

# Eva STURTZEL & CONDON, nee McLEAN & Albert William STURTZEL & James Thomas CONGDON

Biography as published in 1995

Eva was born 23/2/1886 at Strathalbyn S.A. - the youngest child of Allan (junior) and his wife Sarah (nee Thompson) McLean.

Parents : Sarah (nee Thompson) & Allan (jnr) McLean

Grandparents : Catherine (nee Dawson) & Allan (snr) McLean

G-Grandparents : Jane (nee Hamilton) & James Dawson and Christina (nee Phee) and Donald McLean

Married twice

1st Marriage: at the Congregational Church, Bordenown, S.A. - Albert William Sturtzel (b. 20/6/1882 at Mt Gambier) and who died aged 43 years on 5/2/1926 at Adelaide.

2nd Marriage: James Thomas P. Congdon at the Registry Office, Adelaide. James T.P. Congdon of Blackwood. S.A died 1961. He was a rose grower and for 19 years S.A.R. Manager, Adelaide

History: Eva's first husband (A. W. Sturtzel) was in business at Bordertown as a Tobacconist and Hairdresser. She met him when her father was based there with the Railways. They moved to Adelaide in 1912 with one child, Audrey aged 5. They had a shop in Waymouth Street, Adelaide with a two storey dwelling where they lived. Two sons were born later. The shops and buildings are long gone, only the "Advertiser" newspaper building remains and that was rebuilt and modernised. Eva with Audrey would walk down some nights to see the presses start rolling at 8 o'clock. These were in the basement and had windows onto the footpath and a lot of people would gather to watch.

Another of their expeditions was to the Fire Station in Wakefield St. where each night at a certain time an alarm sounded, bells rang, harnesses dropped down from overhead onto the horses, firemen buckled them up then grabbed their heavy brass helmets, swung aboard, and off went the horses at a mad gallop, but only around the block as a practise. People found it a very exciting entertainment.

Eva's last suburban address was at Blackwood in the Adelaide Hills, but much earlier in 1913 her husband built them a house at Filsell St. Thebanon, close to the city and his business. As shown above she remarried in 1932 and became Mrs Congdon. Eva featured in an article (with photo) in the then afternoon newspaper "The News" dated 26/2/1988. There was a headline "Swinging Eva 102, hooked on Walkman Radio" which was a birthday gift that week. It stated that she was a former classical piano and violin teacher. Amongst anecdotes of her childhood at Strathalbyn was one concerning a brother who had played truant, shot a kangaroo, and back at school locked his teacher out of the classroom where he skinned and cooked his trophy. This was Laurence the eldest brother.

On the day of the Strathalbyn re-union of McLeans (and at other locations) Eva was to unveil a plaque to the first wheat crop grown at Hilton by the McLeans in 1838 (on March 18th 1988 - the 150th anniversary). This is only a synopsis of the newspaper article.

**Death:** of Eva on 28/6/1988 in her 103rd year at the Warwick Nursing Home, Unley, S.A.  
She was cremated at Centennial Park

**CHILDREN:-**

1. Audrey May Sturtzel born 12/1/1907 at Bordertown, S.A. Married Thomas Michael Hickey. [See biography 5024](#)
2. Albert (Maxwell) Sturtzel - Born 10/3/1914, Thebarton, S.A. Married: Gloria (Nancy) Way (b. 10/9/1919). [See biography 5025.](#)
3. Jeffrey Sturtzel born 21/8/1919 at Thebarton, S.A Occupation: Railway employee. Unmarried. Resided with his mother and step-father at Blackwood. Died: aged 54 years at Adelaide on 23/2/1973.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 91 to 93.
- 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.