

Walter George Ewen TUCKER^{20-2-1879 to 11-7-1941} & Mary Jane NESS & Rose PIERCY

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Walter George Ewen, known as George, was the sixth child and fifth son of Annie and John Tucker and was born at *Eldon House*. His first cousin, Sydney Victor Mott was also born that year. in New South Wales. His grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

London's first telephone exchange began operating, and the physicist Albert Einstein was born in Germany. In Australia the first Caulfield Cup was raced in Melbourne and explorer-surveyor Alexander Forrest penetrated into the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

George attended the Sandergrove and Strathalbyn primary schools before joining his father and brothers on the farm at *Lake View*. During the Boer War in South Africa, 1899 to 1902. George and his brother James with others from Strathalbyn, volunteered for the cavalry. When the men returned, a large public gathering welcomed them in the institute hall on May 1, 1902.

Eventually, George Tucker was established on a property of his own at Sandergrove and this was called *Kentucky Grange*.

On March 25, 1908 George was married to Mary Jane Ness at the home of her parents, *Glenkeith*, Finnis by the Rev. Rolfe. Known as Jinnie she was the daughter of Robert John and Elizabeth Ness, nee Turrell, and was born on November 12, 1883. Her parents are buried at Currency Creek cemetery.

George and Jinnie had a family of three daughters and three sons. The first four children attended Finnis Primary School, riding to and fro on horseback. When the fifth, Max, was ready for school their parents bought a horse-drawn vehicle and the children drove to school in Strathalbyn. Here they were able to buy the fresh bread needed to cut the daily school lunches.

Jinnie died in hospital after surgery on June 6, 1931 at the age of 47 years. She was buried in *Lake View* cemetery. Some time later George married Rose Piercy, the old friend of the family, who was assistant matron at the Presbyterian Girls' College Adelaide. In later years George had a stroke and Rose and his daughter Thelma nursed him until he died on July 11, 1941. He too was buried in *Lake View* cemetery.

At this stage George's three sons were in the armed forces, Max and George in the army and John in the air force. To help Rose and Thelma run the farm after the father's death, Max was released from service. He was in the supply and transport section of the army at Alice Springs. Fortunately for the family this was just before the Japanese bombed Darwin on February 19, 1942. Had it been after this attack he would not have been released. Max, Rose and Thelma ran the property until it was sold in March 1945.

Rose retired to the Adelaide suburb of Unley, close to her friends Lucy Rogers and her daughter Doff Isaachsen. Rose died on May 6, 1966 aged 77 years.

Children of George and Mary Jane

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| 1. | Edna Annie Tucker | Born 11-4-1909 |
| 2. | Daphne Miriam Tucker | Born 4-3-1912 |
| 3. | Thelma Eileen Tucker | Born 27-6-1913 |

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| 4. | <i>George</i> McDonald Tucker | Born 11-10-1914 |
| 5. | <i>Max</i> Stuart Tucker | Born 2-9-1917 |
| 6. | <i>John</i> Turrell Tucker | Born 5-7-1919 |

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 83 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.