

# Alfred Parker McLEAN & Lola McLEAN, nee BLACKMAN

Biography as published in 1995

**Alfred Parker McLean**, born 5/5/1920 at Strathalbyn.

Parents : Olivia Mary McLean (nee Parker) & Edwin James McLean

Grandparents : Mary McLean (nee Stacey) & John McLean

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

Alf attended Angas Plains School and Strathalbyn High School, joining the S.A. Police Force in 1938. Now Dip. Local Govt. J.P.

He entered into police training at the Police Depot, Port Adelaide, and Police Barracks, Thebarton, being sworn in at 21 years and posted to Naracoorte, thence to Mount Gambier, Adelaide, Thebarton Police Station, Kingoonya and Cowell - as well as relieving in many country and suburban stations.

Kingoonya was an interesting experience in opening a new Police Station, about 400 miles from Adelaide, with district extending beyond Coober Pedy.

After marrying Miss Lola Blackman, of Ararat, in 1953, they were transferred to Cowell. In 1956 he was involved in the single handed arrest of an armed offender, who was threatening to shoot him. He was awarded a Police Commissioners Commendation for "displaying unusual physical courage and exceptional tact when arresting the armed offender".

Later in 1956, Alf resigned from the Police Force on being appointed District Clerk of the District Council of Franklin Harbour, having in 1955 been appointed Secretary of the Cowell District Hospital, Inc. In these appointments he was greatly assisted by his wife, Lola, who was a registered triple-certificated nurse.

In 1974 he became Chief Executive Officer of the Glenelg District Community Hospital, Inc., until he retired in 1985.

In 1988 he was invited back to Cowell by the District Council to perform the official opening of the new District Council Chambers, located in the former National Bank Building. In this year he also organized the McLean Reunion, with the unveiling of a plaque at Marlestone commemorating the growing of the 1838 wheat crop.

He has been responsible for the preparation of the total manuscript of this publication, with the assistance of his wife, Lola, and local historian, Miss Margaret Stevenson. Margaret had previously completed the history of Dr John Rankine and his brothers who founded Strathalbyn. Owing to the McLean involvement with the Rankines, she became interested in Donald and Christina's history, and has worked painstakingly to prepare this history. She has been of immense help in this enterprise. Mrs Candy Scown, of Strathalbyn, has been the word processor for most of the manuscript. The generous help of Mrs Jill McDonald, author of "History of Ewen and Rachel McDonald and Descendants" (Rachel being a sister of John McLean) is also acknowledged.

Married: Miss Lola Blackman, of Ararat, Vic, born 1/11/1923.

Residence: Alf and Lola now live in retirement at 12 Harriet Street, Strathalbyn.

Being a retired Nursing Sister, Lola now helps the elderly and assists in distributing "Meals on Wheels".

Three children – Fiona, Lachlan & James

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 326 & 327.
- 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.