

Hector Ewen Stuart McDONALD

Born c. 1883 to 7-1-1904

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Hector Ewen Stuart was the oldest child of Charles and Ellen McDonald, and was born at Carchap. Three first cousins were born that year, Ewen Archer Hales Raggatt also at Carchap, Lucy Hanham Tucker in South Australia and Leonard Maxwell Mott in New South Wales. His grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

In the United States the annual production of petroleum was 23,450,000 barrels, British economist John Maynard Keynes was born, and Queensland's request to annex New Guinea was refused by the British government.

Hector attended Lowan South State School No. 2984 when it opened in 1890. This school was established in a wooden building 24 feet by 12 feet leased from Hec's father, Charlie. It opened with twenty children and John Bell as head teacher. In 1894, Lowan South worked half time with Nurrabiel, and in 1895 with Carchap. Because of declining numbers it closed in 1900. It is not known where or even whether Hector went to school before 1890. The certificate of exemption from compulsory attendance, stating that Hector McDonald had been educated up to the standard of education required by the Education Act 1890, is dated the fifth day of December AD 1895 and is signed by district inspector William A. Cavanagh. Hector would have been about 12 years old when he joined his father working the family farm. Hec's sister Lou also finished her schooling that year.

During the morning of Thursday January 7, 1904 and after an illness of about ten days, young Hector died of peritonitis following a ruptured appendix, aged 20 years. Two newspaper obituaries tell something of his life and activities, and are examples of the journalistic writing of the time. One obituary appeared in the Horsham Times.

Our Noradjuha correspondent writes:

The many friends of Mr. C. S. McDonald and family, of Carchap, will regret to learn of the death of his eldest son Hector, which occurred somewhat suddenly on Thursday morning last at Nalimuk.

The deceased had been in his usual health until last Sunday week when he felt unwell and several household remedies were tried, but without the desired effect, and on Tuesday he was taken to Natimuk where Dr. Lyons pronounced the case of severe one of appendicitis, followed by peritonitis.

Dr. Barrett of Horsham was called in, but the deceased was in too low a condition to stand an operation, and died as stated on Thursday morning.

The funeral took place on Friday and, considering the busy season of the year, a large number followed the remains to the Nurrabiel Cemetery, the cortege comprising 45 vehicles and 15 horsemen. At the cemetery the members of the Noradjuha Rifle Club, of which deceased was an active and useful member, headed the procession, and the coffin was borne by Messrs. W. J. Treadwell, W. Sinclair, P. Scott, W. Scott, H. Jackman and J. A. Walter.

The service was conducted by Mr J. A. Lee of Natimuk, and Mr H. Bousfield had charge of the mortuary arrangements. The deceased, who was intelligent and trustworthy, was just developing into manhood, being 20 years of age at the time of his death and was a general favourite with all who knew him. He was his father's right hand support.

Another obituary, which has no source or date recorded, refers to a memorial service held at Carchap School on the Sunday following the funeral.

On Sunday evening last, at Carchap, a memorial service was held in memory of the late Mr. Hector McDonald and the school room was far too small to hold the large congregation.

It was decided to hold an open air meeting, the service being conducted by Mr. Lee, of Natimuk, who delivered a most pathetic and touching address. He also spoke of the necessity of living good and holy lives. The pathetic

feature of this case is that but a fortnight ago, when Mr. Lee was preaching here before, deceased was present at the service. A sad feeling rested on the large audience when Mr. Lee gave out the solemn message from the lips of deceased, which were almost the last words spoken by him, earnestly wishing his companions of Carchap to live good holy lives and meet him in the better world. Great sympathy is felt for his bereaved family in their sad loss, though it is a comfort to know that deceased passed away safe in the arms of Jesus.

Hector was buried in Nurrabiél cemetery.

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 157 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.