

Beatrice Mary WARNER, nee STURGEON & Thomas WARNER

Biography as published in 1995

Beatrice Mary Sturgeon, born 10/2/1874 at Strathalbyn, S.A

Parents : Christina Sturgeon (nee McLean) & George Harvey Sturgeon

Grandparents : Mary McLean (nee Stacey) & John McLean

G-Grandparents : Christine McLean (nee McPhee & Donald McLean

MARRIAGE: to Thomas Warner (b. 15/B/1864, at Willunga, S.A. son of Joseph and Elizabeth Warner), at the residence of her father, George Henry Sturgeon, Kaniva, Vic, by licence and according to the rites of the Bible Christian Church, the Rev. Richard Down officiating. The witnesses were Richard Jones and Elizabeth Jane Wamer. The bride was aged 19 and the bridegroom 28, the wedding photo was taken at Stawell.

HISTORY: They farmed at Lawloit until 1912 when they moved to a property at Winiam. It was in the old house there (photo supplied) that her mother, Christina, died in 1930. A more modern one was built to replace it.

Thomas Warner was the eldest of 11 children, who came with their parents from Willunga, S.A. to Lawloit, Vic. in 1883, and in his 20th year at this time. A lot of the work in clearing the land fell to him. He also selected land for himself in the Lawloit district, so was regarded as one of the earliest pioneers there. The Winiam property was originally called "Dow Well", then as the family homestead, "Fairview" and finally as "Belvedere" when the new house was built.

Beatrice, the writer of the account of her parents and early days at Lawloit, was according her grand-daughter, very hard working, a great lover of gardening - making the large one which surrounded the new house at Winiam. One morning she was picking vegetables for the Winiam Show, and began dropping silver beet she was picking. This was the onset of a massive stroke, from which she died 2 hours later. Until then her health had been excellent. She was a good business woman, helping a lot in that pan of the farm and ensuring that all her family of 3 sons and 3 daughters were well educated.

DEATH: Beatrice Warner on 14/5/1941, aged 67 years, at Winiam, Vic. interred at Nhill, Vic.

Her husband, Thomas Warner, is remembered as a frail little man in his 70's. He always had plenty of advice for his sons on how to run the farm, which was worked by his sons Harvey and Leslie.

DEATH: of Thomas Warner on 19/5/1948, aged 83 years, at the Nhill Hospital. interred at Nhill.

CHILDREN OF BEATRICE and THOMAS WARNER:

1. Beryl Salome Warner, born 17/12/1893 at Lawloit, Vic. Married Milton Robert McIntosh. [See biographies 5057](#)
2. Joseph (Harvey) Warner, born 15/6/1895, Lawloit, Vic. Marriage to Florence Rebecca Bailey. [See biographies 5059](#)
3. Sylvia Mary Warner, born 29/5/1897 at Lawloit, Victoria. Unmarried. Remained on the family farms, from Lawloit to Winiam 1912 to "Fairview". later called "Belvedere" perhaps a family memory of the adjoining area to Angas Plains and the McLean farm. She took a large part in the upbringing of her motherless niece Jean Warner (Mrs Banning) from Jean's infancy. Death: Sylvia Mary Warner died aged 79 years at Nhill on 13/9/1976 and was buried there.

4. Percy Oliver Warner born 19/7/1899 at Lawloit, Vic. Married: at Nhill, Alice Jean Rogers (b. Dalby, Queensland, 21/8/1911). Percy was aged 12 when the move to Winiam was made. He had a great love of horses and was the last in the Nhill district to give up a draught horse team. Alice, his wife, was greatly supportive on their farm and was also very active in community affairs. They had four children. Deaths: Alice Warner died at Nhill on 3/2/1976 aged 64. interred at Nhill. Percy Warner died 30/8/1980 aged 81. Also interred at Nhill Cemetery. Children – Kevin, Lorraine, Elaine & Graeme.
5. Elsie Louisa Warner born 10/3/1903 at Lawloit, Vic. Married: Rev. Samuel (Christopher) Wilcock. Married: Rev. Samuel (Christopher) Wilcock. See separate biographies. He was born in England and arrived in Australia at the age of 20. No children. History: After education at Lawloit and Winiam and Melbourne High School, she matriculated to become a teacher for 19 years, at Preston, Stawell, Mt Mercer, Bulwarra, Horsham, Lake Boga, Beaufort and Warburton. During these years she won prizes for her fine crochet work at shows including the Royal Melbourne. She married at 40. Christopher was a home missionary and Elsie helped him to become an ordained Methodist minister. Their Victorian Parishes included Beach Forest, Coleraine, Timboon, Mitiamo, Jeparit, Moe, Balaclava, Elsternwick, Brunswick, Ballarat, Murumbeena and Glenhuntly. Both were excellent artists and musical, his baritone voice being particularly good. They travelled overseas extensively and visited his people in the U.K. Death: of Christopher Wilcock on 23/10/1972 aged 60 years interred at Springvale, Melbourne. A tribute paid by the Rev. Sir G. Irving Benson (in brief). This was at the funeral service at the Murrumbeena Methodist Church. Christopher was born at Castleford, Yorkshire, a quiet country town dating back to the Roman occupation. As a child he lived at Barton by the Humber River with its Saxon church amongst beech trees. He was an Evangelist in and out of the pulpit. He served at a dozen Victorian churches, Ballarat and Oakleigh, finally. The remainder of the tribute (2 pages) concerned religious matters. During the three years following, Elsie grew orchids for charity, but ill health forced her to enter nursing homes. She died on 14/11/1989 aged 87 years at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Ballarat. interred at Springvale, Melbourne.
6. Leslie Herbert Warner - born 16/1/1906 at Lawloit, He was aged 6 when the family moved to Winiam near Nhill in 1912, so his education was there. Marriage: at the age of 41 was to Ella Florence Clark (b. 10/5/1908). History: Leslie and his brother Harvey worked two properties together, growing cereals and farming sheep until Leslie's son Melvyn joined him. The property was sold in 1976 and Leslie moved to Nhill with Ella, in retirement. Death: of Ella on 19/12/1985 at Nhill. Leslie is still living (1994) aged 88 and is the only surviving member of the Winiam cricket club (he had also played football for that town). He lives alone at Nhill, caring for himself, at this time of writing. Children – Melvyn & Neil.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 275 to 283.
- 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.