

## Olive McDONALD 4-9-1892 to 8-11-1960 & Harold Domingoes McTAVISH

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Olive was the eighth child and third daughter of Flora and Joseph McDonald, and was born at Nurrabiel. Four first cousins were born that year: Florence Ivy Pearl Mott, in New South Wales; Charles William Stanley McDonald, Murray William Raggatt and Christina May McDonald, all in Victoria. Her grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

In the United States there was an earthquake in California and in Africa the first train from the Cape arrived at Johannesburg. In Australia, Sir Henry Parkes published *Fifty Years in the Making of Australian History*.

Ollie attended Nurrabiel State School and when the family moved to Mockinya she accompanied her younger brother Gordon to Dollin State School No. 2395 to keep him company on the way. After leaving school Ollie helped with farm duties. On a number of occasions she travelled with her uncle Angus McDonald through New South Wales to Queensland and for a time kept house for him in Brisbane.

On March 14, 1934 Ollie was married to Harold Domingoes McTavish at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Horsham, by the Reverend E. G. Petherick. She was given away by her oldest brother, Bill. The best man was Don Ferguson, nephew of the groom, and the bridesmaid was Mary Cozens, friend of the bride. The reception was at Cheeseman's Cecil Cafe in Firebrace Street, Horsham. Receptions were usually in the upstairs premises but to allow Ollie's elderly mother Flora to attend without having to climb the steep staircase it was held on the ground floor. Domingoes was the son of John and Helen McTavish, nee Reid, farmers of Laharum, and was born at Laharum in 1889. During World War One, in July 1915, he enlisted in the army and served in Egypt and France in the 22nd Battalion, 1st AIF. On April 18, 1917, Ming was discharged medically unfit with jaw, shoulder and knee injuries. Ming did seasonal farm work, shearing, harvesting, and stripping wattle bark in the Horsham area. For a time before his marriage he had a farm at Balranald, New South Wales.

After their marriage Ollie and Ming lived at 160 Baillie Street West, Horsham, and in other rented houses before buying their own at 35 McPherson Street, Horsham. They had no children. Ming commenced duty with the Wimmera Shire Council, as shire overseer, in February 1938. He retired in February 1957, after a period of ill health. Council minutes dated 8th February 1957 refer to his retirement.

*It was resolved that a record of appreciation of the services rendered to the Council by Mr H. D. McTavish during his 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years of service be placed on the books of the Council and a testimonial under seal of the Council be granted.*

Ollie was a good needlewoman and became a dressmaker. She was a loyal member of the Country Women's Association and the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union. Ollie died suddenly on November 8, 1960, aged 68 years and was buried in Horsham cemetery. Ming was ill at the time and for a while his sister Mrs Colina Agnew looked after him. Eventually he was admitted to Wimmera Base Hospital where he died on April 13, 1962 aged 73 years. He was buried in Horsham cemetery. A headstone marks their grave.

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 108 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](http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com) or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.