children:

Johanna Christian (Jack)	1905 – 1946
Inez Mary (Inie)	1908 – 1967
Peter Lionel	1910 – 2000
Jean (Joan)	1912 – 2004

Philip: 1881 – 1957

He had six children:

Keith August	1911 – 1944	WW 2 casualty
Floris Hannah Jane	1912 – 1998	
Jessica Nancy	1914 – 1995	
Violet Ruth	1916 – 2006	
Herbert Philip	1921 – 2012	
Beverley Royce	1931 – 2015	