

Duncan BUCHANAN 1819 – 1890

Duncan BUCHANAN was the only one of our South Australian pioneers to have spent several years in another continent, before emigrating here. He was born in Scotland in 1819, went to Argentina at the age of 20 years, and worked in pastoral pursuits for 14 years before returning to Scotland. Still unmarried, but disliking the Scottish climate, he emigrated to South Australia, settling immediately in Mt Gambier. Duncan was a real adventurer, and a skilled horseman, when he arrived at the Mount. After working for Mr Neil BLACK for two years, he took on the farm at Square Mile, where he farmed for the rest of his life.

We know his parents, John BUCHANAN and Janet WEIR, and they were married in 1803, in Strathblane. There are too many births in the relevant time period to be sure which is his. Duncan was born in 1819 on the west of Scotland, close to the Isle of Mull, in Argyllshire. He had one brother that I can find, Charles, born 1821.

Fig. 1

- 1 Birthplace – Glendaruel, Argyllshire.
- 2 Christened – Strathlachlan, Argyllshire.

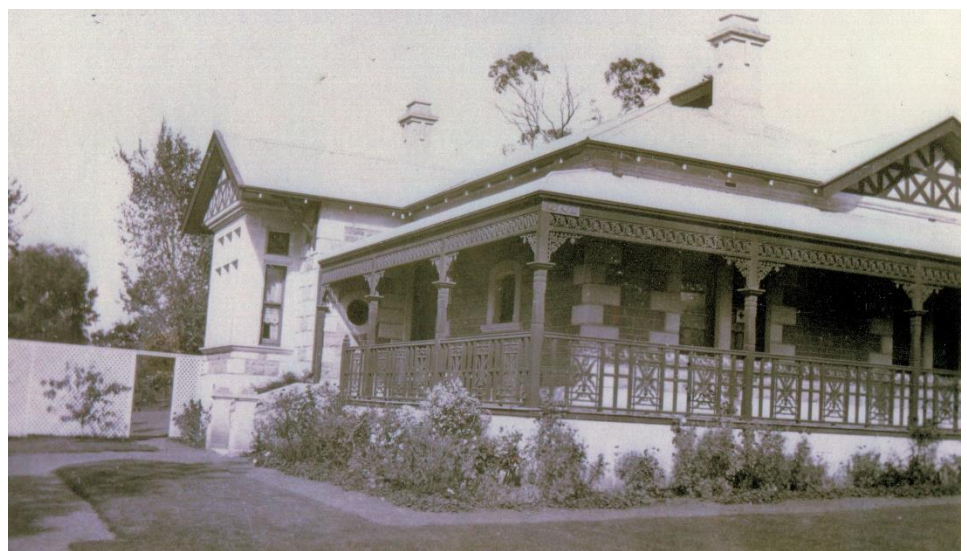


We have a substantial obituary of Duncan's life from the Mt Gambier and Adelaide press, which gives details of his early life. In Argentina, he worked around the Buenos Aires area, and acquired exceptional horsemanship skills. He also lost an eye at some point. Duncan left Argentina because of the unfavourable laws of the country, and he returned to Scotland. He almost immediately left for Australia and most likely arrived in Portland, Victoria, and then travelled overland to Mt Gambier. He worked as a stockman for two years for Mr Neil BLACK, before taking up farming at Square Mile, South-East of Mt Gambier.

Duncan married Christina McARTHUR in 1857. She was almost 20 years younger than Duncan, and they went on to have ten children, five boys and five girls. Their second child and eldest daughter, Flora BUCHANAN was born in 1860. On Duncan's death in 1890, Christina built a new house on Bay Road, Mt Gambier, and moved there with the girls. The boys stayed on the farm, and they ran their substantial abattoir on the property.

Fig. 2

Christina's house on Bay Road, which she called *Iona*, after her birthplace in Scotland.



Flora married Hugh Henry BARRETT in 1880, and they had four children, including Anne's grandmother Effie BARRETT. You can read about the BARRETT family from my narrative previously published.

Duncan's web page is at <https://jansquire.com/tng/getperson.php?personID=I680&tree=squire>.

Related Surnames Through Marriage

Christina MCARTHUR

Duncan BUCHANAN's wife was Christina MCARTHUR. She was born in 1838, on the island of Iona, Scotland, and died in 1923 in Mt Gambier. The MCARTHUR family have their own narrative with more information. This will be updated and published soon.

Janet WEIR

Duncan's father, John BUCHANAN, married Janet WEIR in 1803. John and Janet moved around a bit, so I cannot be sure which birth records relate to them.

Facebook Summary

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Duncan BUCHANAN was Anne SQUIRE's great great grandfather. The following connections show Anne's relationship to the BUCHANAN ancestors.

Anne's mother was Dorothy LANGDON, born in 1919 in Adelaide, and died in 2014, also in Adelaide. She married Raymond KEIGHTLEY in 1943.

Anne's grandmother was Effie BARRETT, born in 1884 in Mt Gambier, and died in 1956, in Adelaide. She married Ernest MEINCKE (later LANGDON), in 1911.

Anne's great grandmother was Flora BUCHANAN, born in 1860 in Mt Gambier, and died in 1947, in Adelaide. She married Hugh BARRETT in 1880.

Anne's great great grandfather was Duncan BUCHANAN, born 1819 in Glendaurel, Scotland, and died 1890, in Mt Gambier. He married Christina MCARTHUR in 1857, in Mt Gambier.

Anne's great x 3 grandfather was John BUCHANAN. He married Janet WEIR in 1803, in Strathblane, Scotland.




Duncan BUCHANAN

♂ 1819 - 1890 (71 years)

Generation: 1

[More detail](#)

1.  Duncan BUCHANAN was born in 1819 in Glendaruel, Argyllshire, Scotland; was christened on 24 May 1819 in Strathlachlan, Argyllshire, Scotland (son of [John BUCHANAN](#) and [Janet WEIR](#)); died on 30 Jan 1890 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; was buried in Cemetery, Mt Gambier, SA, Australia.
- Duncan married [Christina MCARTHUR](#) on 12 Oct 1857 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia. Christina (daughter of [Peter MCARTHUR](#) and [Mary MCCORMACK](#)) was born on 3 Dec 1838 in Iona, Skye, Scotland; died on 11 Aug 1923 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia. [[Group Sheet](#)]

Children:

- i. [John BUCHANAN](#) was born on 26 Aug 1858 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; died on 2 Jan 1936 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; was buried in Cemetery, Mt Gambier, SA, Australia.
- ii. [Flora BUCHANAN](#) was born on 15 Feb 1860 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; died on 10 Oct 1947 in York, South Australia, Australia; was buried in West Terrace cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.
- iii. [Jessie BUCHANAN](#) was born on 30 Jan 1862 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; died on 26 Mar 1936 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- iv. [Peter BUCHANAN](#) was born on 24 Jul 1871 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; died on 8 May 1936 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- v. [Mary BUCHANAN](#) was born on 25 May 1866 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; died on 30 Apr 1957 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 1 May 1957 in Cemetery, Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- vi. [Archibald BUCHANAN](#) was born on 28 Mar 1869 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; died on 22 Jun 1936 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 23 Jun 1936 in Cemetery, Mt Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- vii. [Walter BUCHANAN](#) was born on 10 Oct 1871 in Mount Gambier East, South Australia, Australia; died on 16 Jul 1938 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; was buried in Cemetery, Mt Gambier, SA, Australia.
- viii. [Duncan BUCHANAN](#) was born on 17 Nov 1873 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; died on 26 Dec 1898 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; was buried in Cemetery, Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- ix. [Agnes Bertha BUCHANAN](#) was born on 23 Jan 1876 in O B Flat, South Australia, Australia; died on 20 Aug 1942 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- x. [Elsie Maud BUCHANAN](#) was born on 28 Oct 1879 in Green Vale (SE), South Australia, Australia ; died on 20 Jan 1947 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.

Generation: 2

2. [John BUCHANAN](#)

John married [Janet WEIR](#) on 11 Mar 1803 in Strathblane, Stirlingshire, Scotland. [[Group Sheet](#)]

3. [Janet WEIR](#)

Children:

- i. 1. [Duncan BUCHANAN](#) was born in 1819 in Glendaruel, Argyllshire, Scotland; was christened on 24 May 1819 in Strathlachlan, Argyllshire, Scotland; died on 30 Jan 1890 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; was buried in Cemetery, Mt Gambier, SA, Australia.
- ii. [Charles BUCHANAN](#) was born in 1821; was christened on 23 Nov 1821 in Strathlachlan, Argyllshire, Scotland.

Maintained by [Jan Squire](#).
<https://jansquire.com/tng>