

Robert Tannahill McLEAN & Sophia Henrietta McLEAN, nee SOMMER

Biography as published in 1995

ROBERT TANNAHILL McLEAN born 29/1/1865 at Strathalbyn.

Parents : Margaret McLean (nee Tannahill) & Hugh (the younger) McLean

Grandparents : Christina McLean (nee McPhee) & Donald McLean

OCCUPATION: Butcher of Strathalbyn from the early 1900s, as shown in Directories, at High Street. Prior to that he had the licence of the Callington Hotel for a short period.

MARRIAGE: Date not found but c. 1900 to **Sophia Henrietta Somers** of Langhorne Creek. She had sisters in the area (also married) but her parents have not been traced. *[Note that, in December 2016 information provided by Susan Nicholls gave the marriage date as 2nd Sept 1890, Sophia's surname spelt as SOMMER, and her parents as Frederick August Louis SOMMER and Mary Ann WATT or WHITFIELD]*

Robert was still butchering in 1929 when his younger brother Hugh died (& attended Hugh's inquest), but died 2 years later. Following Robert's death, Sophia lived with her only daughter Mrs Melba Potts at Langhorne Creek. Her grand-daughter recalls that Sophia was a very quiet person who did not talk of her earlier life or of her family, so nothing remains to record. She was hospitalized at Adelaide as Robert had been & she died there in January 1956.

DEATHS: Robert Tannahill McLean at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in February 1931. He was buried at the West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide on 13/2/1931 aged 62 years. Sophia his wife was also Buried at West Terrace, on 15/1/1956 aged about 86 years. They left 3 children.

CHILDREN:

1. Hughie Milne McLean born about 1903 - registration not found. He became a metal presser at an Adelaide foundry 8- by 1934 was living at 174 Young Street, Parkside, SA. (near Adelaide). By 1952 when his niece Florence Potts boarded with him & his wife, so that she could attend high school at Adelaide to do her Leaving Honours year, the family was of 29 Dunks St. Parkside. From Electoral Rolls Hughie's wife's Christian names were Jessie Pricilla (surname not known). Both were still there in 1963. They had 2 children. Death dates not traced. Two children – 1963 & unknown date.
2. Robert (Napier) McLean b. 9/3/1905 at Strathalbyn. Married to Mary Florence Collins. See separate biographies 5213.
3. Melba Agnes McLean b. 23/9/1907 at Strathalbyn. Married: at St. Andrew's Presbyterian (now Uniting) Church, Strathalbyn, Frederick Stanley (Fred) Potts (b. 11/10/1906 at Langhorne Creek), son of Louis Potts, and a member of the Potts family of the well known Bleasdale Winery. Residence: Lot 61, Langhorne Creek. His occupation: Labourer. Death: of Melba Potts on 10/9/1985, two weeks prior to her 78th birthday. interred at Langhorne Creek Cemetery. Death: of her husband Fred Potts aged 87 years on 9/8/1994. interred with his wife Langhorne Creek Cemetery. Two children – 1929& 1936 – both born at Langhorne Creek.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 546 & 547.
- 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.