



The Argus, Melbourne, August 25 1934

“The Ticonderoga”

---

*The Ticonderoga* - Much interest has been evinced in a recent article by John Andrew McIvor, which told the story of the “plague ship” Ticonderoga.

Mr H.J. McRae, of Moonee Ponds, wrote as follows to the author of the article”- “Malcolm McRae and his wife were my grandparents, and your notes about them are the first I have read. Strange to say, during his lifetime my father did not mention anything about his people having been buried at Point Nepean or the circumstances which caused their death. It was some time after he died that I read in “The Argus” some notes by Donald MacDonald regarding his having come across the grave of the McRaes at Point Nepean. Then, after inquiries, I learned about their (sic) being our people. Now the survivors of Malcolm and Helen McRae have all died. My father, Finlay McRae, was the oldest of the family. He landed in Australia about 1849, and died at Shepparton in 1907, aged 75. Christopher McRae died at Maffra about three years ago, aged 96. Duncan McRae died at Donnybrook several years ago. Donald McRae also died at Donnybrook about three years ago. To-day I was speaking to Mr. George Kinnear, a saddler, in Bourke street, whose father was a passenger on the Ticonderoga”.

Miss M.J. White, of Richmond, wrote:- “I have a letter written by my grandfather, Mr. John Mathers, of Durness, dated July 7, 1852, stating that he had received his embarkation order to sail for Australia by the Ticonderoga. He (my grandfather) left with his wife and family of eight. The following is what our mother, the eldest daughter, told us of their arrival here. The fever raged and her father died as the ship reached the Heads. He was the first to be buried at Point Nepean. Her mother and the family were landed at the quarantine station, and the only shelter they had for several days and nights was blankets spread over tea-trees. My mother had to shake the frost off them at night. She was then aged 17, and she fell ill of fever while there and was taken to the Melbourne Hospital. The first time she became conscious was on Christmas Day. Her father died on November 5. Two of my mother’s sisters are still living. My mother died 17 years ago.”