

Descendants of James and Catherine Murray.

1) John “Jack” Murray:

John Murray was the eldest son of James and Catherine Murray. He was born on 6.4.1855 at Emu Creek (now known as Skipton) in Victoria. His birth however was not registered until 1863 along with his cousin Rose Anne McGrath (daughter of Catherine’s sister, Sarah). He is recorded as being “ born “ at Burrumbeet on 12 August 1863 and registered on 21 September, 1863 on the birth certificate. He was registered by his uncle, Ewen MacDonald the brother of his mother, Catherine. The first five children are also listed on this extract in the column “ Issue living and deceased “. Angus is the last on the list and is aged one at this time. John is recorded as being eight years of age at the time of this registration.

The Common School at Parupa No 854 [Lake Bolac] opened in 1867. John started at the school at the age of eleven years and eight months in January 1867. He left school ten months later having passed an examination at standard 2 level. His sister Mary Anne [Merran] and brothers Ewen, Louis and Angus started school with him the same year.

John married Catherine Green. They had six children: Catherine (born 1883), Selina (born 1886), Alice May (born 1887), Georgina Helen (born 1889), Sarah (born 1891) and Eion James Jerome (born 13.7.1899). John and Catherine lived in a house on the present site of the Lake Bolac Motel. John was known affectionately as Uncle Jack whilst Catherine was known as Aunty Kit. His niece Christina, fondly remembers him singing to her, as a small child. John built the sale yards in Lake Bolac. Catherine died at the relatively young age of 46 years on May 6, 1907 and is buried in the Lake Bolac cemetery. John died on 2.2.1939 and is buried in the Presbyterian section of the Cheltenham cemetery. After John’s wife died, John went to live with his brother Alexander and Katie and, later on with his youngest brother James and his wife Marion for a couple of years at “ Kildonan “, then later still to his sister Georgina in Caulfield.

by Michael Murray