

# Allan (junior) McLEAN & Sarah McLEAN, nee THOMPSON

Biography as published in 1995

**ALLAN McLEAN** (junior) born 11/11/1857 at "Meadow Bank". Strathalbyn

Parents : Catherine (nee Dawson) & Allan McLean

Grandparents : Jane (nee Hamilton) & James Dawson and Christina (nee McPhee) and Donald McLean.

In 1878 when his parents departed for the north he was "of Collinsfield" doing farm work and he was also afterwards at "Burnside" the property adjoining "Meadow Bank". His marriage certificate said "Collinsfield".

**MARRIAGE:** on 6/11/1878 to **Sarah Thompson** (b. 1861) daughter of George J. and Catherine Thompson at her mother's residence Alfred Place, Strathalbyn. The witnesses were Sarah's sister Mary Thompson and Samuel Bates. Sarah was aged 17 when she married and Allan was 21.

Sarah's father George had departed for parts unknown and was heard of no more. Her mother appeared in Directories as "dressmaker". By 1884 the family was at Bordertown as a son Sinclair was born there, but two years later they were again at Strathalbyn as the youngest and 4<sup>th</sup> child Eva was born 1886 at Strathalbyn. (Registration record).

In 1892 Allan joined the Maintenance Branch of the SA. Railways and soon after was stationed at Coonalpyn. He later moved to Bordertown and Benalla, still with the railways, before being in charge of relay and other works between Taillem Bend and Serviceton, S.A.. He was also employed on both the Kingston, south-east and Victor Harbor lines, the latter passing through Strathalbyn where his family was domiciled and where his children attended school. For some years he was a ganger stationed at Mt Barker and it was from there that he retired in 1927

Sarah was an expert needlewoman and an excellent cook. She and Allan were ardent card players and sang beautifully together unaccompanied, as grand-daughters Jean Stoba and Audrey Hickey recalled from holidays with them at the railway cottage at Benalla.

Allan was away from home much of the time due to his work and was engaged on the relaying of the railway line to Melbourne which had opened in 1887 and was obliged to "live rough" and sleep in a tent in the mallee scrub. Sarah was nervous as frequently tramps came by "humping the bluey" and stopped to demand food and water. Also there were Afghan hawkers who travelled in horse drawn wagons stocked with clothing, materials and small useful articles items for sale, convenient for the women so far from shops, out they added to their nervousness.

From Mt Barker Allan and Sarah retired to McDonnell Avenue. Hindmarsh, near the city. the house where Allan died.

**DEATHS:** Allan aged 72 on 20/3/1930 - Sarah on 6/8/1937 aged 76 at the residence of son Sinclair, at Tarragon St. Mile End Both were interred at West Terrace Cemetery (Barker 5-39W).

Allan & Sarah had 4 children :-

- (1) Laurence Albert Allan McLean born 24/12/1878 at Strathalbyn. Married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Hannah Heron.  
See biographies 5019.

- (2) George (Robert) McLean born 29/10/1880 at Strathalbyn - Married Adelaide Thompson at Mt Barker in 1913. See biographies 5020.
- (3) Sinclair James McLean born 25/2/1884 at Bordertown, SA, Married: Stella Vincombe Matthews (b. 28/8/1887, Apsley, Victoria) daughter of George and Ellen Matthews. They had 5 children – Dora, Jean, Ronald, Neil & Malcolm. Occupation: Motor Man with the Metropolitan Tramways Trust. Residence: 53 Tarragon St. Mile End, S.A. Deaths: Stella McLean on 8/8/1951 aged 63 years. Sinclair on 23/3/1972 aged 88 years.
- (4) Eva McLean - Born 23/2/1886 at Strathalbyn S.A. Married twice – to Albert William Sturtzel and James Thomas P. Congdon. See biographies 5023.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 86 to 94.
- 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](http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com) or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.