

Agnes Jane CHAPLIN, nee McLEAN & Thomas CHAPLIN

Biography as published in 1995

AGNES JANE McLEAN born 20/7/1850, at Strathalbyn, S.A. 3rd child of the 16 children of John McLean and his two marriages.

Parents : Mary McLean (nee Stacey) & John McLean

Grandparents : Christine McLean (nee McPhee & Donald McLean)

MARRIED: Thomas Chaplin (bom near Flagstaff Hill, S.A.) on 8/11/1876 at the family residence "Waterloo", Angas Plains S.A. The witnesses were Annie Chaplin, sister of Thomas Chaplin and D.H. McLean. brother of the bride. The original house name of "Waterloo Plains" was at the time still in use for registrations.

DEATH: of Agnes Jane Chaplin following childbirth at the age of 29 years at "Waterloo Plains" on 23/8/1879. She was buried at the Strathalbyn Cemetery. A son survived but the twins whose birth took her life did not.

CHILDREN:

1. **John Herbert (or "Herbit") Thomas Sinclair Chaplin** b. 11/6/1877. See biographies 5062.4
2. A still-born son (unnamed) buried at Strathalbyn 12/8/1879.
3. **Alfred J. Chaplin** buried at Strathalbyn aged four and a half months, December 1879.

SOME HISTORY: According to the S.A. Roman Catholic Archives, Thomas Chaplin was born 23/1/1853 and not in 1848 as the printed record indicates, his parents being Thomas and Mary (nee Coleman) Chaplin.

DEATH: of Thomas 21/8/1940 aged 87 years, buried at the Willunga Cemetery. The descendants from the only surviving child John Herbert Thomas Sinclair ("Sincu|ar" at the registration) Chaplin. He was incorrectly named in the Will of his grandfather John McLean of "Waterloo Plains" as Albert and left 50 pounds (\$100) in 1903. "Herbit" as he is recorded married Blanche Clarissa May Cook (b. 1883) in 1903.

The following article appeared in the "Southern Argus", Strathalbyn dated 11/8/1929:-

"Mr Thomas Chaplin of Nangkita, who recently celebrated his 81st birthday was born at Marion, and his home stood near the old Flagstaff Mill. When quite young his parents moved to Morphett Vale, where he received his early education, at Miss Daniel's Private School. He remembers the Scotch Church at Morphett Vale being burnt down, also the moving of the old flour mill, known as Andersons.

He started to earn his own living very young and when only eleven years of age took a team of bullocks with a load of wine from Morphett Vale to Adelaide, down Tapleys Hill. About this time his father went away with a man named Taylor, to work at Mosquito Plains near Naracoorte, and they heard from him several times, then the gold rush broke out and he was supposed to have gone to Melbourne, but they never heard of him again.

The family moved nearer to Adelaide, and he went with other teamsters wheat carting from Undilla to Gawler, their camping place for the bullocks was where Tarlee township now stands. Later he came back to Wateno Plains, near Strathalbyn to work for Mr John McLean, and from there he went to station hand to Mr Allan McFarlane, at Wellington Lodge.

Mr McFarlane named him 'Young Australian' and with a horse named 'Gan'ie', he was usually sent round the station to run in stock, and being a good horseman and able to use the stockwhip, he had many a good gallop. Later he went up the Murray and crossed over where the bridge now stands, but had to swim the horses over - the river being too high for the punt. Tom and Will Raggatt, from Strathalbyn, were often with him.

On another occasion he went mustering some store cattle at Doctors Creek with six other young fellows four of whom were named Tom, namely Tom Graham, Tom Raggatt, Tom Ryan, Tom Hamson and Jack Phillips and Bill Cotton. These cattle were very wild, and they had some difficulty in getting them into the sale yards at the Robin Hood Hotel yards. The auctioneer, the late Mr James Close, was in the yard pointing out one particularly fine bullock to a prospective buyer, the late Mr William Maidment, when someone called to them look out'. Just as a bull charged, the auctioneer quickly threw down his high hat and he and the buyer got out. The others all following straight into High Street one rushed into the chemist shop (then owned by Mr Miller), turned round and charged out. There was some excitement until they were safely yarded.

Somewhere about this time he went to night school, kept by Mr Noye, who helped quite a number of young men to better their education. For several years he worked for the late Mr William Richardson 'Dalveen' and through him went to work for Messrs W and H Dunn, at Pekina Extension between Orroroo and Booleroo Centre. He claims to be the first man to use a binder in that district, people coming from many miles to see the machine at work, and was like a show at times. Some farmers could not agree as to the capabilities of both machine and man and they wrote to Mr Richardson for advice, but by the time they received a reply their crops were too ripe to be cut with the binder.

He remembers going to Mannarie Station when the country was first opened up, it then took three days to go from Adelaide to Jamestown, and the roads were terrible. On one occasion when he was travelling by coach between Clare and Georgetown, the only lady passenger on board started to cry, and when asked the reason said that she couldn't sit on the seat and hold her baby, so this young man put aside his bashfulness and nursed the baby for the remainder of the rough journey. There was plenty of shooting to be had on these trips, wild turkeys being very plentiful, and many a shot be had off the old coach.

One shearing season he went with a lot of other young fellows to Fowlers Bay and Point Brown, expecting to make a good cheque. The trip took them over a week and when they had been shearing ten days the musterers came in with word that all the sheep were dead, and no likelihood of boat for three weeks. There was some swearing among the men, and they had several meetings to try and arrange a way of returning to Streaky Bay some throwing away their clothes and packs, intending to tackle the Miliuipie desert, when news came that a boat was in, then there was a scramble for cast off packs, etc some being so afraid of missing the boat that they wouldn't stay for dinner.

Some years after this he came back to Strathalbyn, and he was working for farmers around Angas Plains and later for Sir Lancelot Stirling. both at the Lodge and Highland Valley, also for Mr John McCullum. 'Angas Bank'. He was for some time Manager for Mr James McCord and still holds references from several of these gentlemen.

His first wife was Agnes, the third daughter of the late Mr John McLean, who died some years after the marnage, leaving him with a son, three years old who died in Ade/aide Hospital of pneumonic influenza in 1917. His second wife, who is still living, was Miss Virtue Hailstone, Sheoak Hills.

Mr Chaplin came to Nangkita over forty years ago and has resided here ever since. For some years he was butchering and dealing, and later took up gardening and daiying, until recently he had a greengrocers business at Currency Creek and Goolwa. He is still hale and hearty and able even now to do a fair day's work." Concluding "Southern Argus" report.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 286 to 290.
- 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.