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**The Salvation Army, The Bridge Centre (Cloyne),
12 Chapel Street,
St Kilda East**



Cloyne, 2002

Judge Madden at Cloyne

Sir John Madden (1844-1918) was born in the village of Cloyne, southeast of the city of Cork on the southern coast of Ireland above Ballycotton Bay, one of seven sons. His father managed the Ark Life Insurance Company in London before the family immigrated to Melbourne. They arrived in January 1857. Madden senior was admitted as an attorney in the Supreme Court of Victoria in April, he contributed hunting notes to the Australasian for many years before his death in 1902 (25) and his boys all attended St Patrick's College, East Melbourne. In 1864, John graduated LL B from the University of Melbourne and after early legal success; he married Gertrude Stephen and stood for parliament. Following a shaky start he was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1871-83 and became Minister of Justice. His views were particularly reactionary: he held that most of mankind were too stupid to be trusted with the 'rights of property,' he disliked the concept of a labour bureau, believing that men should 'go about the country' seeking work themselves, he opposed loans to selectors in 1878 and supported the Felons' Apprehension Bill, to enable the Kellys to be shot down like animals.

From 1883 and during Victoria's Land Boom, his legal practice prospered. His learning and preparation combined with his charm and confidence were admired and he became the doyen of the Victorian Bar for many years. By 1890 he was involved in 30% of all of the cases before the Supreme Court and as many again in the Full Court. At the height of his career his annual income has been estimated at between £7,000-£20,000, which was clearly the reason he refused to be appointed a judge, and it is clear that he opposed the *Legal Reform Practice Act* (1891), for fear that it would expose his own negligence.

In 1889, he was appointed (unpaid) Chancellor of the University of Melbourne and despite fears that he would not spend sufficient time on the job; he remained the Chancellor until his death. Eventually, in 1893 he succeeded the great radical and egalitarian Judge George Higginbotham (1826-92, 44 & 46) as Chief Justice and was knighted. This was immediately following the dramatic collapse of the economy and Madden accepted only a £3,500 salary. His judgements were much criticised for their 'bad law and loquacity.'

Lady Casey described Madden's "wide Irish face" and his 'moustache stiffly waxed in points.' In 1899 he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, a position that had been denied to Higginbotham. He was actively involved in several sports and in 1887, it is said that he profitably dreamt of the winner of the Melbourne Cup.

In 1887, at the height of the land boom, he built his thirty-room mansion Cloyne, in prestigious East St Kilda on land he had bought in 1884 from the Free Presbyterian Church. The house is a very large, relatively dull pile of 30 rooms, which his grandson (of the same name) said that it had been designed and built by the little known architect George A Parsons. Parsons is recorded as having built only three buildings in Melbourne over 1887 -1906 and another one as George Parsons & Son in 1906.

The mansion faces Alma Park West rather than Chapel Street, with a *porte-cochère* to the south. Both elevations are asymmetrical, in the late Italianate style. There is a ballroom with an orchestra balcony and it was a place of lavish entertainment, indeed Madden is said to have been an indulgent father. The family also spent time at their country property Yamla at Frankston, a hay and dairy farm. Lady Madden was president of the Bush Nursing Association and of the Austral Salon, in which Lady Janet Clarke (1851-1909) was also active.

The Austral Salon of Music, Literature and the Arts was founded in 1890 by a small group of women journalists in Melbourne as a club for women writers. It developed into a club for artistic and intellectual women interested in any of the fine arts and particularly provided an important *entré* for many aspiring women musicians. The Salon still continues encouraging young artists by awarding scholarships and hosting student performances. The singers Ada Crossley, Amy Castles, Nellie Melba, Florence Austral, Marjorie Lawrence, Denise Dowling and Tilly Ashton were first heard at the Austral Salon.

In 1912, Madden sold Cloyne and moved to rooms in Cliveden Mansions, the great Melbourne landmark in Wellington Parade, East Melbourne, which was the former town mansion of Sir William Clarke. After the

death of Lady Janet Clarke, it was sold to the Baillieu family for merely a quarter of its construction cost and converted into 50 self-contained luxury apartments. In 1968 Cliveden was demolished to become the site of the Hilton Hotel. Some furniture and other bits of the Clarke's magnificence still decorate the hotel's public rooms, particularly its Dining Room.

Sir John Madden died suddenly in 1918 and is buried in the Catholic section of the Melbourne General Cemetery, although surely St Kilda Cemetery would have been more convenient. He left an estate of £29,082, not an excessive amount for a person of such grandiloquence.

In the 1930s, a major addition to Cloyne obscured it from Chapel Street. It became a boarding house and later a yoga school. By the 1970s as Cloyne Court, it was acquired by Funerals Pty Ltd and in 1984 it was sold to the Trustees of the Order of the Sons of Temperance, a non-profit friendly society established in 1840 in the USA and in Victoria at Geelong in 1861. Cr Slattery said he was delighted to see such a 'proper society come to St Kilda.' Reassuringly, the society no longer requires that its members totally abstain from alcohol. It is said that Cloyne then became a brothel.

The Salvos at Cloyne

The Salvation Army now owns Cloyne for its Alcohol & Drug Services Bridge Programme, which assists people seeking drug withdrawal and rehabilitation. Earlier the Salvation Army had built its Corps Hall at 17 Camden Street, Balaclava in 1892, whose designer is unknown. This closed and was sold to the Ukrainian Orthodox Parish. Army services are now held at The Bridge Chapel in the former Free Presbyterian Church next to Cloyne at 12B Chapel Street and the Army also operates a Crisis Contact Centre, Health Information Exchange and Domestic Violence Centre at 27 & 29 Grey Street and a store at 90 Inkerman Street.

The Salvation Army has worked with addicts since beginning in London's East End in the 1860s. In Australia, a rehabilitation farm was set up at Collaroy in the early 1900s. However the Bridge Program began in August 1964, when the Nithsdale clinic opened behind Salvation Army headquarters in Sydney. By 1969, it had become a long-term residential rehabilitation program, including time at a rural farm or industrial centre, including 12 facilities in Victoria, NSW and Qld.

Early in 2005, the *porte-cochère* at Cloyne was totally destroyed by a truant garbage truck, but has now been reinstated and the building repainted. In August 2006, the Salvation Army decided to sell Cloyne and expected a return of some \$8 million and to relocate more centrally in St Kilda, but in April 2008 they were still there.

Postscript

When the Free Presbyterian Church sold the land for Cloyne to Madden in 1877, it used the proceeds to build two substantial houses at 92 and 94 Alma Road, in a Tudor style. They were converted to flats in the 1930s and the Honourable Alex Fraser (1802-88) businessman and politician, first occupied the house and stables at Aldourie, no 94. Fraser had emigrated from Inverness, Scotland in 1832 with his new wife Ann and became a pastoralist, auctioneer and agent. He lived in St Kilda and in 1857 was elected to its first municipal council, in 1859 became chairman, mayor in 1864-65 and from 1858-81 he was a Member of the Legislative Council.

In clear opposition to the political stance of Madden, Alex Fraser consistently supported attempts to reform the Legislative Council, he supported the Free Trade Movement and worked consistently for education, as superintendent of St Kilda Wesleyan Sunday School, as a founder of Wesley College and with in guiding the Education Bill through the Legislative Council in 1872, the groundwork for which was laid by Judge Higginbotham. Fraser was pious and conscientious. He and Madden were neighbours for only a year, but one wonders if they had anything at all in common, or even spoke.

At 609-611 Toorak Road (cnr Kooyong Road), Toorak is another Cloyne, designed by the eminent architect Harold Desbrowe-Annear in 1926 for Louis Nelkin, a brother-in-law of W L Baillieu (45). The connection between the two Melbourne Cloynes is not yet known.

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