

## CHRISTIE

The name CHRISTIE is a Scottish name and refers to the fact that the person was a known Christian.

There is a distinct possibility the bloodline contains Viking blood , a male Stuart Christie has gone to the trouble to genetically prove the Christies of Skaterow , Fetterresso and Kincardineshire in Scotland have this Norse Viking genetic chromosome bloodline .



Fetteresso, is a location in the Deeside area in the north east area of Scotland. The name Christie is a sept (sub tribe) of the clan Farquarson , which in turn is a sept of the MacDuff clan. The MacDuffs were and probably still are vast landholders in the area.

The port of Stonehaven , which is located one and a half miles east of Fetteresso was a fishing village. The main fish caught in their sail driven fishing boats were flatfish (cod) and the fishermen were known as flat fisherman. This occupation had a high death rate due to the adverse weather conditions of the North Sea.

The agricultural worth of the area was improved by draining swamps. and it was recognized that the farmers were skilled agriculturists. To supplement their income during the winter months or between seasons and crops it was common for the farmers to also have a trade related to the support of the village.

Little is known about his life or family until James Christie married when he was 19 years old to Margaret Bailey who was 23 years, they married in the parish of Donaghmore, Tyrone, North Ireland .in 1825, but some time after the marriage they returned to Scotland.

It was 1837 Mr. James Christie was persuaded to try his fortune in the far-off land, leaving Greenock, in the ship "Portland", a vessel of 550 tons burden, just as the bells were tolling for the death of King William IV. After a very tedious voyage, he arrived in Sydney on 3<sup>rd</sup> December

1837, with his wife and son James aged 10 years, the suffered the loss of their daughter Margaret aged 2½ who had died at sea.

### **The beginning of bounty emigration through the Scottish outports, 1832—1837**

The most remarkable feature of the emigration was its widespread nature. No corner of Scotland was unaffected by it. In the 1820s, the south-east (Edinburgh, Leith, Fife, the Lothians, and the Borders) had supplied the bulk of the emigrants, who were chiefly drawn from the middle classes. In 1830s and 1840s the emigration was largely working-class in character, and was drawn from all over the country. Areas like the south-west (Ayrshire, Dumfriesshire, Wigtownshire, Renfrewshire), the north-east (Aberdeenshire, Kincardine, Banffshire, Moray, Nairn), the central and western Highlands (Inverness-shire, Ross, Sutherland, Perthshire, Argyll), and even Orkney and Shetland, which had all figured to only a slight extent in the emigration of 1815—33, were now well represented. The availability of free or assisted passages to Australia after 1832 was partly responsible, but the wholesale, widespread nature of the emigration can only be explained by the changes that were convulsing the country, breaking down the old pattern of town and rural life. This was a time when emigration generally, to North America as well as Australia, was increasing at a phenomenal rate.

In the Highlands the increase was especially problematical, for the means of subsistence were actually decreasing, as a result of the 'clearances' of subsistence-farming crofts for sheep-runs, the decline of the kelp-burning industry, and the failure of the fisheries. After 1836, when economic conditions all over the country worsened, the Highlands were especially hard-hit, and it was partly due to this temporary economic set-back in the late 1830s and early 1840s that the flow of Scottish emigration to Australia from both the Highland and Lowland areas reached an unprecedented level.

Both assisted emigration and unassisted private emigration increased steadily from 1836 onwards, reaching a peak in 1839—40, when Scotland as a whole, and the north-east in particular, experienced its second surge of enthusiasm for the Australian colonies as a field for emigration and investment. The increase in the rate of emigration was phenomenally swift, for in 1833 only 253 emigrants sailed for Australia from Scottish ports

John Dunmore Lang was subsequently to claim that it was through his 'intervention' while in Britain in the winter of 1836—7 that the London deputation of the Highland relief committees had successfully put forward the idea of directing a large-scale Highland emigration to Australia to Glenelg, the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It is probable that here again, as with the *Stirling Castle* experiment of 1832, Lang's energy and determination helped to secure the Highland emigration on the scale on which it was carried on in 1837-9. He certainly took direct action as well, for he chartered the barque *Portland* in Greenock and returned to the colony with 310 emigrants, a mixture of Highlanders and Lowland craftsmen and skilled agricultural workers. The information he gave to the London deputation about conditions in the colony and about the availability of funds for emigration no doubt prepared it for the interviews with Glenelg, for the deputation had originally contemplated Canada as the destination for the destitute Highlanders, and there is no reason to doubt Lang's claim that he diverted their attention to Australia instead. Yet with Eliot's appointment as Agent-General, with greatly increased powers and with the problem of Highland destitution becoming more acute, direct emigration from Scotland to Australia on a large scale would probably have eventuated in any case, without Lang's

intervention. Eliot's policy was to conduct emigration 'without discrimination against any part of the kingdom', and, where bounty emigration to Australia was concerned, to provide government ships in proportion to population.

Lang was not the only colonist to urge that Scottish immigrants should be encouraged. James Macarthur, one of the most prominent and influential men in New South Wales, regarded the Scots detachment among the first bounty emigrants to be selected in 1837 as a valuable accession to the colony, and commended their 'religious disposition, good sense and orderly habits'. Macarthur held that too many Irish labourers were being sent out to Australia, and that Scottish Highlanders would be more likely to 'furnish the description of families most urgently required in New South Wales'.

On of Lang's Bounty schemes which gave free passage to over 4000 Scots between 1837-1840.

Entire ship loads arrived for Gilchrist and Alexander in December 1838 (238 by the *Portland*) The number of artisans and shepherds among the Scottish immigrants is most striking, and is far higher than the proportions for these categories among either the English or the Irish. Craftsmen figured prominently among the people brought in by Scottish operators, who had agents in Scotland in a good position to contact and secure such desirable immigrants. Altogether, there were 363 craftsmen and mechanics among the Scots, apart from skilled agricultural workers, gardeners, and specialized labourers like quarrymen. The prevalence of skilled men was obvious among the shipments arranged by the private operators, and the first large group, the 253 Scots brought out by Andrew Lang in the *Portland* in December 1837, included

12 joiners, 1 plasterer, 5 stonemasons, 1 brass-founder, 5 shoemakers, 8 tailors, 4 cabinet-makers, 1 watchmaker, 4 engineers, 1 ship's carpenter, 3 teachers, 1 bricklayer, 1 iron turner, 1 saddler, 33 millwrights, 1 compositor and 1 carpenter as well as a number of skilled agriculturists, five describing themselves as 'farmers', and eight shepherds. By comparison, the 211 Irish who arrived in Sydney in the *John Renwick* in September 1841, a typical shipload from their country, included only two carpenters and one blacksmith among the almost unbroken lists of 'labourers' and 'farm labourers'. The proportion of craftsmen among the English arrivals was higher than among the Irish, but far less than the proportion among the Scots.



**PORTLAND**

Leaving Greenock near Glasgow on the 541 ton on 24 July 1837 barque Portland, command of Captain James Conbrou. Which intended to have made the voyage direct, was affected with scurvy during the run from the Cape to the eastward, and the disease was making alarming progress both among passengers and crew when it was almost instantaneously checked by touching at King George's Sound; off the coast of Western Australia arriving early in the morning the Portland cleared the heads of Sydney Harbour the ship weighed anchor off Neutral Bay on Dec 1837, with 232 Scottish immigrants on board.

It was 1837 Mr. James Christie was persuaded to try his fortune in the far-off land, leaving Greenock, in the ship "Portland", a vessel of 550 tons burden, just as the bells were tolling for the death of King William IV. After a very tedious voyage, he arrived in Sydney on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1837, with his wife and son James aged 10 years, they had suffered the loss of their daughter Margaret aged 2½ who had died at sea. They arrived touselled and bedraggled after the 19 weeks at voyage without washing or laundry facilities in a overcrowded immigrant ship. They camped in tents near the Domain, suffering under the incredible summer heat on those December days until they were ready to make their journey south.

**Memorandum of agreement between the undersigned Emigrants, H.M.S. 'Portland', and Messrs James, William and Edward Macarthur  
11 April 1837**

*I agree for myself, and brother James Macarthur to fulfill the agreement made by Andrew Lang in Scotland with the undersigned parties and which is as follows:*

*That we will give you during good behavior for three years, that you may be in our service, Fifteen Pounds (£15.00s.00d) per annum, a cottage rent free, a plot of ground for a garden, 7 lbs of meat and 11 lbs of flour per week, also the privilege of keeping a cow, with pigs and poultry, on condition of their getting into no mischief and being solely for your own use, and after five years, should you continue in our service, we will establish you as a tenant on fertile land, taking the rent either in labour or in produce and during the first six months in our service, to give your wives one half of the above allowance of provisions. The service to commence from April 11, 1837, which is the day you left the ship.*

Camden

14.4.1837

W Macarthur

*And we the undersigned, on our parts overall agree to the above mentioned conditions and in consideration of the above mentioned advantages to serve our employers the above mentioned Edward, James and William Macarthur in the capacity of farm servants, or in such other occupation that we may be directed either by them, or by their agents or overseers, faithfully and diligently to the best of our ability for the space of three years from the 11th day of April 1837.*

*Witness our hands at Camden this 14th day of April 1837.*

*James Christie*

*Witnessed: Edward Kinghorn, Joseph Gatscombe*

**Memo**

*Any of the above signed individuals may consider themselves at liberty to leave our employment at any time upon condition of paying Fifteen Pounds (£15.00s.00d) if within the first year, Ten Pounds (£10.00s.00d) if after the completion of the first, and between the first and second, and Five Pounds (£5.00s.00d) if after the completion of the first two years and between the completion of the second and third.*

W Macarthur<sup>6</sup>



**Going over the Razorback at Stonequarry (Picton)**

The family arrived in Sydney on the 3-12-1837. They then made their way on the slow lumbering bullock carts, living on a diet of roast mutton, salt beef and damper, washed down by black billy tea, there was no such luxury as sugar back then. They moved on to the property called “Hillside” (Wheeo) where he was employed by Mr. Alexander Robertson.

ROBERTSON	(Mr)		7	Hillside, County King, District Carcoar	[X946]	107
-----------	------	--	---	---	--------	-----

Reference State Archives NSW

They were to endure as penniless immigrants and to endure a hard life of back-breaking struggle, but would they had little to no hope of ever owning a piece of land of their own back in Scotland had they stayed.

Initially James and Margaret worked possibly as a labourer and housekeeper on the property at Hillside, as the birth of their daughter Mary Margaret occurred in 01 Apr 1839, was recorded as at “Hillside”. Their son William had his birth 15 Feb 1841 was registered at Goulburn but his place of birth was at Lost River. On both of these registers James Christie is recorded as being a farm servant. In 1840 was the year of the big drought when many of the big land holders walked off the land and sheep were sent to the boiling down works for tallow.

As with most assisted migrants they would have spent three years repaying their migration costs (about £40 pounds for the Christies) working for Robertson. Most of these farms were about 40 acres, and with James and his son aged 10 years, they would have had spare time to do work on other properties for pay and also assist in harvests time the most strenuous work of the whole year, when all hands, young and old, would be reaping the crop with reaping hooks, literally from “daylight till dark”, every day till the work was finished..

Farming was a family affair James Christie and his son would have worked side by side, helping to bring in the harvest, shearing sheep and the dipping of the sheep, his wife Margaret would have been responsible for the vegetable gardens, looking after the hens and milking the cow, she had to churn the milk into butter, baked the bread, and made

soap from mutton fat, caustic soda and resin. Margaret would have given each of her children special tasks at an early age.

In the back yard her other domain, they tanned and dyed sheepskin, cattle skins, kangaroo skins, rabbit skins and possum skins, these were used for floor coverings, winter clothes and bedding. All the time saving every penny for the day when they could have purchased their own piece of land and have financial security for their family.

The wattle –and daub is an old craft brought from England by the early settlers. The branches called (wattles) were plastered over with clay within the framework. Built mostly apart from the kitchen at the back in case of fire. Earthen floors were a mixture of clay and cow dung worn hard and shiny by being milked regularly, it was thought the casein in the milk helped to create the surface.



**Wattle and Daub home with a bark roof and parget wooden chimney.**

The settlement was born and grew, there would have been a huddle of huts, built close to water for convenience and with the Christie family were no exception. No town was laid out but never gazetted as such. Labour was needed from the beginning; shepherds, particularly, as there were no fences or means to make long lengths of fences. Log or rail fences from saplings were made around the yards. The shepherds had watch-huts scattered about the properties for the watchmen.

Farming in the area was generally done by the pioneer settlers who busily cleared the holdings and ploughed the fertile soil, and in the farrows they sowed their crops of wheat. Farmers loosened the soil by cropping it with potatoes, oats and barley thrived. Wheo rustled with waving wheat fields. The area was particularly every description of English fruit, apples, pears, plums, gooseberries and raspberries. Sheep, cattle horse and pigs soon followed in the farm circle. The droppings from the sheep and other farm animals were turned back into the soil to further enrich the ground.

'The roads and the mud were so bad that travellers were less concerned with the length of the journey the depth of it'. There was only one means of travel- horseback through the bush in rough

track, when supplies were needed they were carried by pack-horses or pack bullocks. Roads wound through the bush among the trees and ruts and stumps. It was later in the 1850's that bullock teams hauling produce to market, the teams travelling some six to 12 miles a day. When there was a fresh in the creeks, the team had to wait till they went down. The dreaded parts being Cotta Walla and Wade's Hill for the bullock wagons.

James Christie was cannier than most with roads often cut through bad weather, it sometimes took the drays 6 weeks to get to Crookwell from Goulburn there was a need to guarantee to farmers in the Wheeo area basic supplies.

He built a barked roof little store on his property, probably part of the home and supplied the locals with provisions to ease the burden of traveling to Goulburn, Boorowa or Yass to get staple items. Christie's success on the farm and the store resulted in several bushranger incidents at various times.

Kangaroos and wallabies were considered a pest the hunters would line up and in with stock whips drive them in front of them to a draw, a competition for the highest tally for the kill that day was held. Settlers would advertise a wallaby drive and as many as 60-70 people would turn up with guns and stock whips. The tallies were taken at sundown, when the top-scorer would receive three hearty cheers as would the promoters and cooks. In early days all hands had muzzle-loading guns, and some would carry as many as four, from drive to drive. In November 1883 there was a report in the Goulburn Herald about a wallaby shoot on William Christie's farm.

**Wheeo**  
**The Argyle Liberal**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> June 1887**

**Wallaby Drive**

A drive came off at Mr. W Christie's, Lost River, on Queen's Birthday, and was fairly successful. The shooters were captained by Mr. A. E. Christie, and the drivers by Mr. W Christie and F. Crow. The day was very favourable, and at 10 o'clock a start was made with fifteen shooters and about an equal number of drivers, in which about forty wallabies were killed, all hands adjourned to a sumptuous dinner, which was laid in tempting style in a booth erected for the occasion. Abundance of hay was also provided for the horses. By this time the number of shooters had increased, to nineteen, and the drivers to twenty. After doing ample justice to the good things provided, a fresh start was made, and the sport was kept up with vigor until the shades of evening gathered around. The company were then invited to partake of supper, and with a few exceptions, the invitation was accepted. Upon the scores being totted up it was found 136 of the pests had been destroyed. Cheers for the top scorer, for Mr. Christie, for the drivers and the cooks, bought a pleasant day's sport to a close. Following are the highest scores: T. McCormack 17, A. Glennan 16, J. Frost 15, J. Crow 14, T. Sheehy 11, T. George 10, B. Stephenson 8, besides others from 5 down to 1.

**Death of a Pioneer**

Hard work took its toll as James Christie died in August 1856 at the age of 50 years of age from heart disease (coronary occlusion).

DEATH TRANSCRIPTION

Registration Number: 02117

Date of Death: 12 AUG 1856

Place of death: LOST RIVER, WHEEO

Name: JAMES CHRISTIE

Occupation: FARMER AND GRAZIER

Age 50

Cause of death: DISEASE OF THE HEART

Duration: NOT KNOWN

Medical Attendant: NOT KNOWN

Father: JAMES CHRISTIE

Fathers Occupation: FARMER

Mother\_ Maiden name: BIRTHPLACE & NOT KNOWN

Informant: J CHRISTIE, FARMER, SON, LOST RIVER REGISTERED: 12 AUG 1856

GOULBURN

When buried: 15 AUG 1856

Where: GOULBURN

Undertaker: ROBERT CRAIG

Minister: WILLIAM ROBS

Religion: PRESBYTERIAN

Witnesses: THOMAS PAINTER, WILLIAM CONOLLY

Where born: SCOTLAND

Time in colony/state: ABOUT 18 YEARS IN NSW

Place married: IRELAND

Spouse: MARGARET BAILEY

Children of Marriage: JAMES 31, MARY 17, WILLIAM 15.

Burial: 15 Aug 1856, Mortis Street Presbyterian Cemetery Goulburn NSW

Cause of Death: DISEASE OF THE HEART.

*It could be said men fought the land and women were enslaved to the kitchen and backyards.*

### **Wheeo**

In March 1832 a survey plan was shown with a hill marked "Wheeo" about 3 kilometers down from the junction of Lost River and Wheeo Creek. In April 1833 another survey took place and a land grant was made to Rev. Robert Cartwright's son John. This was on the western side of Wheeo Creek. Eventually these 1920 acres was divided into farms and it covered an area from Wheeo Creek to the Fish River Road.

In 1837 towards the head of the Lost River a survey was undertaken by Thomas Townsend in May. This was for 640 acres known as Boobalaga and was bought by Alexander Long in March 1839 at Jerowal and Isaac Shepherd at "Wheeho" with several lots he had from the Government for £240 pounds. Other early settlers recorded 1841 were James Hassett at Boobalaja, John Scarr, John McGeorge, John Frost, Adam Taylor who had a lease of 100 acres Co King which was part of Cartwright's grant, and James Treacy.



Bakers Australian Atlas 1848 shows considerable development. In Co King shows Oakes on several lots, Alexander Long at Jerowal and Isaac Shepherd with several lots at "Wheeho". The arrival of hard working settlers changed the face of the district, squatting had been carried on and trees were dropped and rude pioneer homes of slab walls and bark roofs were built.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1848 James Christie took out his first land lease recorded at Yass on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1848 for Lot 5 Co King 950ac at £7/8/6 per annum, page 519 Gov Gazette. From this beginning he was able to purchase numerous lot of land recorded: 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 1851, 30 acres near Boobalaja Lost River £30 sterling sold as Lot 24, 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 1852 Lot 7, Lost River Co King 48 acres paid £48 sterling, 24<sup>th</sup> August 1853 Lot 20, 48 acres (2), 8.5.1854 Lot 11 at 100/- shillings per acre 31 acres 1 rood 24 perch, 1855 (2), and 1856 (3) 32 acres, 1 rood at **Lost River** £ 24 prior to 1856.  
Source Lands Title Vendors Index

An interesting survey took place in September 1850, when John Armstrong surveyed 10 portions of land of either 9 or 10 acres in the area. They were situated on the eastern side of the Wheeo Creek where it is joined by Lost River and were surveyed for the village of Wheeo. Although the village was surveyed it was never gazetted as a village

#### Post Office

A Post Office was established on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1856, by the Glennan family home at "Woodbine Park"

Their home was situated a half kilometer west of "Podge's Hill" By 1874 Glennan had built a new home, which included the Post Office, near the junction of the Wheeo and Biala Roads. The name of the post master is not known, but it was recorded that Mr. Armson took charge of the office on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1857. His salary was £12 per year. Thomas Glennan Snr, succeeded as post master on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1861, and at that time there was a small service to Binda. When Thomas Glennan died on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1882, his daughter Catherine became post mistress at a salary at £29 a year.

Isaac Shepherd of Wheeo was first to press for a railway in the district in 1857.

It could be said that settlement at Wheeo was firmly settled by 1860, and there were races held at Wheeo in yearly in January.

In 1874 when there was an attempt murder of James Slocombe a Goulburn cattle buyer, by John Hawthorne, which took place on the scrub near Wheeo. Mere blood-lust impelled Hawthorne to attempt to cut the throat of Slocombe. He escaped and was conducted to Crookwell by Thomas Glennan. Warne then took him in a vehicle to Goulburn for treatment. Hawthorne was captured by police and was tied and hanged in Goulburn.

James Christie was one of the local people responsible for the building of the half-time school at Lost River (North Wheeo) in April 29, 1873, it was built on part of Willowdale,

his property and classes were held for 24 children. It measured 18ft x 12ft with slab walls and a bark roof. The school fell into disrepair and was rebuilt in 1884 adjacent to the original school. In 1910 the school was accidentally burnt down. The school was rebuilt again and closed finally in 1936.