

Melbourne Charles Gwydir MOTT 18-10-1887 to 20-8-1974 & Maude Ellen MOTT, nee CLOUGH

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Melbourne Charles Gwydir was the sixth child, fifth son of Margaret and Charles Mott and was born in New South Wales. His first cousin, Norma Raggatt, was born a few weeks later in Victoria. His grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

Overseas the scientist Julian Huxley and Chiang Kai-shek were born, and Nellie Melba made her first appearance in grand opera, in Brussels.

The name Gwydir is that of a river, an aboriginal word for 'red river banks.' The Gwydir River rises in the Great Dividing Range and flows north-west through the Warialda district. Near Collarenebri it joins the Barwon River, a tributary of the Darling River.

Known as Guy, Melbourne was taught at home and when the family moved to *Springmount* he attended the Black Mountain Public School. Leaving school he assisted his father and brothers on the family property. Guy later worked a property, *Glendon* near Glen Innes, with his brothers James, Harold and Colin. Eventually he became the owner of *Glendon*, which he ran in partnership with his son Bill. *Glendon* was sold about 1980. Guy volunteered for the army during World War One but was rejected because of an old injury.

Marjory Hawken recalls that Uncle Guy always remembered to bring her a small doll to play with when the family had their Christmas gathering. He was involved in district activities and in his own words 'played cricket and football slightly'.

Guy married Maude Ellen Clough in Sydney. Maude was the daughter of Mr and Mrs Samuel Clough. Samuel Clough came from Bradford, England. He was a wool buyer and later owned a grazing property near Wagga, NSW. Maude was born on October 8, 1884 and attended school at Wagga. She became a nurse. Guy and Maude had two sons. From 1947 to 1962 Guy was a councillor on the Severn Shire, representing B riding.

Guy and Maude retired to Yamha, near the mouth of the Clarence River in northern New South Wales. Guy died at Glen Innes on August 20, 1974, aged 86 years, and was buried in Glen Innes cemetery. Maude died at Glen Innes two years later, on June 21, 1976, aged 92 years, and was buried in Glen Innes cemetery.

A newspaper report at the time of Guy's retirement has been summarised.

Former Severn Shire Councillor, Mr. M. C. G. Mott was presented with a Shires' Association Certificate of Service yesterday.

In making the presentation, the Shire President, Cr. J. Price, praised the service given by Mr. Mott during his fifteen years as a councillor, representing 'B' Riding.

Present and former Shire Councillors and officers also paid tribute to Mr. Mott's devoted attention to Council affairs and congratulated him on the recognition of his services. They included Cr. G. D. Thomas, Cr. C. Cullen, Cr. L. Donnelly, Mr. B. T. Tucker, Shire Clerk, and Mr. A. M. Bailey, Shire Engineer.

Mrs. Mott, together with relatives and friends, attended the presentation which was held yesterday afternoon in the Shire Council Chambers.

Cr. Price, in welcoming the guests, said he was particularly pleased to welcome Mrs. Mott. 'I know she has been a tower of strength to her husband during the many years he has been associated with Council's activities.' He explained that Certificates of Service are issued by the Shires' Association of New South Wales in recognition of lengthy service given freely by Councillors, the qualifying period being nine years.

Mr. Mott has served the Council for a period of 15 years, from 1947 to December 1962, when he did not seek reelection at the triennial elections. During his long service he was Shire President for five years and Deputy President on occasions.

In addition to his regular attention to affairs, Mr. Mott was Council's representative on the New England Regional Development Committee and represented Council on the North and North West Local Government Association.

Mr. Mott in reply said he found it difficult to rise to the occasion but he was pleased to return to the Chambers to see the old councillors and to meet the new ones.

He said he had not sought election to Council for what he could gain personally, but for what he could do for the council and the people of the district. Speaking to the Councillors, he said, 'You belong to the whole of the Shire, not to one riding, and it is your business to look after all the people, not merely a section.'

'Discussions at meetings were often heated but as long as councillors did not lose friendship with each other, no harm was done.'

'We might have had many rough times to get through, and although you might have a tough job ahead, I am sure you will carry out your duties and the job will be successful.'

He suggested that consideration should be given to the re-introduction of dinners at the time of the presidential elections. They were a means of bringing councillors together in friendship and that was partly the work of the president.

He thanked the past councillors for their Support during his association with Council and the staff for their co-operation.

He thanked also his wife for her support during his term on Council

Children of Guy and Maude

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| 1 | <i>John Clough Mott</i> | Born 25-6-1924 |
| 2 | <i>Charles William Mott</i> | Born 16-6-1928 |

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 127 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 learn more about your family – or about privacy and copyright.