

The Hamilton Spectator
Wednesday 28 July 1915:

DEATH OF A PIONEER

The death occurred at Hamilton on Friday last of Mr. **Alexander John McLean**, late of Macarthur and Myamyn, after a long and lingering illness. Mr. McLean was born on the Isle of Coll, Scotland, and was in his 79th year. His parents emigrated to Australia in 1839, landing at Sydney, and later coming to Tower Hill, near Koroit, where they resided for many years, later being resident at Macarthur and Myamyn. The deceased was of the Methodist persuasion, and was one of the founders of the Methodist Church in Macarthur. He was able to tell many stirring tales of the early days in Victoria, when the aborigines were numerous, at the time of no railways, no coaches, and no bridges over rivers, which caused much inconvenience to the early pioneers. The only means of locomotion was by medium of bullocks in a dray.

He leaves a widow, 3 sons and 6 daughters, all of whom are married. The interment took place on Saturday, the Rev. C. Thomas officiating at the grave, and the mortuary arrangements in the hands of Mr. Frank Greed.

Notes

John McLean, later known as Alexander John McLean, son of Donald McLean & Effie McLean, was born in Coll on 6 June 1836. He arrived in Sydney aged 19 months on the *Brilliant* with his parents and brother Donald on 28 January 1838.

His first marriage on 16 January 1857 was to his first cousin Euphemia (Phemie), also born in Coll, who had immigrated to Australia with her widowed mother Mary and brother Neil on the *James Baines* that arrived in Melbourne on 23 October 1855.

He assumed the name Alexander John McLean when he married his second wife, Sarah Manning, in Bendigo, Victoria, on 9 June 1875.

The obituary of his mother, Effie McLean, is at No.1 and that of his mother-in-law, Mary McLean, at No.5.

[transcription and notes by John McLean]