

Peter MCARTHUR 1805 – 1892

Peter MCARTHUR was born on the island of Mull in Argyllshire, Scotland in 1805. He grew up in the south-western part of the island of Mull, close to Iona, at a place called Creich. He is listed as a crofter on his first two marriage records, so life would have been fairly hard for him and his family. Sadly, his first two wives died here, so Peter married for a third time, to Isabella McLEAN.

Peter MCARTHUR was 47 years of age when he and all his family emigrated to Australia and arrived in Portland, Victoria, in 1852. He brought his third wife and all of his eleven children with him to start a new life in Mount Gambier. His first two wives had died young, so is that why he moved half-way around the world? There were also major changes to agriculture in Scotland at the time, and crofting was fast becoming an unwanted occupation, especially by landowners. He probably had many reasons to make the move to Australia, but he did board a ship headed to Canada via Australia, and they decided to hop off in Portland Victoria. Peter and Isabella moved to Mount Gambier immediately, and had one more child in the Mount. They would have made a significant contribution to the local population.

Origin of the Surname McARTHUR

Scottish: Anglicized form of Gaelic Mac Artair, 'son of Arthur' (see Arthur).

History: Clan Arthur is a Highland Scottish clan traditionally associated with lands on the northern shores of Loch Awe. In 1427 the chief of the clan was one of several Highland chiefs executed for treason by King James I; it is said that the clan never recovered. As a matter of fact, there were several different Highland families and septs of other clans bearing the name Mac Artair.

Edward ARTHUR b c1720

The earliest ARTHUR/McARTHUR I can be reasonably sure about is Edward ARTHUR, born around 1720, probably in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, in Scotland. He is only named on his son's baptism record, along with his wife Jeals/Giles GILMOUR. I cannot find a suitable baptism record for Edward senior. I did find a marriage record though, and he married in 1744 to Giles GILMOUR, in Paisley, now a suburb of Glasgow, about 10km to the west of the city. They had at least one child, Edward McARTHUR, born in 1745, in Kilbarchan.

Kilbarchan is at '2' on the map.



Edward McARTHUR b1745

Edward McARTHUR (note the change of name), was born in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, in 1745. This is 15km west of Glasgow, just far enough away to be a separate village. Edward married Anne HOUSTOUN in 1761, in Kilbarchan, so she was probably a local girl. They had eight children, the sixth being Edward McARTHUR, born in 1771, in Kilbarchan. He had six brothers and a sister.

Edward McARTHUR b1771

Edward McARTHUR was born in 1771, still in Kilbarchan. I cannot find any marriage record, but he had at least a relationship with Janet McEACHERN, for they had six children together. Janet was eleven years younger than

Edward. Janet was born in the north-west of the isle of Mull, so Edward must have come here for work, or was following his love. The eldest child was Peter McARTHUR, born in 1805, on the Isle of Mull.

Peter McARTHUR b1805

Peter McARTHUR was born on the isle of Mull in 1805. He would eventually bring his family to South Australia, but he had a substantial life on the isles of Mull and Iona first. Peter's first marriage was at Kilfinichen, on the isle of Mull, to Christine LIVINGSTON in 1827. They had two children together, before Christine died. Peter then married Flora McDONALD on Iona in 1833. Flora's father occupied a cottage on Iona, which is most likely where Peter met her. Peter and Flora had six children by 1842 when Flora died from the effects of fever. Peter married again, to Isabella McLEAN in 1842 in Iona, so this was a quick turnaround after Flora died. He did have several children to look after, so there would have been some imperative to have care for the children. They had three children on the isle of Mull before deciding to come to Australia. One more child was born in Mount Gambier.

Peter probably had several reasons not to stay in Scotland. He lost two wives there, so it would be hard to stay there with all the memories. His occupation was a crofter at Creich, and crofting was fast disappearing as many house and land owners were reclaiming agricultural land to use for grazing sheep and cattle. Peter was probably being pushed out. Peter, Isabella and all their children (eleven) went to Liverpool in 1852, to hop on a ship going to Canada via Australia. We are not sure which country was Peter's main goal, but the family got off the 'Marmion' in Portland, Victoria, and immediately made their way to Mount Gambier by dray. There, Peter put his agricultural skills to work straight away, working for Dr Wehl for a few years, and then buying land near Compton, which he called Greenvale. This was very profitable, and he retired in his early eighties, before dying in 1892 at the respectable age of 87 years.

Christina McARTHUR b1838

Christina McARTHUR was born in 1838 most likely on Mull, although she was baptised on Iona. Christina was the fourth child of Peter's second wife Flora McDONALD. Christina was 14 years of age when she came to South Australia. Christina married Duncan BUCHANAN five years later at the age of 19 years, when Duncan was double that, at 38 years. They were a productive couple though, bringing ten children into the world, five boys and five girls. The family ran a farm and butchery at Square Mile, just south of Mount Gambier for many years. After Duncan died, Christina had a large house built on Bay Road where she and the girls lived, while the boys continued on the farm. I have previously written a narrative for the BUCHANAN surname, which you can read.

This photo is of Christina BUCHANAN nee McARTHUR, with her five daughters. The photo was probably taken around 1910-20.



BUCHANAN narrative: <https://jansquire.com/tng/showmedia.php?mediaID=98&medialinkID=99>

Peter McARTHUR's home page: <https://jansquire.com/tng/getperson.php?personID=1709&tree=squire>

Facebook Summary

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Peter MCARTHUR

♂ 1805 - 1892 (87 years)

Generation: 1

[More detail](#)

1. Peter MCARTHUR was born on 26 Mar 1805 in Isle of Mull, Argyllshire, Scotland (son of Edward MCARTHUR and Janet MCEACHERN); died on 26 Aug 1892 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.

Peter married Christina LIVINGSTON on 18 Dec 1827 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, . Christina (daughter of Angus LIVINGSTON and Margaret HALL) was born in 1809 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, ; was christened on 29 Oct 1809 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland. [[Group Sheet](#)] [[Family Chart](#)]

Children:

- i. Ann MCARTHUR was born on 12 Oct 1829 in Isle of Mull, Argyllshire, Scotland; was christened on 17 Oct 1829 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, ; died on 11 Sep 1894 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- ii. John MCARTHUR was born on 13 Aug 1831 in Argyllshire, Scotland; was christened on 18 Sep 1831, in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, ; died on 26 May 1885 in Millicent, South Australia, Australia.

Peter married Flora MCDONALD on 12 Mar 1833 in Iona, Argyllshire, Scotland. Flora was born in 1805 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, ; was christened on 18 Mar 1805 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland; died on 14 Feb 1841 in Creich, Argyllshire, Scotland; was buried on 15 Feb 1841 in Creich, Argyllshire, Scotland. [[Group Sheet](#)] [[Family Chart](#)]

Children:

- i. Dugald MCARTHUR was born on 10 Feb 1833 in Isle of Mull, Argyllshire, Scotland; died on 21 Apr 1908 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- ii. Archibald MCARTHUR was born on 25 Nov 1834 in Isle of Mull, Argyllshire, Scotland; died on 10 Jul 1911 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; was buried in Cemetery, Mt Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- iii. Neil MCARTHUR was born on 24 Dec 1836 in Iona, Argyllshire, Scotland; was christened on 8 Apr 1837 in Iona, Argyllshire, Scotland; died on 2 Jan 1878 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 4 Jan 1878 in Lake Terrace Cemetery, Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- iv. Christina MCARTHUR was born on 3 Dec 1838 in Iona, Skye, Scotland; died on 11 Aug 1923 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- v. Flora MCARTHUR was born on 17 Oct 1840 in Iona, Argyllshire, Scotland; was christened on 20 Nov 1840 in Iona, Argyllshire, Scotland; died on 20 Feb 1924 in Prospect, South Australia, Australia.
- vi. Donald MCARTHUR was born on 18 Dec 1842 in Scotland; died on 22 Oct 1912 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.

Peter married Isabella MCLEAN on 30 Jan 1842 in Iona, Argyllshire, Scotland. Isabella was born in 1813 in Kilninver and Kilmerfort, Argyllshire, Scotland; was christened on 13 Feb 1813 in Kilninver and Kilmerfort, Argyllshire, Scotland; died on 19 May 1887 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 21 May 1887 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia. [[Group Sheet](#)] [[Family Chart](#)]

Children:

- i. Mary MCARTHUR was born on 26 Feb 1845 in Iona, Argyllshire, Scotland; was christened on 28 Feb 1845 in Iona, Argyllshire, Scotland.
- ii. Eliza MCARTHUR was born on 10 Jun 1847 in Scotland.
- iii. James MCARTHUR was born on 3 Aug 1849 in Scotland; died on 29 Oct 1903 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- iv. Charles MCARTHUR was born on 14 Jul 1855 in Square Mile, Mt Gambier, South Australia, Australia; died on 16 Oct 1932 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia; was buried on 17 Oct 1932 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.

Generation: 2

2. Edward MCARTHUR was born in 1771 in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland; was christened on 3 Sep 1771 in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland (son of Edward ARTHUR and Anne HOUSTOUN).

Edward married Janet MCEACHERN. Janet (daughter of Niel MCEACHERN and Catharine MCQUARY) was born in 1782 in Kilninian and Kilmore, Argyllshire, Scotland; was christened on 27 Jan 1782 in Kilninian and Kilmore, Argyllshire, Scotland. [[Group Sheet](#)] [[Family Chart](#)]

3. Janet MCEACHERN was born in 1782 in Kilninian and Kilmore, Argyllshire, Scotland; was christened on 27 Jan 1782 in Kilninian and Kilmore, Argyllshire, Scotland (daughter of Niel MCEACHERN and Catharine MCQUARY).

Children:

- i. 1. Peter MCARTHUR was born on 26 Mar 1805 in Isle of Mull, Argyllshire, Scotland; died on 26 Aug 1892 in Mount Gambier, South Australia, Australia.
- ii. Archibald MCARTHUR was born in 1806 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, ; was christened on 20 Apr 1806 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland.
- iii. Mary MCARTHUR was born in 1807 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, ; was christened on 5 Jul 1807 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, .
- iv. Charles MCARTHUR was born in 1815 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, ; was christened on 21 Jul 1815 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland.
- v. Ann MCARTHUR was born in 1818 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, ; was christened on 6 Sep 1818 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, .
- vi. Janet MCARTHUR was born in 1821 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, ; was christened on 6 Jun 1821 in Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon, Argyllshire, Scotland, .

Generation: 3

- 4. Edward ARTHUR was born in 1745 in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland; was christened on 14 Oct 1745 in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland (son of Edward ARTHUR and Jeals or Giles GILMOR).

Edward married Anne HOUSTOUN on 28 Mar 1761 in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland. Anne was born in 1740. [Group Sheet] [Family Chart]

- 5. Anne HOUSTOUN was born in 1740.
Children:

- i. Robert MCARTHUR was born in 1762.
- ii. Elizabeth MCARTHUR was born in 1764.
- iii. David MCARTHUR was born in 1766.
- iv. David MCARTHUR was born in 1768.
- v. Robert MCARTHUR was born in 1770.
- vi. 2. Edward MCARTHUR was born in 1771 in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland; was christened on 3 Sep 1771 in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland.
- vii. William MCARTHUR was born in 1773.
- viii. Archibald MCARTHUR was born in 1775.

- 6. Niel MCEACHERN

Niel married Catharine MCQUARY. [Group Sheet] [Family Chart]

- 7. Catharine MCQUARY
Children:

- i. 3. Janet MCEACHERN was born in 1782 in Kilninian and Kilmore, Argyllshire, Scotland; was christened on 27 Jan 1782 in Kilninian and Kilmore, Argyllshire, Scotland.

Generation: 4

- 8. Edward ARTHUR

Edward married Jeals or Giles GILMOR on 6 Apr 1744 in Paisley Burgh, Renfrewshire, Scotland. [Group Sheet] [Family Chart]

- 9. Jeals or Giles GILMOR
Children:

- i. 4. Edward ARTHUR was born in 1745 in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland; was christened on 14 Oct 1745 in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland.