

Christina May PARKER, nee McDONALD 5-5-1892 to 21-8-1981 & Edward Robert PARKER

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Christina May was the second child and first daughter of Alexander John and Jessie McDonald and was born at West Wail. Four first cousins were also born that year: Olive McDonald at Nurrabiel, C. W. S. McDonald at Noradjuha, Murray William Raggatt at Carchap, and Florence Ivy Pearl Mott in New South Wales. Her grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

Current events included the discovery of a process for manufacturing viscose rayon by C. F. Cross and the publishing of *Barrack Room Ballads* by Rudyard Kipling.

When the West Wail school opened in 1899 Christina was one of the first pupils. Tina remembered that her father taught her to dance the Highland fling; that she collected bunches of wildflowers and did paintings of them; that a great storm hit the area in the late 1890s and she was concerned that her own little cup and saucer might be broken while Hugh cried lest his mother who had taken little Jean in the buggy to Natimuk should be blown away; she remembers staying at Uncle Charlie's when the family visited their grandparents Ewen and Rachel; how they all liked visits by Uncle Bill Raggatt who wore a calfskin waistcoat and bowyangs. cords tied around trouser legs below the knee; how the whole family, during a drought, went by wagon to a water-hole in the Wimmera River to do the washing and hauled kerosene buckets of water up the banks to fill the tubs.

During World War One she worked in a military hospital at Glenroy, Victoria. When her sister Jean's first baby, Alec, was born Tina went to Sydney to help and it was here that she met her future husband, Ted Parker. He was a friend of Jean's husband, Arthur, and had served with him in the Royal Australian Navy. On September 2, 1922 Tina was married to Edward Robert Parker at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Geelong, by the Reverend D. Smith. The bride's mother made the wedding cake and the reception was at the bride's home in Myer Street, Geelong. Ted is a Cockney, born December 12, 1896 at Kings Cross, London, within the sound of Bow Bells. His father came to Victoria and sent for the family later. Ted remembers leaving England in winter and arriving in Melbourne when the temperature read 102 degrees Fahrenheit. Ted describes himself as 'good on the axe', having cleared his block at Silvan in the Dandenong Ranges near Melbourne single-handed. He bought it from his uncle in 1915, still in its natural state of tall timber including messmate and stringybark. Tina, Ted and their son Ian settled at Silvan in 1926 and called the property *Macpa*, derived from McDonald and Parker. They cropped violets, strawberries, blackberries, loganberries, black currants, raspberries, cherries, beans, carrots and tomatoes. The disastrous bushfires of 1939 came very close to their property and they had another close call in the early 1960s.

Tina was a keen gardener and always helped with the farm work. She taught Sunday school at the Silvan Anglican Church until she was over 70 years. Her sight failed in later years but she enjoyed the radio and listening to talking books. Ted's interests were his church, gardening, house building and painting. Their only son, Ian, and his son Stephen now run the family market garden.

Tina died on August 21, 1981, aged 89 years. She was cremated and, at a service at St George's Anglican Church, Monbulk, her ashes were buried in the churchyard. Ted still lives in his old home, close to Ian and the family.

Child of Tina and Ted :-

1. Ian George Parker Born 11-8-1923

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 201 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.