

# Florence May Maud MATHEWS (nee McLEAN) & Charles Thomas Gaffney MATHEWS

Biography as published in 1995

**Florence's birth** : on 18/9/1878.

Parents : Mary Dawson McLean & Robert Haldane

Grandparents : Catherine (nee Dawson) & Allan McLean

G-Grandparents : Jane (nee Hamilton) & James Dawson and Christina (nee McPhee) & Donald McLean)

Her father was Robert Haldane and her mother was Mary Dawson McLean (sister of Eliza Ann, Mrs Robert Haldane). She appears to be unaware of her parentage until later years and not at the time of her 1902 marriage.

During her early years she lived with her grandparents, Allan McLean (senior) and his wife nee Catherine Dawson, at Collinsfield near Redhill. At the time of Allan's insolvency in 1882. The family were living with Robert Haldane at his farm at Mount Templeton and dependent on him for their subsistence. Florence was accepted as part of the Haldane family and in 1883 moved with them to Adelaide. Her father, Robert Haldane died Nov. 1888, her grandmother at the Hackney house in 1892 and her grandfather had died in 1890 who were, so far as she then knew, her parents. Her Haldane half brothers and sisters and her cousins did not query her belonging in the Haldane domicile. No one queried that she was born only 7 months after Percy Haldane. In after years although her many cousins knew the true story of her birth. Her own children were kept in ignorance.

In adulthood Florence worked as a domestic for the Scammell (plus Faulding) family, well known chemists.

**MARRIAGE:** at the residence of Rev. Percy Billings, of Arthur St. Unley to Charles Thomas Gaffney Mathews (b. 21/9/1874, aged 27 years) hairdresser of 181 Angas Street, Adelaide. She was by then aged 22 years and her occupation was "house duties" at Bath Lane, Adelaide. The witnesses were R. Darcy - Engine fitter - of Bath Lane and Herbert Reginald Straker (Dentist) of 181 Angas St. Adelaide. (From the marriage certificate.)

Thereafter they lived in town, at first, at Hutt Street. Adelaide - and next at Rose Park, and finally from 1928 at Eton Street, Malvern, S.A. Florence had given the name of Allan McLean as her father as shown on her marriage certificate. It was in fact, legally her name then, as her unmarried mother was a McLean but Allan not her Father, as she must have long thought.

Those who remember Florence do so with much affection and say what a fine woman she was. She continued at Malvern until the last years of her very long life and went finally to a nursing home at Unley where she died.

## DEATHS

The death of Charles Mathews not traced.

The death of Florence May Maud Mathews on 3/7/1978 a few weeks prior to her 100th birthday.

Interred at Centennial Park.

Florence & Charles had 5 children :-

1. Stella Beryl Mathews born 25/9/1902 at Halifax St. Adelaide. Married: William John Heath, occupation 'traveller. Residence: Malvern, S.A. They had 2 children – John (Jack) & Peter. Death: of William on 7/1/1974. interred Centennial Park. Residence: Stella Heath (now 93 years old) left her Wattle Street, Malvern home in December 1994 and now resides at Resthaven. Mitcham, S.A. in hostel care.

2. Frank Dawson Mathews born 17/7/1906. Hutt St. Adelaide. Married: Zoe Penrose (now deceased). They had 1 child – James. Residence: Toorak, Vic.
3. Jack Randell Mathews born 21/6/1908, Hutt St. Adelaide. Married: Nancy Dorothy Sommerville. They had 1 child – Rosemary. Residence: Manningham, S.A.
4. Constance Gertrude May Mathews born 28/1/1912, Hutl St., Adelaide. Married: Gordon R. Wigley. They had 3 children – Patricia, Margaret & Mary. Residence: Aldinga. S.A. Gordon died 26/4/1992.
5. Hugh Charles Mathews born 28/7/1914, Hutt St., Adelaide. Married: Mollie Cranston Horner. They had 2 children – John & Geoffrey. Residence: Masonic Village, Somenon, S.A.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 75 to 77.
- 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.