

Esther May McKENRY, nee McDONALD 26-12-1889 to 15-7-1975 & John Thomas McKENRY

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Esther May was the fourth child and third daughter of Charles and Ellen McDonald, and was born at Carchap the day after Christmas 1889. She was the only grandchild of Ewen and Rachel McDonald born that year. Her grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

The actor Charles Chaplin was born, the poet Robert Browning died, and in Paris the Eiffel Tower was built. In Australia the first exhibition of the Heidelberg School of impressionist painters, including Streeton, Conder, Roberts and McCubbin, was held in Melbourne.

Ess attended Carchap State School No. 2816 and, after leaving, helped on the family farm until her marriage. On April 24, 1912 at *Innisvale*, the home of her father, Esther was married to John Thomas McKenry by the Horsham Presbyterian minister, the Reverend Thomas Gray. The attendants were Joseph Henry Gordon Stevenson McKenry, brother of the groom, and Beatrice Louisa McDonald, sister of the bride. Jack was the son of Henry Louis and Janet McKenry, nee Poole, and was born in 1888 in Adelaide, South Australia. The McKenry family had migrated to Australia from Ireland but was of Scottish origin. The McKenrys are members of the Henderson clan and also claim kinship with the Morrison and Macdonald clans. In 1857 Jack's mother, Matilda McKenry, had sailed from Liverpool in the *Jessie Munn* with four sons, John, James, Joseph and Samuel, to join her husband John in Australia. The family disembarked at Geelong, Victoria. and journeyed to Bacchus Marsh where John was employed. Four more children were born in Australia: Henry, Matilda, Sarah and Annie. Henry went to Adelaide as a young man where he met and married Janet Poole. After the birth of their first two children, John Thomas and Jessie Matilda, they returned to Victoria and bought a property at Toolondo. a district adjoining Nurrabiel and Carchap. The McKenry family also operated a sawmill at Toolondo, and when Esther's aunt Flora and her husband Joseph McDonald moved from Nurrabiel to the Mockinya district in 1906 the timber for their new home was sawn at McKenry's mill.

Ess and Jack lived on his property, *Alcoe*, at Toolondo on the banks of the Barton Lake, later part of the extensive Wimmera-Mallee domestic and stock water supply. They had two sons. Ess was a keen gardener and frequently exhibited and won prizes for her blooms at local flower shows. After Ess's sister Lou married in 1930 their father Charlie continued to divide his time between them.

Jack died on May 7, 1970, aged 84 years and was buried in Horsham lawn cemetery. Ess then lived with her younger son Douglas and his wife Claire and boys in their home on the family property. Ess died on July 15, 1975 at the Wimmera Base Hospital, Horsham, aged 85 years. She is buried in Horsham lawn cemetery.

Children of Esther and John McKenry

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| 1. | Son | married - five daughters |
| 2. | John <i>Douglas</i> McKenry | Born 1-6-1916 |

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 160 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.