

# Presentation to Oatley Heritage and Historical Society

May 2017

Myles McRae



Alderman MYLES McRAE,  
Mayor 1888-89, 1894-95,  
1896-97.

*From Kogarah Municipal Jubilee  
1895-1935 p. 11*

by Betty Goodger

# MYLES MCRAE

1845 – 1926

His family called him “Myles the Millionaire”<sup>1</sup>.

Myles, usually spelt Miles, is from the Latin word for a soldier,. McRae means son of luck or divine grace.

His great-great niece<sup>2</sup> claimed he was the seventh son of a seventh son. What a magical genealogy! Could that be the reason for his success as a businessman? Alas – it did not help him in his romantic life, as later events will show.

Why am I interested in Myles McRae? I live in Penshurst. I am a member of Kogarah Historical Society. Cross the railway line to the east at Penshurst and you will find yourself in the McRae Estate in the former Kogarah municipality. Walk a short distance up Laycock Road and you will see the gracious mansion, Kintail, which McRae built sometime between (possibly) 1883 and 1887 and where he died in 1926.

my copy

**COMO LAKES ESTATE**  
**OATLEY GEORGES RIVER**  
For Auction Sale on the Ground at 3 p.m.  
**SAT! 6<sup>TH</sup> DEC. 1919**  
**RICHARDSON & WRENCH**  
Auctioneers, 92 Pitt St. Sydney. LTD

**TERMS**  
5 Per Cent Deposit,  
Balance in 60 Monthly Payments  
Interest at 5 Per Cent.  
Building Covenant £400.  
**TORRENS TITLE.**

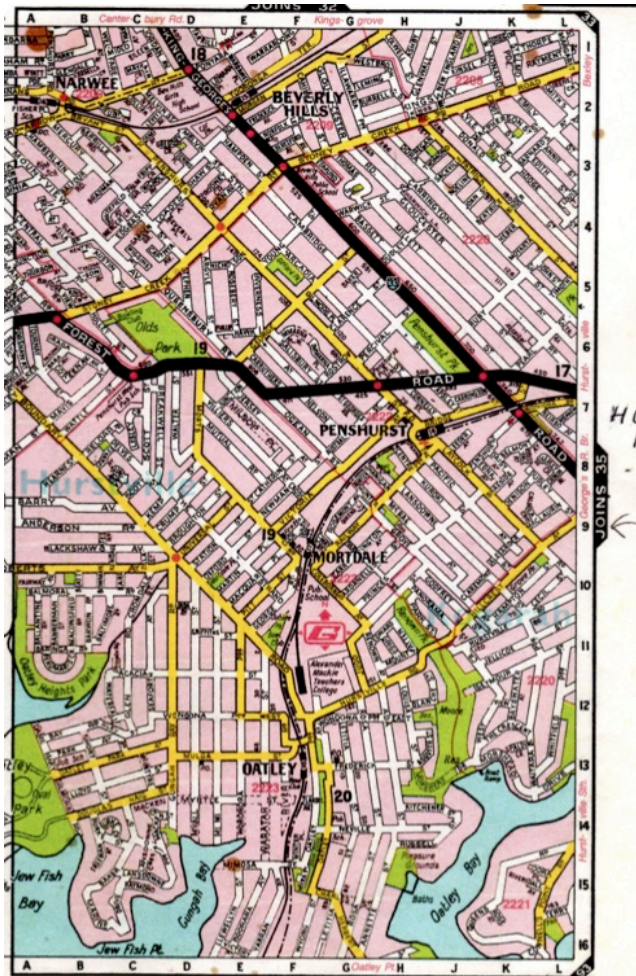
PEAKHURST PARK AVENUE  
LLOYD GEORGE ST  
DOUGLAS HAIG ST  
GLENBAY BAY

GRIFFIN & HARRISON  
Estate Surveyors  
350 George St. Sydney.

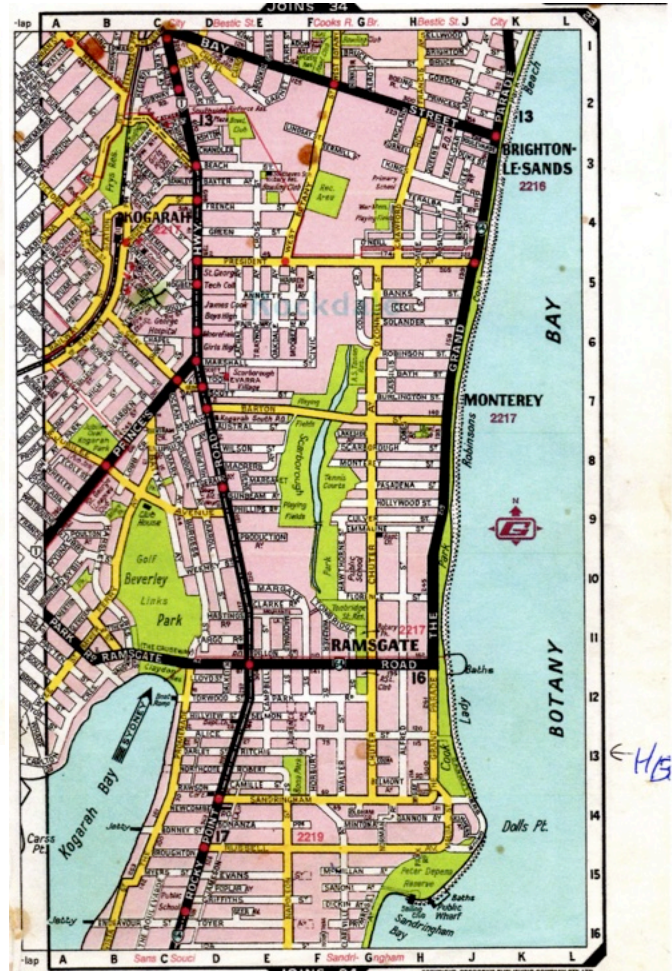
1/4" Dimensions subject to Revised Plan.

One of the first researches into Kogarah’s history in which I became involved was about the aldermen elected to Kogarah Council. The first election was held on 27 February 1886 and Myles McRae was among the nine aldermen elected. (He was mayor three times, in 1888-89, 1894-95 and 1896-97.)

His name seemed to crop up wherever my researches took me. Recently I was researching War Service Homes from the first World War days in Lloyd Street, West Oatley. They were built on an estate called Como Lakes Estate, subdivided by McRae in 1919.



I'm always interested in the origin of the name of streets, as they so often lead into an interesting story. There are two streets<sup>3</sup> named for Myles in the former Rockdale Municipality – McRae Avenue in the McRae Estate and McRae Road in Sans Souci.



So it seemed I needed to find out more about him.

To begin at the beginning, his parents, Alexander and Mary McRae, arrived in Sydney in 1837 on the ship *Midlothian*, enticed to migrate to Australia by that fiery Presbyterian clergyman, the Rev. John Dunmore Lang. Alexander was a stockman, from Kintail in Scotland. He was 28 and could read and write.

The McRaes were the fighting clan for the McKenzies, known as the black McRaes as they were all dark and over 6 foot.

Mary (nee McInnes) came from the Isle of Skye. When they arrived, they already had two sons, Malcolm aged 5 and William aged 3 ½. More were to follow – Angus, Donald, Murdoch, Duncan<sup>5</sup>, Myles and Alexander. Eight sons in all!

Alexander went to work on a property in the Hunter Valley and soon had his own farm. He died on 7 January 1879 when Myles was 33. Myles probably inherited something to help his business career along.



Alderman MYLES McRAE,  
Mayor 1888-89, 1894-95,  
1896-97.

*From Kogarah Municipal Jubilee  
1885-1935 p. 11*

**BIRTH** Myles was born at Dunmore, near Maitland on 1 January 1845.

I have found only one photograph of Myles. It appears in the book published by Kogarah Council to commemorate their Jubilee year in 1935. He wore, not a knotted tie but a necktie threaded through a ring. (This description came from Phil Conley, who lived in Fernland (now demolished for St Declan's school). He saw McRae walking past each Sunday on his way to the Presbyterian Church in Penshurst Street when he was a child. I think he was at least six feet tall if he followed the McRae stock. He was said to smoke 3-4 cigars a day.

**EARLY LIFE** When he was a young man, there was a gold rush at Lambing Flats (now Young) in 1860/61 and Myles tried his luck at prospecting there and thereabouts, but obviously did not get rich quick. Instead, in the early 1870s, he chose a more profitable means of livelihood for those "horse and buggy" days – that of a produce merchant. He started his own company, McRae Co., on the small capital of £7. In an obituary, the writer says of him, "He was a man who knew every move of the trade and one who did not wait for business to come to him. (He) was not frightened to take risks."

**PRODUCE MERCHANT** His business prospered and his brother, urged him to move to Sydney. His McRae Co. warehouse was in Wharf Street, Sydney on the west side. His brothers, , Donald, Murdoch and Alexander were also in the produce business close to him in Wharf Street.

(Wharf Street ran off Sussex Street, down to Darling Harbour where on the eastern corner was the wharf for the Newcastle and Hunter Steam Co. and on the other corner, the Maitland and Morpeth Hotel. That's the part of the world from which Myles came. About 1912 Wharf Street became Day Street and Myles still has the property in 192?)

However, although he diversified and moved into land speculation, he always described himself as a produce merchant and this is what appears on his death certificate, dated 13 April 1926. He had effectively retired from business in 1920, aged 75.

Remember that the Illawarra railway opened in 1884 and although it was built primarily to carry coal from the South Coast, it opened up the St George district for development. Myles had bought up tracts of land throughout the area. .

**MARRIAGE** On 4 March 1871 Myles married Clara Charlotte Taylor, daughter of a wealthy timber merchant in the Hunter Valley region. The marriage took place in Scots Church in Sydney, conducted by the Rev. John Dunmore Lang –the one responsible for Myles’ parents emigrating from Scotland in 1837

Myles and Clara had five children, three sons, William Alexander, Charles Clarence and Reginald Myles and two daughters, Kathleen Agnes and Mary Josephine.

Sadly the marriage was not a happy one, as I found that Myles, as a sturdy Presbyterian is buried in the Presbyterian section of the cemetery at Woronora. He died on 13 April 1926, aged 81. (cause, acute nephritis) But Clara Charlotte, died later the same year, in August 1926, is buried in the Catholic section at Woronora. ( His daughters, Kathleen Agnes and Josephine are also buried near their mother.) Was sectarianism one of the causes of disharmony? Sadly the issue of Catholic and Protestant was a powerful issue in the Victorian era and indeed into the 20th century. Graves at Wononora Cemetery, Sutherland



Myles is buried in the Presbyterian section, Vault 3. There is no structure above ground, only three graves, Myles and his son, Reginald, side by side, and the third grave, backing the first two, for Charles Clarence. Myles’ grave is covered in concrete, Charles’ in red brick. The eldest son, William Alexander, died in 1938 at Hunters Hill.

The headstones read.;

In loving memory of  
Myles McRae  
Beloved husband of Clara  
Died Kintail, Peshurst 13<sup>th</sup> April 1926  
Aged 81 years  
Until the day breaks  
Also Reginald  
3<sup>rd</sup> son of the above  
died Sydney 13 May 1945  
At Rest

In loving memory of  
Charles Clarence (Percy)  
McRae  
2<sup>nd</sup> son of Myles, and Clara McRae  
of Kintail, Peshurst  
died 1<sup>st</sup> October 1945

Clara is buried in the Roman Catholic Section 1 MON1/2, with her two daughters.  
The headstones read:

In loving memory of  
Clara Taylor McRae  
Dearly loved wife of  
Myles McRae  
Born  
Woodstock Paddington  
Died  
Kintail Peshurst  
21<sup>st</sup> August 1926  
aged 78 years  
In life in death

Sweet Jesus have mercy on their souls

On her right is Josephine :

Josephine Alger  
Her dear daughter  
3<sup>rd</sup> January 1969  
aged 88 years

On her left is Kathleen:

Kathleen Agnes  
Her dear daughter  
Died at Sydney  
3<sup>rd</sup> May 1943

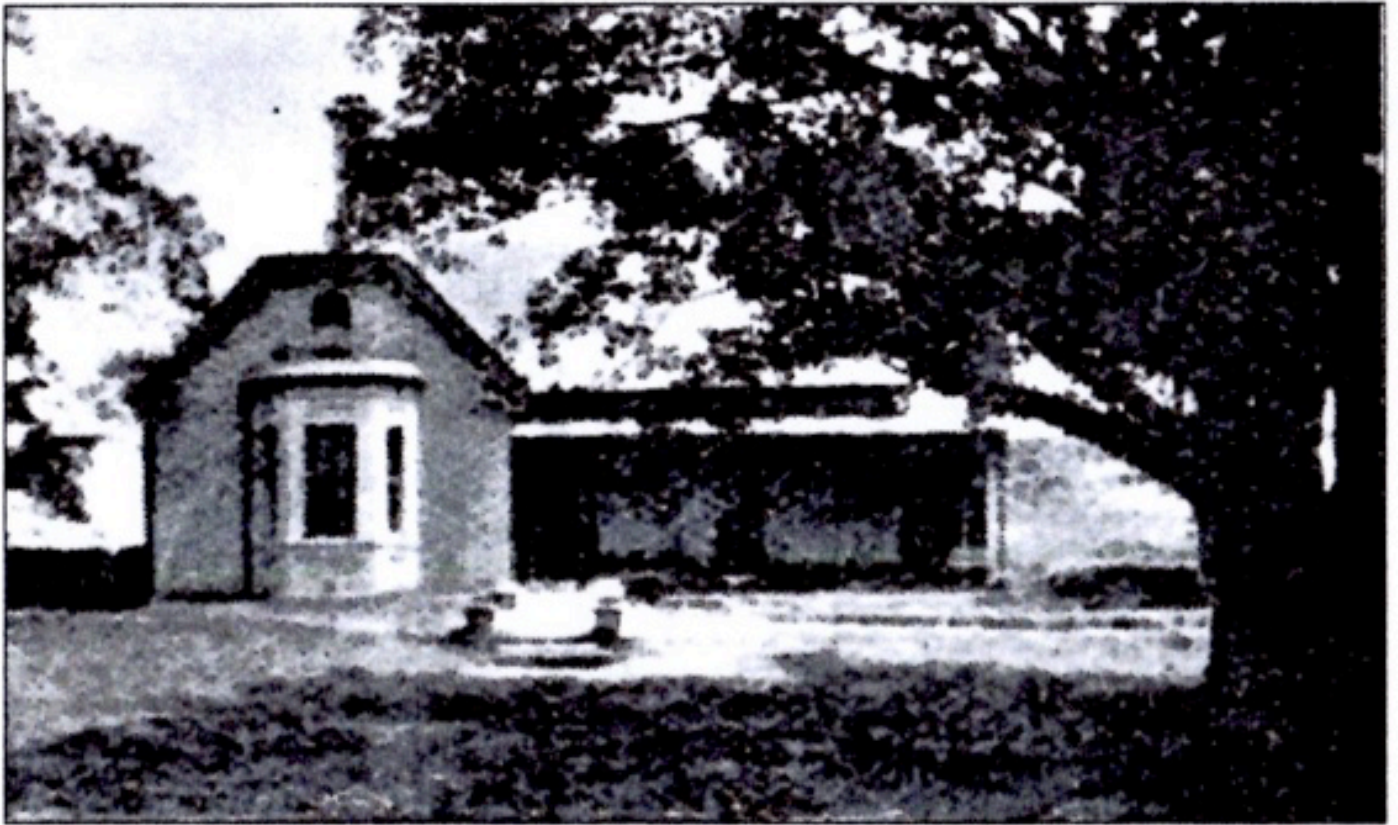
Sweetly sleeping

William Alexander McRae, Myles' eldest son, died in 1938 at Hunters Hill.

Ron Rathbone, in his book, A Village called Arncliffe, believes Myles was living at Bonnie Doon by 1883 but by 1888 he had left his wife and children!

## A Village Called Arncliffe by Ron Rathbone

### *The Iron Horse Cometh*



**“Bonnie Doon”, Home of Myles McRae, Marsh Street, Arncliffe (Mr. Vic Milburn)**

There must have been a reconciliation as he entered Parliament as the member for Morpeth and served from 9 February 1889 to 6 June 1891. But the scandal that arose from the divorce proceedings and the breach of promise of marriage case in 1891, precluded him from trying for a second term of office.

Let us pause here, to look at the events of one year – 1891

**DIVORCE AND BREACH OF PROMISE CASE**                      1891 was an Annus Horribilus for Myles. In February his wife petitioned for a divorce on the grounds of cruelty and adultery but later changed it to wanting a judicial separation.

In March, Ilma Vaughan sued Myles in an attempt to get £5000 as damages for alleged breach of promise of marriage and assault. People queued up to get into the public galleries at the court! Ilma's mama was Petronella Vaughan. She had brought her family from N.Z. in 1884, rented a house from McRae and somehow got him to employ her daughter, Nina, as governess to his children. Nina was only 17 but died in January 1885. The family returned to N.Z. but came back to Sydney in January 1888. Now Ilma appears on the stage! (I think she was 17)

Petronella (the mother of Ilma) gave evidence: She rented a house at Granville – Myles called – stated he had divorced his wife “*as he could not stand her temper and drinking*” – took Ilma for a walk and proposed to her! He then suggested that they all go to Mt Victoria for a change of air. He recommended a house and followed them there where he attacked her daughter.

*“The door of the bedroom was locked But it suddenly burst open and her daughter rushed out with the clothes early torn off her back.”* Eventually he placed a large diamond ring on Ilma's finger. He then said he would give them a house in Sutherland, but when they got there, in a rain storm, it was unfurnished and in the bush! Myles then took them to Kintail where he said she would live when he married her daughter. Then they went to Arncliffe where he said his brother had a house.

His brother, Donald, gave evidence that he had rented a house to Mrs Vaughan from January to March 1890.

When Myles finally had a chance to put his case, he denied everything! He admitted meeting them in 1884 but claimed Mrs Vaughan had wanted to run a boarding house at Mt Victoria and produced a receipt for £5 for 10 days board and lodging dated 12/1/1890.

All the witnesses made some statement doubting Ilma's truthfulness. The jury found for her but only awarded her £500 not £5000. She had to pay for the legal costs, so she actually got £179.16.0.

In May, Myles was back in court again when Clara was petitioning for alimony and custody of the children. He played “poor mouth”, stating he had losses in business, etc. and brought witnesses that Clara was “*of intemperate habits*”, i.e., a drunkard.

Ilma Vaughan was put in the box! She stated that she knew both parties and had given evidence in the divorce suit, but Myles' solicitor did not cross examine her!

His sister-in-law, Christina, wife of his brother, Malcolm, describes a scene :-

*Mrs McRae got up and put her fist through Mr McRae's hat and then stamped on it; then she took his silk umbrella and broke it; then she went inside and brought out his dress coat and split up the seams.*

Now this happened at Bonnie Doon and it had been brought up in conversation that Miss Vaughan had visited there. I can't help but feel for Clara.!

But Clara had just as many witnesses to state that she was a good mother, etc...and she won custody of the children.



The evidence was very nasty but over the years they must have come to some more amicable arrangement as both died in the house Kintail and his will left everything to Clara.

The Daily Telegraph was the newspaper which reported the case in lurid detail. It published an attack on him which I'm sure would today would be considered libelous! Here is a sentence or two -

*The doors of Parliament should stand firmly closed against the trickster whose career has led him to them through a course of dishonest and dubious actions to the mere empty headed, loud tongued, self seeker and to the foul and lecherous creature whose domestic conduct is a blot and a disgrace up on the society which his presence pollutes*

No wonder he didn't try for election again!

FAMILY The McRae family was evidently close knit and Myles was most devoted to his brother, Malcolm. Malcolm was a farmer. He died in 1911. With his wife, Christina, (Died 1919) he had 7 daughters, who were all educated at Dr Lang's Presbyterian Ladies College, at Myles' expense. Two of the daughters, Margaret and Mary McRae lived at Kintail to look after the children when Clara was not well.

Both gave evidence in the court cases

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH As a Scottish family, the McRaes were Presbyterians and Myles attended the Church in Penshurst Street regularly. A boy who lived in Fernlands used to see him walking to church. (Fernlands is no more. St Declan's School is on the site, but the gate with its name, can still be seen in Forest Road just near the intersection with Penshurst Street).. But Mrs Hyam, (a child in the Great War period, 1914) remembers the McRaes attending the Hurstville Grove Presbyterian Church, which was originally in Hillcrest Avenue.

#### CIVIC SERVICE

KOGARAH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL Although Myles had only come to the St George district in the early 1880s, he was quick to play a role in the local community. The new Kogarah Municipal Council was proclaimed in December 1885 and the first elections were held on February 1886. Myles was among the nine aldermen elected. He served from 1886-1904 and was three times Mayor, in 1888-92, 1895-96 and 1901-04.

During his term he had advocated Kogarah have its own gas works to supply light for the whole of the St George district, but that was not acted upon; in 1888, he had offered to donate land in Laycock Road as the site of the Council Chambers, but Belgrave Street was chosen; when a swimming pool was proposed at Sans Souci in 1887, he advocated it be built at Oatley Bay but Sans Souci won!; (The pool was known for a time as the "Three Peters Pool" as Peter Hermann, Peter Moore, and Peter Ballman were responsible.) He had taken part in an ambitious plan when there was great rivalry between Rockdale and Kogarah – and I quote from an article in the St George Historical Society Bulletin of February 1966 ;

*After the railway opened in 1884, the shopping centre (of Kogarah) began to move to the Railway station. It was decided to outdo Rockdale by construction a wide boulevard*



71. **KOGARAH POSTMAN, EARLY 1900s.** The postman is believed to be Mr. F. Parks, shown with pith helmet, whitish and bags of letters. Originally residents had to collect their mail at the post office before postmen delivered mail to homes.

In 1892 a post office was opened at Sans Souci in charge of Eleanor Richards.

#### Telephone Services

Last century besides being St George's main post office, Kogarah, after 1896, was for some years the only one with a telephone network. That year a telephone exchange was opened at Kogarah and its twenty-eight subscribers were connected from outlying parts such as Besley, Rockdale, Hurstville, Sans Souci, Lady Robinsons Beach, Dolls Point and Sandrineham. These future suburbs were all



72. **KOGARAH POST OFFICE, c.1892.** The early post office at Kogarah was in Rocky Point Road, but following the coming of the railway soon moved to rented buildings, first in Regent Street then in Railway Parade. The

first vested post office building, shown here soon after its completion in 1892, was on the corner of Railway Parade and Belgrave Street. The building has been preserved because of its unusual and interesting architecture.

Bourke and Broken Hill are to us today. A new exchange room was erected behind the post office in 1909 facing Belgrave Street, and this building was modernised in 1913. There were further extensions to house more up-to-date equipment in 1920; in 1974, with the closure of the old post office in Railway Parade, the telephone exchange became a separate unit controlled by Telecom.

The first public telephone bureau was opened in Kogarah in 1897. Its hours of operation were from 9.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

and the charge was an expensive sixpence for a 3-minute call. Kogarah's first exchange was manual with an operator having to connect calls. Automation eliminated the loss of time which accompanied the early system and markedly reduced the cost of calls. Increasing population placed such heavy demands on the Kogarah exchange that it became obvious some form of relief was required. This came with the opening of an automatic exchange at Blakehurst in 1952. The building was subsequently enlarged to increase its capacity.

*from the station to the beach. Mr Moore, Mr McRae and the Cumberland Building Society each gave a strip of land to enable President Avenue to be constructed 100 feet wide, intending that the boulevard should terminate at the site of the present Kogarah Post Office, but land speculators moved in and subdivided Kensington Street with the result that President Avenue now terminates at Prince's Highway.*

**HURSTVILLE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL** Hurstville was proclaimed a municipality on 28 March 1887 and held its first election on 15 June 1887 at the Blue Post Inn. Again, Myles was elected among the first nine aldermen.

Some of you may have heard Kim Wagstaff give his most comprehensive presentation on Sandstone in Oatley (November 2016) He discovered this sandstone culvert and guided me to the SMH of November 20, 1888. It reported that "Mulga Street – Oatley's piece of roadmaking undertaken by the Hurstville Council has just been completed. Through the energy of Alderman McRae who raised by subscription almost half the cost... (The Road runs from Oatley's railway platform for a distance of 39 ½ chains in the direction of Peakhurst across a valley"...A double

stone culvert passes under the embankment made across the valley.



However, his troubles at this time were soon thick and fast and the other aldermen, in June 1890, asked the Mayor if Myles' seat had become vacant by reason of his non-attendance. The answer was "NO", but at a special meeting in July 1890, a letter from Myles was read out. He resigned as an alderman with regret "*as his many other callings did not allow the attention to Council matters as he would like.*"

(One source claimed that he campaigned to be elected in 1913 but this is not correct. He only served in Hurstville from 1887 to 1890.)

**RAILWAY** The Illawarra railway line reached Hurstville in 1884. There were platforms at Rockdale and Kogarah , but no platform at Penshurst until 1886. It is thought that Myles McRae's property at Penshurst was a factor in choice of the site



The Early History of Tempe and the Black Creek Valley

**BONNIE DOON** The house, Bonnie Doon, stood in Marsh Street, Arncliffe, which runs off West Botany Street. The site was a small hill, called The Mount, at the rear of the salt marsh on the western side of Black Creek. The date at which McRae came to the house is still to be determined. He was certainly there in 1884, as I found his name in Sand's Directory of Sydney. It notes him as living in Mount Street. (Before Marsh Street was named, (from Government Road), the area on which Bonnie Doon was built was called The Mount.) Did he build it? The Scottish name would suggest so. Ron Rathbone thought so. He wrote ;

*Myles McRae acquired the 90 acres formerly owned by Hughes and Hosking and Alexander Spark off Marsh Street and built a spacious villa that rivaled Tempe House in its pretension. He called his estate Bonnie Doon.*

Gifford Eardley described the house : *Bonnie Doon, a palatial residence, nestling in the lee of a grove of magnificent Moreton Bay fig-trees, which unfortunately have recently been butchered.*

The grounds became part of Bonnie Doon Golf Club, who demolished the house to build a club house, c. 1928. They changed the name to Kogarah Golf Club and later moved to Pagewood. (Marrickville Golf Club founded in September 1897, originally in Tempe on land owned by Frederick Gannon; in 1905 moved across river and changed name to Bonnie Doon Golf Club; stayed 45 years until the diversion of Cook's River for alterations to Kingsford Smith Airport.)

**Ray White**



**KINTAIL.** Kintail, (Means head of the salt water) the place in Scotland from which Myles' father, Alexander McRae came, was chosen for the mansion he built on his property on the high point of Laycock Road in Penshurst.

When was it built? One author says 1881 but another thinks any time between 1883 and 1887. We don't know. Sand's Directory shows him at Laycock Road in 1887. Today, the beautiful old house still stands at 51-53 Laycock Road and the stables can be seen at the rear of a house at 57. Both are on the State Heritage list.

There was a track down to Mortdale that became Railway Parade. A street named McRae Avenue, runs off it.



There was a creek that ran through the present McRae's Reserve to the north west arm of Oatley Bay. McRae kept cattle and had a dam built on the creek where the Reserve is now.

Joan Hatton, in her book on Penshurst in Early Days, tells a delightful story :



*Where the creek joined the salt water, there was a very deep channel through the mangrove swamp into a clear grassy patch. The river was beautifully clean... and became the favourite swimming hole for local youths and Mr McRae's sons delighted in chasing them out. One day, when some local boys were swimming, Reginald came along and took their clothes, so to get them back, they had to listen to a lecture from him. The boys were not slow to overcome this problem, for in the future, they hid their clothes in the*

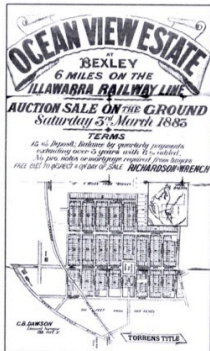


*thick scrub outside the fence ....if they saw him coming, they ran naked into the scrub, and once there, had no hope of being caught.*

I found another story in the reminiscences of Mrs T. Hayman of her childhood in Hillcrest Ave.

*During the 1914-1918 War the McRae family allowed the Sunday School (of the Presbyterian Church) to use their paddock for the annual picnic. The money formerly spent to convey the children to National Park was given to the Soldiers' Comforts Fund. We younger children, I am afraid, were not very patriotic, and were disgusted with the arrangement as we had free access to Mc's Paddock at any time to gather mushrooms on the cold winter mornings and blackberries in summer.*

## LAND SPECULATOR



One of the six estates in Bexley sold by Myles McRae

Myles McRae was a land speculator who was born of Scottish parents at Dunmore (now Largs) in the Hunter Valley. He lived at "Bonnie Doon" on the banks of Cooks River at Arncliffe and during the land boom of the 1880's made a fortune speculating in land along the Illawarra Railway Line.

He was responsible for six major subdivisions in Bexley, Lynton Heights, Lynton Park, Alphington Hill, Hurstville Heights, Rhinelands and Ocean View.

Myles McRae represented Morpeth in the Legislative Assembly from 1889 till 1891 and was a pioneer alderman of both the Kogarah and Hurstville Councils.



"Bonnie Doon" home of Myles McRae at Arncliffe



Myles McRae

19.

that became the Ocean View Estate Co. (present day Bexley) It is apparent that he was much

**MCRAE'S ESTATE** It is described as stretching from the eastern side of the railway line between Laycock Road on the north, railway line on the west, Grove Avenue to the south and Hillcrest Avenue to the east, and was subdivided in the 1922 and 1929 after McRae's death.

## LAND SPECULATOR

I have not been able to compile a list of all McRae's land dealings. But as early as 1877 Myles was part of a syndicate

## LYNTON ESTATES

The Lynton Park and Lynton Heights Estates comprise the streets now known as Bayview, Westminster, Broadford, Princes, Lloyd, George and Sackville Streets and Parliament Terrace. They are the larger of the two allotments selected in Bexley in 1859 by pioneer settler, George Preddy.

In 1878, they were registered for subdivision by the land developer, Myles McRae but were slow to sell because of their distance from Rockdale Station.



Houses in Bayview Street



Many of the houses built on the Lynton Park Estate are still there.

The area received a boost in 1887, when the Bexley Public School was erected on part of the estate and the Bexley Shopping Centre began to develop between Broadford Street and Westminster Street; but it was not until after the First World War that most of the houses on the two estates were constructed.

Lloyd and George Streets were recorded as Bayview Road but were changed during the War to honour the British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George.

involved in the St George area... He had shares in the Holt-Sutherland Estate Co in 1889. There were estates were in Bexley; in a large part of Penshurst, and in Oatley West that I can pinpoint. But there must have been many more.

31

## RHINELANDS ESTATE

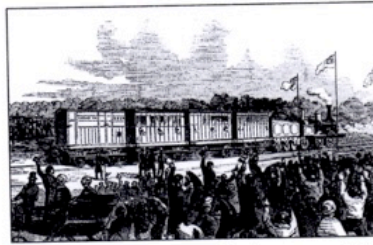
One of the most interesting early landowners in Bexley was William Sixsmith, who had paid 700 pounds for the 30 acres now occupied by Campbell, Carrington, Lymington and Glenfarne Streets in Sixsmith was an engine driver who had come to N.S.W. from Wavertree in Lancashire in 1854. He earned his place in Australian history on 26th September 1855 when, attired in top hat and morning coat, he was on the first train from Sydney to Parramatta.

Some time after 1865, he built a cottage on his land at Epping and established a vineyard and called it "Rhinelands" because it reminded him of the wine growing areas along the River Rhine. At no time did he reside on the estate but leased it to a series of tenants.

In 1877, he sold the land to William Swinney who, in October 1877, subdivided and offered it for sale as residential allotments.



Land owned by William Sixsmith between 1858 and 1877



The first train leaving Sydney for Parramatta driven by William Sixsmith

This extract is taken from Shady Acres Who's Who (in a book only published this year, 2017, entitled Shady Acres: Politicians, Developers and Sydney's Public Transport Scandals 1872-1895, by the late Lesley Muir.)

*McRae, Myles (1845-1926), land agent with brother Duncan; MLA for Morpeth 1889-91; sometime partner in estate agency with M.H. Lauchlan. In addition to his share in Ocean View Estate Company, acquired 26ha of McCulloch's and Stephen's "Alphington Park Estate" (adjoining Bardwell Park) and an interest in Thomas Salter's "Penshurst Park" Estate. He later acquired 12.1 ha along the Peat's Ferry Road and 25 ha nearby. Together with S.H. Terry, M.L.A., McRae bought Lewis Gordon's 188.9 ha grant on Georges River, strategically located on the line to Liverpool.*

(I think this was Gordon's grant that became Padstow Heights)

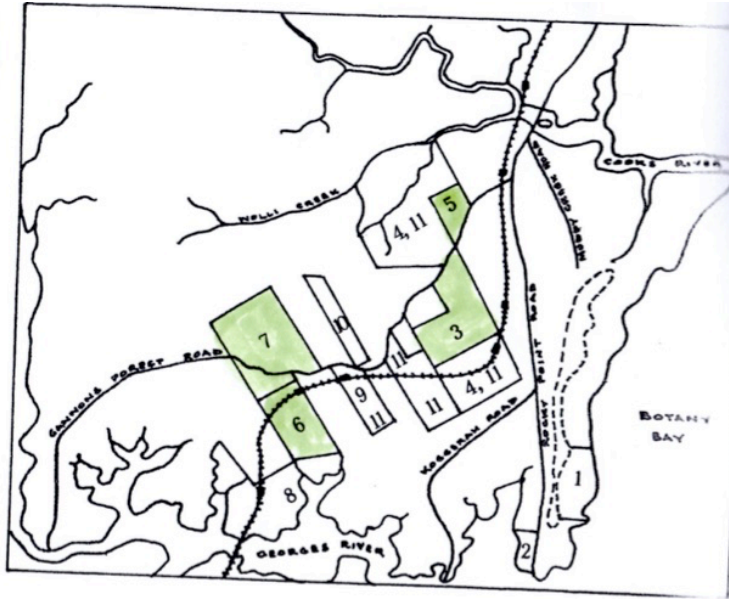
Both the Local Studies section of the Kogarah and Hurstville Libraries have copies of old subdivision plans. Oatley Park Estate was offered for sale on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1893 by Myles. It was bounded by Gungah Road and Glen Road.

The Renown Park Panorama Estate (no date but around 1920) has a blank space labeled McRae Estate – all sold.

Penshurst McRae's Estate for sale 23 February 1929, shows the position of Kintail, and the stables a little further down the street, with a fulsome description of the House, "built 40 years ago" - On the ground floor was an entrance hall, a drawing room, a sitting room, a dining room,



the servants meal room, kitchen , 3 pantries and a laundry. The upper story has 4 bedrooms and 2 servants bedrooms. (p11/31)



Land Ownership in St. George

1. Scarborough
2. St.Kilda and Ellismere Estates
3. Ocean View Estate
4. Land of S.A.Stephen and A.H.McCulloch
5. Lynton Park and Lynton Heights
6. Myles McRae's Peshurst land
7. Peshurst Park
8. Oatley Estate
9. West's Paddock
10. Dora MacMahon's paddock
11. Land bought by the graziers from Tamworth

The Triumph of the Speculators, by John Hatton and Lesley Muir p.28

Kintail Heights Estate for sale on 10 December 1904 , was handled by the McRae Co. 11 Wharf St – the address of Myles' Produce warehouse in the City. (p11/30) It took in Osbourne St, Frederick St and Kuroki St off Laycock Rd. Oatley Park (West Oatley) Estate., offered for sale 28/10/1893 is the only subdivision plan I found which has Myles McRae shown as the vendor. It is near Gungah and Glen Roads, His name is not usually shown on the plan, although it is in the Council Rate Books

### His Will

When Myles, died , at the age of 81, on 13 April, 1926, he left everything to Clara. However, she died only 4 months later in August 1926, every thing was divided between the 5 children.

His son, Reginald took over to handle the estate. Probate was given for £ 13, 537. It is thought that Myles had deeded Kintail to Reginald, before his death, in order to mitigate death duties.

Myles , I think you will agree with me, led a very full life and had some effect on the St George district.

### REFERENCES

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Propeller 27 August 1926 p3c3 Death of Mrs Clara Charlotte McRae of Kintail aged 79  
Buried Catholic section Woronora Cemetery

Maitland Daily Mercury 16 April 1926

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Divorce SMH 2 and 8 May 1891 p.7and 5

Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser 19 March 1891

Breach of Promise SMH 14 and 16 March 1891

McRae's Estate St George Call 6 January 1922 p.2

#### MANUSCRIPTS

The Mitchell Library does not hold any papers of Myles McRae. There are only 2 references ;  
One being A letter to Sir Henry Parkes about unemployment

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Hatton, Joan Penshurst in early days p.2
2. Mrs E. Coulin in Joan Hatton's papers in Kogarah Library, Local History Section
  - 3 Ron Rathbon Cameos of Bexley
  - 4 Hatton, Joan Penshurst in early days p.1-2
  - 5 Duncan see Muir, Lesley Shady Acres p.79