

# Flora Finnis RAGGATT

17-7 1885 — 21-8-1963

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Flora Finnis was the sixth child and fifth daughter of Mary and Bill Raggatt and was born at Carchap. Her second name was after the Finnis River area in South Australia where her mother was born.

Four cousins of Flora were also born in 1885: Beatrice Louisa McDonald and Rachel Annie McDonald at Noradjuha; Rachel M. Tucker in South Australia, and Adelaide M. Mott in Victoria. His grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

In world events, General Gordon met his death in the besieged city of Khartoum, and Gilbert and Sullivan presented their opera *The Mikado*.

Flora attended Carchap State School. Some years after leaving school she became a receptionist for Dr. R. K. Bird of Natimuk. He was the doctor who attended her grandparents before their deaths in 1905 and 1908. Carrying his little black bag he was a familiar sight in the district as he made his visits in his buggy and pair driven by Harry Thompson.

Later Flora went to Melbourne and, for many years, was cook-housekeeper to a family called Burston. She did not marry. Flo spent many of her holidays at Horsham but at other times she liked to travel. She was known to her nieces and nephews as Auntie Doo, origin unknown, or Auntie Flo and sometimes Flossie, to tease her. In Melbourne she often visited her cousin Hugh Sheridan McDonald and his wife Stella.

Flo dressed well and possessed self-confidence. Towards the end of her life she returned to the family home in Baillie Street, Horsham, to live with her sister Norma. Flo died, aged 77 years, on the same day as her cousin Jessie McDonald, both at the Horsham hospital. The *Mail-Times* published her obituary on August 23, 1963.

*Miss Flora Finnis Raggatt of 92 Baillie Street died at the Wimmera Base Hospital on Wednesday, aged 77 years.*

*The daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Raggatt, she was born at Nurrabiel. Miss Raggatt is survived by two brothers and a sister, Ewen Archer (Horsham), Murray William (Stawell), and Norma (Horsham).*

*The funeral was held at Horsham Cemetery yesterday after a service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The Rev. R. Corr officiated. Coffin bearers: Messrs T. Williamson, N. Raggatt, P. Raggatt, B. Raggatt. B. & V. Hutchesson had charge of arrangements.*

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 181 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](http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com) or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.