

Colin Douglas MOTT 16-10-1895 to 10-6-1961 & Freda MOTT, nee DAVIS

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Colin Douglas was the ninth child and seventh son of Margaret and Charles Mott and was born in New South Wales, the only grand-child of Rachel and Ewen McDonald born that year. His great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

Some events of that year were the discovery of X-rays by W. Rontgen and the death of the French scientist Louis Pasteur. In Australia, 'Banjo' Patterson's *The Man from Snowy River* was published and the American author Mark Twain toured the country.

Colin received primary education at the Armidale Demonstration School. On leaving school he joined his father and brothers on the family property, *Springmount*. Later he worked with his brothers on *Glendon*, selling his portion to buy a property of his own, *Stockton* near Armidale. Like all the Mott boys he was an accomplished horseman. During World War One he joined the AIF and became Private C. D. Mott Number 4334, Sth Battalion. He served in France in many of the major battles for over three years and was wounded by shrapnel just before the Armistice was signed.

On September 11, 1926 Colin married Freda Davis at the Armidale Presbyterian Church. The officiating minister was the Reverend A. M. Stevenson. The bride was attended by her sister Laura Davis. Freda was born on August 13, 1905, the daughter of George and Sarah Anne Davis, nee Ferguson. and had her primary education at the Armidale Demonstration School, followed by four years at Armidale High School. Mr. Davis was a station overseer. and was born in Sussex, England.

In the early 1930s Colin was injured in a car accident and a leg had to be amputated below the knee. This did not deter him from riding or engaging in all the normal work with horses on *Stockton* which was a superfine wool property, also carrying some cattle. He even competed in show ring riding events with his artificial leg. Dell Hull, his niece, recalls her Uncle Col and his wooden leg:

"It was painted pink, with a hole in the calf. I remember watching with horror with the other Mott grandchildren as Uncle Col with great grimacing and show of agony, would pull down the sock and slowly put the poker right through his leg. He had a tremendous sense of humour."

In 1940 Colin bought the leasehold to an hotel in Uralla, a neighbouring town, and installed a manager until selling three years later.

Colin and Freda had two daughters and the family lived at *Stockton* until it was sold in 1951. They then retired to 22A Garibaldi Street, Armidale, where Freda lives still. Colin died on June 10, 1961, aged 65 years, and was buried in Beresford cemetery.

Freda's interests are sport, politics and community activities. In June 1967 she was awarded a life membership of the Country Party in New South Wales 'in recognition of her long and distinguished service.' In the Honours List of January 1971 she was awarded the British Empire Medal.

For Service to the Community. Mrs. Mott has been an outstanding woman, who has been a leader in Community Activity in Armidale for many years. As President of the Armidale Hospital Auxiliary, President and for a time Honorary Secretary of Torch Bearers for Legacy, and a variety of other organisations, she has done much for the welfare of her fellow citizens.

The *Armidale Express* of August 30, 1982 told of Freda's tireless work for charity. Extracts from the article show her range of interests.

She was foundation president of the Armidale and New England Hospital Auxiliary, and has held the office for eighteen years. When the hospital opened a kiosk in 1977 she became its chief buyer which entailed ordering and checking supplies, and ensuring smooth running. She has been a member of the National Party federal council for twenty-two years, and president of the party's women's federal council for three terms. Among other duties she has been campaign director for the Member for New England, Ian Sinclair, since he entered Federal parliament. She was also campaign director for two state members, David Hughes and Dr David Leitch, from 1950 to 1978. She says that voluntary work needs to be done, and she has found it very rewarding. During her limited spare time she enjoys gardening, reading, and working tapestry. Several tapestries have been made into cedar coffee table tops to be raffled for charities.

Children of Colin and Freda :-

- 1 Peggy Mott Born 23-6-1927
- 2 Patricia Molt Born 12-10-1929

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 133 of "History of Ewen & Rachel McDonald & Descendants" by Jill McDonald which was originally published in 1985. It was republished as part of "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" in 1995.
- 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.