

Irene Rachel HEWITT, nee DONALDSON 5-10-1901 to 26-10-1959 & **George Henry HEWITT**

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Irene Rachel was the second child and second daughter of Rachel and John Donaldson, and was born at Pine Hills. Her grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

In England that year Queen Victoria died and was succeeded by Edward VII. Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec died in France, and Walt Disney was born in the U.S.A. On the home front, the Commonwealth of Australia came into existence on January 1 and the Federal constitution was proclaimed by the Governor General, Lord Hopetoun, at Centennial Park, Sydney. The Commonwealth took control of all military forces, and the Australian national flag was chosen. The population of the new Commonwealth was 3,773,801.

Irene, known as Dot, was educated at her parents' home by governess until the family moved to Armidale following the death of her father. Here she attended Miss Tyndale's Private School and Armidale Public School before becoming a boarder at Presbyterian Ladies College, Sydney. Like her mother, Dot was a keen horsewoman and was very successful in equestrian events at the Armidale Show. At PLC, Dot was catcher in the school's baseball team. In 1924 her Horsham cousin Bill, W.J. McDonald and his bride Myrtle Rees spent their honeymoon in Sydney and called on Aunt Donaldson and her family. Bill's son has a photograph of his mother and Dot taken at Taronga Park Zoo.

On November 5, 1927, Dot married George Henry Hewitt at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Philip Street, Sydney, where the ceremony was conducted by the groom's father, the Reverend George Henry Hewitt. George junior was born on November 27, 1900 and is the second son of the Reverend G. H. Hewitt, Methodist minister, and his wife Eveline Annie Hewitt. He attended Hamilton Public School, Cleveland Street Intermediate School, Sydney Boys High School, and then Sydney University where he graduated with honours as Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery. MB, ChM. George joined the Newcastle Hospital staff in 1923-24, then became a medical practitioner at the town of Bellingen, New South Wales.

The Reverend G. H. Hewitt was the son of George Arthur Hewitt, farmer, of Ravensworth, New South Wales, and had attended Newington College, Sydney. His wife Eveline Annie had attended Methodist Ladies College, Burwood, and was the daughter of Albert Augustus Naphthali of Ashfield, and his wife Jane, nee Smith, formerly of the Hawkesbury River district. They were married at Ashfield by the Reverend Carruthers, and had three sons, Albert Naphthali Hewitt, born May 5, 1896, George Henry, and John Wesley Hewitt born November 23, 1914. Mr Hewitt was a Methodist missionary in Fiji and Tonga, minister at Murrurundi, Hamilton and Redfern, all in New South Wales, and foreign mission secretary. Their last place of residence was at 6 Park Street, Burwood, New South Wales.

Dot and George made their home at Park Street, Bellingen. They had a son and a daughter. Dot was always interested in sport and played tennis and golf. In her thirties she developed Parkinson's disease, as did her cousins Bill, W.I. McDonald, and Charlie, C.W.S. McDonald, of the Horsham district. Dot died just after her 58th birthday and is buried in Bellingen cemetery.

In the early 1950s, George was one of the doctors in attendance at the birth of the Sara quadruplets in Bellingen. George was remarried in 1960, to Cecelia Elizabeth Barlow, matron of the Bellinger River District Hospital at Bellingen. Cecelia is known to her stepchildren as Mater. George was made an MBE in 1972 for his work on tree planting. In 1929 he had joined the Bellingen Horticultural and Arboricultural Society which embarked on a major facelift for Bellingen with tree planting in streets and public places. In 1984, the town thanked him for almost sixty years of work for the health and welfare of the community and the beauty and appearance of Bellingen by naming

him citizen of the year for Australia Day. George has often said his main interest has been watching trees and babies grow up. In 1984 he was still attending some of his old patients.

Children of Dot and George :-

1. *Betty Irene Hewitt* Born 7-9-1929
2. *George Henry Hewitt* Born 11-9-1932

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 221 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.