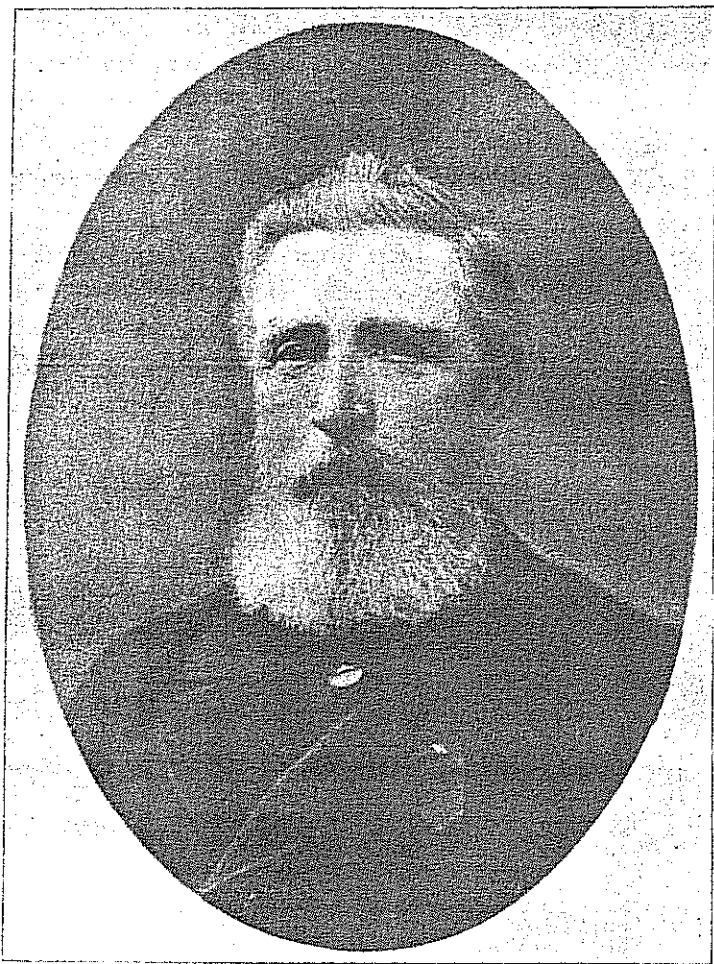


The late Mr. George McEwin

MUCH of the nomenclature of South Australia memorialises the names of pioneers who have labored in the cause of the Province. The names of the streets and squares of Adelaide, country towns and villages, and special localities here and there, have been derived from this source; and, if the original names be euphonious, no more appropriate way could be found of paying lasting tribute to the founders. Such is the case as regards the late Mr. G. McEwin, whose name is perpetuated at Glen Ewin about 12 miles from the metropolis



George & Walton, Photo

Mr. George McEwin was born in the south of Scotland in 1815, and became a landscape gardener by occupation. Plant-life in all its forms supplied him with much-loved study, and he was a botanist of considerable ability. At the age of 18 he made a classification of the plants of Scotland, and so thorough was this work that he was elected a life member of the Arboricultural Society of Scotland. From Scotland, Mr. McEwin went to Liverpool, where he laid out a number of large gardens and delivered lectures on botany. In 1839 he arrived in South Australia with his young wife, and it is said that he marked out some of the oldest and best gardens in and about the city. In 1844 he took up his residence in the locality which received its name from him,

and in the same year visited New South Wales, and purchased plants and trees which he considered were adapted to South Australian soil. These he planted at Glen Ewin, and he soon surrounded himself there with a charming orchard and vineyard, and also a pleasing ornamental garden. While he spent his time partly in attending these, and partly in landscape gardening for other settlers, his orchard came into bearing; but at first there was a difficulty in obtaining a market for its productions. In 1860 he hit upon the plan of manufacturing jams and preserves, and this business eventually attained intercolonial importance. The products of the factory had a ready sale, and the concern became one of the largest of the kind in South Australia. It is still carried on by Mr. Robert

McEwin, the son of the founder. Mr. McEwin thus rose to an influential position, and was able to devote himself to questions of public utility.

Out of his experience, gained by study, observation, and experiment in plant-life, he was able to tender good advice to colonists. He was an authority on horticultural and agricultural matters, and contributed largely to the Press on these subjects, but especially on horticulture. His work, "The Vigneron's and Gardener's Manual," went through several editions, and was of very practical use to those concerned. Many articles from his pen also appeared in local newspapers on fruit-trees and vines and ornamental trees. He obtained a gold medal from the Scottish Arboricultural Society for a paper on "The Natural Forests of South Australia"; and in 1877, from the same source, he won a silver medal for the best essay on "Arboriculture," and the *souvenir* is now in the possession of his family. He was for years a member of the Forest Board and of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society. Besides excellent advice given on subjects which by occupation he was specially interested in, he rendered service to the public in other respects. He was appointed by the Government a member of the Central Road Board, and was for many years Returning Officer for the district of Gumeracha, a position in which his son has succeeded him. He was a Justice of the Peace, and was quite celebrated throughout his district for his decisions. Having made some study of the law, he was able to adjudicate with more than the usual success of the unpaid magistrate, and fulfilled a still higher function by so advising many who called upon him on the legal aspect of their claims and complaints that cases were settled out of court with dispatch and satisfaction.

After about two month's illness, Mr. McEwin died on August 8, 1885, in his 70th year. His wife had predeceased him, and both were highly esteemed and beloved.