

12/3 Charles place,  
Gordon ACT 2609.

Dear Pauline.

This was the only entry I could find for my great Uncle Peter Mackey who painted the picture of the alpine ash with mistletoe and stream below and mountain in the background that I left with you on 20 September 2016 on my recent visit to Marysville. According to this article found in "Trove", the on line newspaper index, It states that Peter Mackey had an arts and craft business in Marysville. It is dated 26 December 1931.

He visited my family in 1937 when we lived at the Royal Military College Duntroon in Canberra. He was my father's uncle, the elder brother of his mother, Alicia Marina Mackey. He was born in County Kildare in Ireland and travelled to Australia on the "Great Britain" in 1863 when he was only 3 years old. They lived at Emerald Hill. He became an optometrist and lived at Albert Park. He married Mabel Thresher in 1909 and she died in 1926. He did not marry again. He studied art in Paris and travelled to South America. I gave you a copy of a pamphlet he wrote about this trip.

Peter Mackey painted with the well known Victorian artists Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton and had several group exhibitions but never a single exhibition of his work entirely so did not qualify for inclusion in the Biographical List of Australian Artists. I have five of his paintings and my sister has two and many others are held by family members.

It was wonderful to identify the place from which he painted my picture of the tall tree by the stream with the mountain in the background quite similar to others in your collection. What a wonderful job you have done to collect so many artefacts for the Museum after the fire.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Haldane (great niece of Peter Mackey)

*Pauline Haldane 26/09/2016*

