

Norman Charles Stewart DONALDSON 15-7-1904 — & Joan Griffin DONALDSON, nee SINCLAIR

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Norman Charles Stewart is the fourth child and second son of Rachel Jane and John Donaldson, and was born at *Pine Hills*. Of all the grandchildren of Ewen and Rachel McDonald, he was the second last to be born, a year before his grandfather died. His great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

Overseas, Theodore Roosevelt was voted President of the USA, Rolls Royce was founded, the British author Graham Greene and actress Marlene Dietrich were born. In Australia the first federal Labor ministry took office under Prime Minister J. C. Watson, and the Australian Open golf championship was first played.

Norman was educated at home by governess until the family moved to Armidale following the death of his father. He attended Armidale Public School and then, when his mother moved to Sydney, Wychebury Preparatory School and Scots College where he gained his intermediate certificate. Leaving school he worked as a jackaroo at Dubbo, New South Wales. *Nonda Downs*, Queensland, and Berwick, New South Wales. He joined his brother Ian on *Kunkullu* from 1927 to 1932. During World War Two, Norman joined the AIF and was stationed at Manlon Dam, Darwin, Northern Territory; Timber Creek, Victoria River, Northern Territory; and Wyndham, Western Australia.

On March 1, 1944 at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Rose Bay, Sydney, Norman was married to Joan Griffin Sinclair by the Reverend T. McDougal. Joan is the daughter of William John and Lizzie May Sinclair, nee Robson. William Sinclair served in the Royal Navy and became a naval school-master, instructing twelve-year-old sea cadets in the days of sailing ships and then steam vessels. Joan was born on January 29, 1916 and attended Sydney Church of England Girls Grammar School at Darlinghurst where she gained her intermediate certificate. Leaving school, she commenced her nurse's training at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Sydney, and was there from 1934 to 1938. After passing her final examinations Joan was invited to stay on the hospital's staff. Later, during twelve months' leave of absence, she did a Tresillian, infant welfare, course. On completion, she married but remained nursing for one more year.

Following Norman's discharge from the army, they settled on a property called *Rocky Springs*, 1350 acres near Uranquinty, New South Wales. They have a daughter and two sons. Norman later purchased a nearby property, *Netherby*, of 916 acres and with his sons he runs cattle and sheep, fat lambs, and grows mostly wheat plus some oats.

Norman and Joan attended the Presbyterian church in Uranquinty. Before the church was built, when services were held in the Lutheran church, Norman was secretary of a Presbyterian church committee, which raised funds for a church building. He was also secretary of the Yarragundry Bushfire Brigade. Joan and Norman have played tennis over the years but are now content to watch.

In 1978, Norman and Joan retired to 19 Marns Street, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, leaving their sons to run the property. Joan enjoys looking after her grandchildren while mothers shop, and Ian and Stuart call to take Norman to sheep and cattle sales.

Children of Norman and Joan :-

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| 1. <i>Suzanne</i> Joan Donaldson | Born 12-4-1946 |
| 2. <i>Stuart</i> Sinclair Donaldson | Born 4-10-1949 |
| 3. <i>Ian</i> Malcolm Donaldson | Born 5-5-1951 |

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 225 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.