

Caroline Jane DIX, nee TUCKER 15-12-1877 to -23-5-1919 **& William George Clement Lake DIX**

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Caroline Jane, 'Jean', was the fifth child and first daughter of Annie and John Tucker and was born at *Eldon House*. Two first cousins were born in October of that year, William Joseph Mott in Victoria, and Annie Sophia Raggatt in Victoria. Her grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India, and Carl Laval perfected his separator, a machine that separated cream from milk. In Australia the Overland Telegraph line from Adelaide to Perth was opened.

Jean attended the local Sandergrove Primary School and, after leaving, helped her mother on the family farm until her marriage. At noon on May 11, 1900 at the Methodist Church, Sandergrove, Jean was married to William George Clement Lake Dix. The reception was at *Lake View*, home of the bride's parents.

George was born at Kent Town, Adelaide on August 4, 1876, the son of William Joseph and Isett Amelia Dix, nee Hiles. William Dix was a school inspector for the South Australian Education Department and lived in the Adelaide suburb of Payneham. George attended Payneham and Norwood public schools and Prince Alfred College. At the age of 17 he entered the postal service and at the time of his marriage was a clerk in the administrative section in Adelaide.

Jean and George also made their home in Payneham, at 20 Battams Road. They had a family of five daughters and four sons. One day Jean playfully snipped off one side of George's walrus moustache while he dozed in a chair; He had to shave the rest off and their eldest daughter Jean, then only a toddler, would have nothing to do with this clean-shaven papa.

During his working life George rose from the position of clerk in the postal service to the Deputy Director of Posts and Telegraphs in South Australia at the time of his death.

Towards the end of her busy life Jean suffered several strokes and became an invalid. She was cared for at home by her youngest daughter Rachel. One evening in May 1939, while Jean sat by the fire, a spark set her night clothes alight and she was badly burned. She died a week later, aged 61 years, and was buried in Payneham cemetery. Just before Christmas in the same year, her husband George died after a short illness, aged 63 years. He too is buried in Payneham cemetery.

A news item about George when he became president of the South Australian Postal Institute for a second time outlines his career.

Mr. George Lake Dix, who was recently elected president of South Australian Postal Institute for the second time, has had wide experience in the postal service, with which he has been connected for more than thirty years.

Mr. Dix was born at Kent Town on August 4th, 1876. He was educated at Payneham and Norwood Public Schools and, later, at Prince Alfred College. At the age of 17 years, he entered the postal service as a messenger and was shortly afterward promoted to cadet. After several years' service as a clerk in the administrative section of the department, he was appointed a district inspector on April 1st 1914, 21 years after he entered the service. When, in September 1923, Mr. S. C. Francis (Senior Inspector for South Australia) was transferred to Brisbane, Mr. Dix succeeded him to the position, and still holds it.

As District and Senior Inspector, he has visited every official post office in South Australia and the Northern Territory. During that time, it was necessary for him to travel extensively. In 1916 he went overland from Darwin to Adelaide, proceeding on horseback for the greater part of the journey between the two railheads, Pine Creek and Oodnadatta.

Mr. Dix lives at Battams Road, Payneham. He is a member of Payneham Branch of South Australian Ancient Order of Foresters.

Years ago he played cricket, but has since relinquished that sport and now occasionally enjoys a game of tennis. He is a keen bridge enthusiast. Mr. Dix is patron of two cricket clubs connected with the Postal Institute.

There are two press obituaries for George.

After a short illness, Mr. George William Clement Lake Dix, who had been Deputy Director of Posts and Telegraphs in South Australia for a year, died at his home today. He was 63.

Mr. Dix's death occurred suddenly. Yesterday when heads of departments at the Post Office visited him at his home he was in bright spirits. He joked with the men and there was a happy gathering as they toasted their chief.

Mr. Dix had the distinction of rising from the position of clerk in the postal services to the head of the State's services. His first appointment was in 1892 when Sir Charles Todd was in charge.

Subsequently Mr. Dix went from the administration branch to the inspection branch. He became district inspector at Murray Bridge, and then came to Adelaide as Chief Inspector. Then he was Superintendent of Postal Services, and early this year Deputy Director.

Mr. Dix who was highly respected by his staff had travelled extensively through the state and had made several visits to Darwin and the Northern Territory. He was a popular Rotarian.

Early this month Mr. Dix made a long inspection trip of country services. Soon after his return he became ill and was in bed at home at Payneham for only a little more than a week before his death. His wife died a few months ago. There is a grown up family.

The second obituary was less personal.

The Deputy Director of Posts and Telegraphs (Mr G. L. Dix) died on Saturday after a short illness.

Mr. Dix was appointed Deputy Director of Postal Services early this year, and in April, coordinating officer on all matters in the State War Book dealing with emergency postal services and stores and the telegraph and wireless branches involved in any State plans.

Mr. Dix was born on August 4th 1876, and was educated at Prince Alfred College. He entered the service of the Postmaster-General as a junior clerk in 1893, during the regime of Sir Charles Todd. He was appointed clerk in the correspondence branch and then senior clerk in the inspection branch. In April 1914, Mr. Dix was appointed district postal inspector in the metropolitan area, and seven years later he given charge of the Murray Bridge postal district. On the transfer of Mr S. C. Francis to Queensland, he office of senior inspector for South Australia became vacant, and Mr. Dix made visits of inspection on the overland telegraph line to Darwin, and there is scarcely a post office in this State which he has not visited.

Mr Dix's father was an inspector in the Education Department.

Children of Jean and George

1. Isett Annie Jean Dix	Born 30-5-1901	Died 18-11-1940
2. Gwendoline Lake Dix	Born 19-9-1902	
3. Lorna Hiles Dix	Born 10-2-1904	Died 13-7-1925
4. Gordon Murray Dix	Born 23-3-1905	Died 5-7-1972
5. Walter George Dix	Born 24-5-1907	Died 23-10-1934
6. Stuart McDonald Dix	Born 16-2-1910	Died 10-7-1948
7. Audrey Isobel Dix	Born 1-10-1912	
8. Rachel Maud Dix	Born 18-7-1914	
9. Reginald John Dix	Born 29-10-1915	Died 22-6-1980

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 73 of "History of Ewen & Rachel McDonald & Descendants" by Jill McDonald which was originally published in 1985. It was republished as part of "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" in 1995.
- COLONIALISTS : Christina and Donald McLean and their ten children migrated from Argyllshire to South Australia in 1837. This was in the earliest years of the colony. The McLeans initially settled near Adelaide where they grew the first wheat crop in SA. Then in about 1840 they pioneered the Strathalbyn area. There are now well over 20,000 descendants spread across Australia and elsewhere.
- CHANGES : Please contact us with additions, corrections or suggestions about any part of this family tree.
- CONTACT : Visit our website www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.