

Townsville Daily Bulletin (Queensland)

Thursday 28 May 1928:

Another of the old pioneers and one of the State's oldest residents, passed away in the person of **Cottham Walter Maclean**, on Wednesday afternoon. Born in the Isle of Coll, off the coast of Scotland, on 31st May 1832, he was within sixteen days of his 96th birthday. He remembered watching the procession at the coronation of Queen Victoria. Deceased was educated at London University, and then came to Australia where he engaged in mining for nine years, followed by some years as a sea farer; he settled on the Island of Mauritius, and engaged in the sugar business for 11 years, as mill and plantation manager.

While in Mauritius he married Miss Ida Richardson from England, and shortly after left there for Australia, owing to a severe attack of fever which was carrying off the inhabitants at the rate of 100 a day.

He carried on farming in the south of Queensland until 1876, when he finally settled in Mackay. He followed mining, at Mt Brittain, while Mrs Maclean, taught music in Mackay. (Mrs Maclean died while on a health trip to Mt Briltan, 45 years ago).

Later he owned a sawmill on the Eton Range for a short while and then took up land in the Marian district, where he carried on farming until he retired some 15 years ago. He had resided with his son, Edward, ever since. He was able to read without glasses until a fortnight ago, when he was confined to bed. Up to that time he had enjoyed perfect health.

The two sons are Cottham A. F. Maclean. Nebo, and Edward M. Maclean, Jubilee Street, Mackay.

The funeral moved from his son's residence on Thursday after noon, and was well attended, many beautiful floral tributes were placed on the coffin by old friends.

[transcription by Jean Little]