

Residents of 2 Eglinton Road Glebe

Macdonnell family 1905-28

2 Eglinton Road was the first house built in Eglinton Road. The Macdonnell family lived in the house, which they named Floraville, by 1905. It was the only owner-occupied house in the street.

Flora, 47, Matilda, 57 and Annie 48, moved in with their brother William Joseph Macdonnell, aged 36.

Matilda and Annie were headmistresses and William worked in the Lands Department. Flora looked after the household. The Macdonnells came from a family of eight children and had grown up in Wollongong, where their father kept an inn. After their mother died in 1868 they moved to Sydney.

Matilda Macdonnell died in 1905 aged 57 *August 13, at Floraville, Eglinton road Glebe Point, Matilda Macdonnell, late mistress S P School, Newtown (SMH 14 Aug 1905). Miss Matilda Macdonnell, who succumbed at her residence at Glebe Point on Sunday last to a severe attack of pneumonia, was for the past four years headmistress of the Infants' Department at the Newtown Superior Public School. Before taking up duty at Newtown she was long and favourably known at Pyrmont, where she had charge of the Infants' School for over six years and at Cook's Hill Newcastle (SMH 18 Aug 1905).*

In 1908 William Macdonnell travelled to England with his sisters Annie and Flora.

Their older sister Elizabeth and her husband, James Christie, an iron moulder, moved into Floraville and are listed on the electoral roll in 1909. They were married in 1886 but did not have children.

James Christie died in 1911 and Elizabeth in 1920, aged 73. *November 10 at Floraville, 2 Eglinton road Glebe Point, Elizabeth Mary Agnes Christie, relict of the late Mr James Christie and beloved sister of William, Flora and Annie Macdonnell (SMH 17 June 1920).*

William Joseph Macdonnell died at the age of 59 on *January 12, 1921, at his residence Floraville 2 Eglinton-road Glebe Point. William Joseph McDonnell, for many years in the Lands Department, dearly loved brother of Miss Flora Macdonnell and Miss Annie Macdonnell (SMH 13 Jan 1921).*

His two surviving sisters began to take in boarders and advertised *2 Eglinton Road, double and single rooms, moderate, close tram (SMH 26 June 1925).*

Flora Macdonnell died aged 68 *on June 21 1927 at her residence Floraville 2 Eglinton road, Glebe Point, Flora, dearly beloved daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Macdonnell, and sister of Annie Macdonnell, and the late Mrs J Christie, Hugh, William, and Matilda Macdonnell (SMH 25 Jun 1927)*

Her funeral was held at St James Church Glebe.

Her sister placed a notice of thanks. *Miss Annie Macdonnell, of Floraville 2 Eglinton Glebe Point wishes to return her sincere thanks to all kind friends and neighbours for telegrams, letters, cards and personal expressions of sympathy, particularly the Rev Monsignor Connan, Rev Father Corrigan, Sister Pine and Nurse McMahon of Glebe Point in her recent sad bereavement in the loss of her dear sister Flora Macdonnell, Glebe (SMH 16 June 1927).*

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Annie died a few months later. *December 18 1928 at her residence, Floraville No. 2 Eglinton-road, Glebe Point, Annie M Macdonnell, aged 67 years (SMH 19 Dec 1928). The death occurred recently of Miss Annie Macdonnell at her residence, Eglinton-road, Glebe Point, after a long illness. Miss Macdonnell was in the service of the Education Department for many years. She was assistant headmistress at Crown-Street Public School in its early days, and was later headmistress at Camdenville, Metropolitan road, Enmore, and Newtown Superior Public schools (SMH 26 Dec 1928).*

The house where the Macdonnells had lived for twenty-three years was sold in 1930.

Floraville was bought by the Clarke family, who already owned a number of other houses in the street. The Clarke family used it as a rental investment property. It was a boarding house for over 40 years until it again became a family home.

Edward Sidney Wildie 1930-37 and Ellenor Wildie 1930-43

2 Eglinton Road operated as a boarding house from 1930, run initially by Sidney and Ellenor Wildie.

The electoral roll lists Sidney Wildie, 62, watchman in 1930 with his wife Ellenor Wildie, 63 home duties from 1930. After her husband died in 1937, Ellenor is listed on the electoral rolls until 1943.

Edward Sidney Wildie, who had grown up in New Zealand, married Ellenor Cambridge in 1890. They had four children. Sidney was a hotel-keeper. They lived in Coonamble, Warren and Peak Hill before moving to Sydney in 1908. *Prior to his departure for Sydney Mr Sidney Wildie was entertained by the townspeople. He was also presented with a cheque by the Jockey Club (SMH 12 May 1908).* He held the licence of the Royal George Hotel for a short time after his arrival in Sydney.

Edward Sidney Wildie died on 4 October 1937. Ellenor remained in Eglinton Road until 1943. By 1949 she had moved to Kingsford to live closer to her widowed son. Ellenor died in 1951.

Boarders 1930-46

From 1930, advertisements were frequently placed in the Herald for boarders. *Glebe Point Floraville No 2 Eglinton road Nice Front double room, also Single, with Board Moderate (SMH 29 Jan 1930).*

Shared rooms were also offered. *Glebe Point Floraville 2 Eglinton road. Large Front Room suit 3 business ladies or 3 students all conveniences moderate (SMH 5 Apr 1930).*

Board was available at 25 shillings and boarders could have cut lunches and their laundry done. *Glebe Pt 2 Eglinton rd Board 2 ladies or gentlemen laundry lunches garage 25/- (SMH 7 May 1932).*

Although some advertisements offered accommodation to married couples, *Glebe Pt 2 Eglinton rd Vacancies married couple (SMH 1 Mar 1930)*, only three married couples are listed on the electoral rolls, all were recently married. Thomas Harold Hocroft, 24, a labourer and his wife Ella May Hocroft, 22, who were married in 1929 in Dubbo are listed in 1930. Eric John Ward, a teacher and his wife

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Janet Agnes Ward, who are listed on the 1934 electoral roll, were married in 1932 in Sydney. William Duncan, a tiler and his wife Susan Duncan are listed on the electoral roll in 1939.

Most boarders were single men. John Herbert Bruce Jennings, a nurseryman and Alick George Albert Hill a tally clerk, are both listed on the 1930 electoral roll. John Percival Anderson, clerk is listed in 1936-38. Eric Brugden, hairdresser and William Bede Nolan, 20, fireman are listed in 1937. Lindsay James Connors is listed on the electoral roll in 1940 as a cadet engineer.

Some boarders moved out just before they were married. Roy Essington Funnell, 44, a clerk, is listed on the 1936-38 electoral rolls. He was married in 1938 *Archbishop Mowell officiated at the marriage of Miss Edna Dryland only daughter of the Rev Dryland of St John's Rectory Glebe to Mr Roy Essington Funnell, third son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Funnell of Narellan which took place at the brides father's church on Saturday (SMH 21 Feb 1938)*. Keith Robert Charnley, who was listed in 1939 as a labourer, also left Eglinton Road when he was married in 1940.

Boarding was also chosen by widowers and men who were divorced. Archibald McDiarmid Brewer, 43, a widower, is listed in 1932-33 as an engineer. He was Scottish and moved from Avona Road after the death of his wife. In 1941, Joseph Kinahan, 47, a widower who had arrived in Sydney in 1922 as a ship's officer, is listed as a storeman. Robert John Peel Ison, 48, a boot maker is listed on the electoral roll in 1943. He had been divorced in 1937 and moved out when he remarried in 1945.

It was a convenient place for those who were retired. John Lundie is listed in 1933-43 as a clergyman. He was inducted as a Presbyterian minister in 1916 and served at Coraki and Holbrook before he retired in 1932. *The Rev John Lundie resigned the charge of the Holbrook Presbyterian Church after nine years' ministry there (SMH 8 Oct 1932)*. He had moved to 282 Glebe Point Rd by 1944.

There were also boarders who chose 2 Eglinton Road because of its proximity to the university and teachers training colleges. Alexander Lewis Hughes, 26, is listed as a student on the electoral roll in 1933. By 1936, he was a teacher in Broken Hill and later wrote textbooks on metal work for secondary schools. He enlisted in 1942 and served as a captain in the army.

Several advertisements were placed for boarders in 1942-43, most making a point of the closeness to transport. *Glebe Pt -Vacancy Board garage ph Tram term 2 Eglinton Road (SMH 3 Jan 1942)*, *Vacancy, Board, close transport, garage. 2 Eglinton Road, Glebe Point (SMH 12 Sep 1942)* and *Vacancy Board Large Room suit 2 phone garage 2 Eglinton Road Glebe Pt (SMH 24 Sep 1942)*.

Women were employed to help with housework. Advertisements were placed in 1941, *Girl wanted in general no cooking or washing Glebe Pt, 2 Eglinton Rd (SMH 19 July 1941)* and *Two Generals no cooking or laundry 2 Eglinton Road, Glebe Point MV.2303 (SMH 2 Aug 1941)*

A number of single men are listed in the 1940s. Reginald James Joselin, 36, a labourer and John Joseph Keane, a railway porter, are both listed in 1943 and Allan Gordon Anderson in 1944 as a pattern maker. Norman Alexander Freeman, 38, is listed on the 1946 electoral roll as a contractor but

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had moved into Eglinton Road by 1943 as he had advertised *Chev Tipper 2½ ton 35 tell shod gd order trial suit log coal cartage N P £165 Freeman 2 Eglinton Rd Glebe Point (SMH 21 Jun 1944)*.

Some boarders left to join the army. Desmond John Walsh, 21, who is listed on the electoral roll as a clerk in 1940-43, enlisted at the end of 1942 and served as a lance sergeant in the 23rd Field Unit.

Roy Clifford Barnabus McTaggart, 35, who is listed on the electoral roll in 1943-44 was a soldier and a corporal in the Australian Provost from 1940-44 and later a dairy farmer in Broke.

There was an advertisement in 1942 from people staying at 2 Eglinton Road who were looking for accommodation elsewhere. *Two young men require Board share room vicinity Glebe, Boston 2 Eglinton Rd Glebe or ring MW2103 (SMH 28 Oct 1942)*.

Another advertisement offered board and residence *Board and Residence nice home for child school age return company. Write Mrs Handley 2 Eglinton Rd Glebe (SMH 18 May 1943)*.

Whittle family 1947-72

Jack Whittle, 39, labourer and his wife Catherine Annie, home duties are listed on the 1947-72 electoral rolls. They were married in 1933 and had one child, John Whittle, who played for Glebe Hockey club and is listed as an apprentice painter on the 1963 electoral rolls.

The Whittles ran 2 Eglinton Road as a boarding house until 1972 when they moved to Chester Hill.

Boarders 1947-72

The Whittles continued to let rooms and placed several advertisements for boarders. *Vacancy Board suit young gent nice home non drinker 2 Eglinton Road, Glebe Pt (SMH 20 Aug 1950)*.

The majority of boarders were young single men. Ronald George Dark is listed a tram conductor on the electoral rolls in 1949-54 and Charles Morgan Nesbitt as a trainee on the 1947 electoral roll.

Some boarders were returned servicemen. John Miller Stewart, 27, who served as private in the 20 Works Company is listed on the 1947-51 electoral rolls as a painter.

Gordon James Olsen is listed on the electoral rolls in 1949-50 as a taxation assistant and his brother Leslie Stewart Olsen as a student. They were from Rockhampton Queensland. Leslie served as a leading aircraftman and wireless operator in the RAAF in 1943-46. He returned to university when he was discharged. *Mr Leslie Stewart Olsen ... recently graduated from the University of Sydney with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Mr Olsen won a State scholarship while attending the Caves State School and continued his education at the Rockhampton Boys' Grammar School, where he was awarded the Kellow Memorial prize for English. His studies were later interrupted by war service, during which he was seriously wounded (Morning Bulletin 1 May 1950)*.

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Robert James Dewsbury is listed on the 1964 electoral roll as a clerk

Although some advertisements specified rooms for women, *Room 1 min tram 2d section suit widow or bus lady 2 Eglinton Rd Glebe (SMH 2 June 1943)*, only a few women are listed on electoral rolls.

Dorothy Quigley is listed in 1936-38 as a saleswoman, Lorna Isabella Ashe Young, 33, in 1955-65 as a typist, Madeline Estelle Fitzgerald in 1966 as a filing clerk and Robin Owenette Webb in 1967 as a pattern maker.

Buckingham family 1972-2010

John Bernard Buckingham and Deanne Louise Buckingham, both teachers, purchased the house in 1972. Their daughters, Louise Alice and Sally Catherine Buckingham grew up in Eglinton Road.

John Buckingham campaigned for the creation of Bicentennial Park as convenor of the Glebe Society's parks committee in 1981-95 and as president of the Glebe Society in 2001-02.

The house was sold for only the third time in 2010.

Sources

Australian war memorial biographical data bases <http://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/>

Commonwealth and NSW Electoral rolls, [State Library of NSW](#)

Digitised Australian newspaper from 1803 to 1954 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Family trees, shipping and census records <http://www.ancestry.com.au/>

Glebe Council Rate books, [City of Sydney Archives](#)

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