

Murray William RAGGATT 24-5-1892 to 2-4-1982 & Ruby Isabel Moore RAGGATT, nee HYSLOP

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Murray William was the ninth child, third son of Mary and Bill Raggatt and was born at Carchap. As was the case with his brother Angus, four first cousins were also born in 1892: Olive McDonald at Nurrabiel; Florence Ivy Pearl Mott at Gunjerwarildi, New South Wales, C.W.S. McDonald at Noradjuha; and Christina May McDonald at Polkammel. His grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

Current events in Australia include the first match of the Sheffield Shield cricket competition between New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Murray attended Carchap State School where he gained a book prize *'for general proficiency'* from the teacher, D. Birss. In 1900 he was awarded a book from the West Wail Union Sunday School, 'a reward of merit.' On leaving school Murray helped with general farm duties for his father and Uncle Jack McDonald at Polkemmet, often working on the threshing machine or at a local sawmill. During the drought of 1914 he left the Wimmera to work as a boundary rider for his Uncle Angus McDonald who had a sheep property called *Ewendale* at Ilfracombe near Longreach in Queensland.

About a year later, in the early stages of World War One, Murray wrote to his mother asking permission to join the army. He was over the age of 21 and did not need parental consent but he had always been close to his mother and wanted her blessing. Mary gave her permission and Murray travelled straight to Melbourne to enlist. In January 1919, as Number 11744, Private M. W. Raggatt, he sailed for Egypt in the troopship *Themisrocles* and became part of the 50th Battery, Australian Field Artillery, 13th Brigade, 5th Division.

As Corporal Raggatt he was in charge of Number 4 gun on Anzac Ridge at Ypres, known to the Allied troops as 'Wipers'. It is a Belgian town in West Flanders, twenty-five miles south of the coastal town of Ostend.

Murray was among those who suffered the effects of the German poison gas shells and he was hospitalised in France. He was transferred to a military hospital in England where he developed pleurisy. He had been in England three months when the Americans took charge of the hospital and he was declared 'in the pink,' discharged and sent back to action in France. Later, when he was slightly wounded, he was 'bound up and sent back to war.' The war's end found him at the Hindenburg Line which had been the enemy's last strong defence, about fifty miles west of Amiens.

Returning to Australia, Murray's first job after his army discharge was shearing at the shed of Uncle Joseph McDonald, Glencoe, Mockinya. In 1921 he took up a soldier settlement block at Warranooke, part of a big property near Stawell, and so he achieved his great ambition — to plough some land of his own.

On October 11, 1924 Murray was married to Ruby Isabel Moore Hyslop at the home of a relative, Mrs Isabella McRobert, of Auburn, Melbourne. by the Reverend Davies. Ruby was the daughter of Robert and Jean Hyslop, nee Gerrard, of Campbells Bridge, and was born on October 18, 1889. Robert Hyslop had emigrated from Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, between 1860 and 1870. He was an astute man and soon acquired grazing land which he tended while continuing his employment as maintenance engineer in a gold mine at Stawell, ten miles distant. The name Hyslop is mentioned as a pioneer family in the Campbells Bridge area in the book by C. E. Sayers, *Shepherd's Gold — The Story of Slawell*. Ruby attended Campbell's Bridge State School Number 2581, and later qualified as a teacher after completing her student teacher training in Stawell. Subsequently she taught at Tallangatta and Brunswick state schools, but her first school was also her last, Campbells Bridge, from where she

left to be married. She was a talented artist in water-colours and oils, and her family is pleased to possess some of her work. Murray and Ruby had three sons.

In 1950 after seeing twenty-seven of the original twenty-nine settlers depart for a variety of reasons, Murray too sold his block and purchased the present family holding nearer to Marnoo, three miles distant from his soldier settlement block. This is a wheat and sheep-fattening property of 1,300 acres named *Koonda*, now run by his youngest son Brian. After Brian's marriage in 1958, Murray and Ruby moved to the neighbouring town of Stawell where they lived at 35 Campbell Street. In October 1976, Ruby broke her leg and was taken to Ballarat Base Hospital where she died on November 7, aged 87 years. She was buried in Stawell cemetery. Murray lived alone for a short time before becoming a boarder at the Lutheran Rest Home in Horsham. From there he moved to the Wimmera Base Hospital's geriatric unit for a few years before being transferred to Murtoa Hospital. Here he was close to his son Brian and family. Murray died at Murtoa on April 2, 1982, aged 89 years, and was buried in Stawell cemetery with his wife Ruby. A headstone marks their grave.

Children of Murray and Ruby :-

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| 1. Philip Murray Raggatt | Born 20-11-1925 |
| 2. Stuart Reginald Raggatt | Born 17-3-1927 |
| 3. Brian Campbell Raggatt | Born 1-2-1934 |

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 184 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.