

# Mary's Sisters and Brothers

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## **Margaret 'Maggie' 1843 – 1872**

Maggie was 16 months younger than Mary and she was involved in the early teaching activities of the MacKillop girls. However, rheumatic fever put an end to her teaching career.

She stayed with her uncle Alexander 'King' Cameron in Melbourne, and Uncle Peter at Duck Ponds. Family friend and Jesuit priest, Father Tappeiner once wrote to Mary, "*Maggie is indeed a lovely angelical creature.*"

Maggie died at the age of 29 in the December of 1872.

## **John 1845 – 1867**

John was three years younger than Mary. His first job was at Swanston Street Railway Station in Melbourne. In 1862, when he was 17, he went with his father to the New Zealand goldfields. From 1862 he appears to have been a tradesman, a carpenter, and a builder with ambitions to become an architect.

Returning from New Zealand, John lived for a while with the family at Portland. Later, he worked at Mount Gambier and in Penola assisted Mary with his carpentry skills in transforming the old stable into the first school conducted by the Sisters of St Joseph.

Later, John went back to New Zealand, convinced that the employment opportunities were more promising. He died there in 1867 after falling from a horse.

## **Alexander 'Alick' 1846 – 1847**

Alexander or "our little Alick" as Mary called him, was Mary's baby brother. He died at eleven months of age, when Mary was five.

## **Annie 1848 – 1929**

Due to family problems, Annie spent a good deal of her childhood with relatives. Annie was musical. She taught the piano and was a teacher with Mary at the school in Portland. She was a lifelong companion to Mary.

Annie was the first to go to Penola at the end of 1865, to teach in the school at the request of Father Woods. Mary followed in the New Year of 1866.

In Melbourne in 1891 and early in 1892, Annie was there to help Mary when she was sick. In 1902, Annie was with Mary in New Zealand when she had her stroke and when Mary died in 1909.

Annie lived her last days in the convent of the Sisters of St Joseph at Carlton in Melbourne, where she died in 1929.

### **Alexandra ‘Lexie’ 1850 – 1882**

Lexie, only 15 at the time, taught with Mary and Annie in early months at Penola. In 1871, she joined the Sisters of the Good Shepherd at Abbotsford in Melbourne. Soon after her profession Lexie was appointed Mistress of Novices.

When Lexie died in 1882 Mary wrote, *“There are only three left out of eight. Oh, thanks, a thousand thanks to our dear god that she is so happy...she is doubly my sister now.”*

### **Donald 1853 – 1925**

Donald studied with the Jesuits at Sevenhill in South Australia. In 1882 he went to Europe and began his theological studies at Innsbruck in Austria. Later he went to St Beunos in North Wales. He was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1885 He wrote to Mary, *“You have your long cherished wish. I am a priest of the Society of Jesus. What a fine cry you will have over this!”*

On his return to Australia Donald was assigned to work with the aboriginal people in the Northern Territory. He worked there from 1887 to 1897 and became Superior of the Daly River Mission.

Ill health forced him to leave the Northern Territory, and he then worked in parishes in Adelaide and Melbourne until his death in 1925.

### **Peter 1857 – 1878**

Peter was the youngest of the MacKillop children. He studied with the Jesuits at Sevenhill.

In 1875 he developed heart disease. He left Sevenhill, and became engaged to a young lady, but it was not long before his illness became more serious.

He was nursed in Adelaide by his mother Flora and his sister Annie. Then he was moved to his Uncle Peter’s property, at Duck Ponds. Peter died before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday with Flora, Mary and Annie at his side.



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