

Ellen Elizabeth LAVERY, nee McLEAN & Patrick LAVERY

Biography as published in 1995

Ellen Elizabeth McLean - born 14/12/1881 at Minyip, Vic.

Parents : Maria Elizabeth McLean (nee Kruger) & Charles Soward McLean

Grandparents : Anna Soward McLean (nee Janeway) & Archibald McLean

G-Grandparents : Christina McLean (nee McPhee) & Donald McLean

Marriage: at St. James Baptist Church, Beulah. Victoria - with the consent of her father to Patrick Lavery (aged 37) - (Ellen aged 24). The Rev. James Ewart officiated. Of the 2 witnesses only Robert Johnstone's name can be deciphered on the certificate. Patrick Lavery was b. 27/4/1869 at Sandford, Victoria to Hugh Lavery (blacksmith aged 26) and his wife Mary Jane (nee Smith) aged 20. Hugh was from Annagh, Northern Ireland and Mary Jane from Monaghan, Ireland. Patrick was a farmer and Ellen a domestic and both were of Beulah.

Residence: Sheep Hills, Ouyen, Vic., after their marriage. Patrick became a foreman with the Victorian State Rivers Department.

Deaths:

Ellen in her 33rd year on 6/9/1914, leaving 2 children.

Patrick Lavery died aged 74 years on 7/12/1943. As can be seen dates and ages at marriage and death often do not "add up". The birth certificate of Patrick on 1869 (parents married 1868) and his 1906 marriage are an exception and correct. He was 12 years older than Ellen.

On the death of Ellen, Barney (7) and Hugh (4) went to live with their grandparents Soward and Maria McLean who reared the boys along with their own 12. Maria was a wonderful person and a fantastic cook, the oven was full at all times. Patrick Lavery married again and did not have a close association with the boys until they were grown up. Barney went to live with him at Ouyen during the Depression, but Hugh went on to further his studies and became a school teacher.

Kongorong was very wet when the boys were small, as very few drains were dug to clear the water. In many places one could row a boat. The two boys rode a horse to school as did many of the students. Grandfather Soward warned the boys that they must not ride the shon cut through the Swamp during Winter because if they fell off it was deep enough to drown them. They were late one night and rather than get a hiding for being late they swam the horse through the Swamp and water was up to the horse's back. The boys only got the bottoms of their pants wet and thought Grandfather would not notice, but they forgot to rub down the horse. They couldn't sit down for a week....

CHILDREN:

1. Soward (Barney) Lavery b. 3/9/1907, Ouyen, Vic. Married: Alice Francis Marion Brown, b. 27/2/1896, therefore 9 years senior to Barney. Residence: Ouyen. Vic. His occupation: Earth Mover. It was said of Barney that he never went anywhere if he couldn't take a short cut! Their only child was born when Alice was aged 40. Deaths: Barney aged 58 years on 6/6/1958. Alice died 14/4/1968 aged 92 years. One child - Marion (b. 8/12/1936 at Ouyen. Vic).
2. Hugh Lavery b. 10/2/1910 - Married: Ivy (Doreen) Chapman (b. 24/9/1911). Her occupation: School teacher. Earlier residence: Blackwood, S.A. then to Seaton. In 1994 no longer shown in the phone book. Children - Ellen (b. 9/10/1933) & Christopher (b 3/10/1934).