

Myrtle Annie CARLESS, nee JOHNSTON & Frederick Clive CARLESS

Biography as published in 1995

Myrtle Annie Johnston born 9/5/1901 at Star St. Mt Malcolm, W.A.

Parents : Elizabeth Ann Johnston (nee McLEAN) & Matthew Johnston

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

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

Marriage: at the Methodist Church, Victoria Park, Perth, W.A. (at the age of 31 years) to **Frederick Clive Carless** (b. 1903, Birmingham, England).

History: She was one of the seven surviving children of Elizabeth & Matthew Johnston, & although life was not always easy for the family, she spoke with fond memories of the Goldfields where she was raised, and of happy holiday times at Mosman Park & Cottesloe and enjoyed her later visits to Kalgoortie when visiting her daughter Hazel & her family.

Later the family moved to the city of Welshpool. During her teenage years she furthered her interest in sewing for Bon Marche, a large department store at Perth. At 19, with her sister Margaret Olive, they opened their own clothing business M. & M. Johnston in Baird's building (later to become the first Myer Store at Perth). Margaret's interest was in women's clothing and Myrtle's in tailoring.

Her husband, from Birmingham, England, was a tuckpointer, and following their marriage they lived at Hampden St. South Perth. During the 1939-45 War the clothing business made army & navy uniforms including those for army nurses. Several factory units housed the business. From Baird's they moved to 585 Wellington St. Perth. An embroidery unit was also developed under the trade name of Renown Clothing Manufacturers at King St. Perth & later amalgamated under the Wellington Street premises.

After her husband Frederick died in 1963 Myrtle continued as a tailoress until her retirement at the age of 72 years. The next year she moved from South Perth to Malabar Crescent, Craigie, a newly developed Northern Suburb where she was closer to her daughter. She enjoyed family life, maintaining close contact with her family of origin and her own family and grandchildren. Her interest in sewing continued and following her retirement she taught a group of aboriginal women at the Balga Community Health Centre.

Myrtle's health deteriorated towards the end of her life and she went to the Craigmont Nursing Home at Maylands where she died on 13/2/1986.

Deaths:

Frederick died on 24/7/1963 aged 60 years.

Myrtle Annie Carless died on 13/2/1986 at Craigmont Nursing Home, Maylands. Interred at the Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park, Padbury, Perth. She was in her 85th year

THE ONLY CHILD:

1. Hazel Myrtle Carless b. 30/10/1935 at Thornlie Hospital, South Perth. Married: Roderick (Rod) Gary Brandreth. [See biographies 5221](#)

• SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 559 & 560.
 • 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.