

Margaret POWER & GIFFORD, nee McLEAN & Thomas POWER & Henry GIFFORD

Biography as published in 1995

MARGARET McLEAN - born 16/2/1869 at "Meadow Bank", Strathalbyn.

Parents : Catherine (nee Dawson) & Allan McLean

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

Although Margaret's date of birth is shown in various records and registered as stated and her marriage certificate of 1884 gives her age as 17, she was in fact, only 15, so no wonder her parents were so against it. She must have met her husband after the family moved from Strathalbyn to Collinsfield near Redhill in the north in 1878.

MARRIAGE: to **Thomas Power**, a horse breaker, on 12/8/1884 at St. Bartholomew's, Norwood.

His work must have caused them to move about a good deal and no fixed address has been found in any Directory.

Margaret married twice.

DEATH: of Thomas Power c. 1892 –

Remarriage c. 1893 to **Henry Gifford**.. There has been mentioned "further children", but there appears to have been only one, another daughter (Elizabeth Gifford).

DEATH: of Margaret Power/Gifford at Claremont, W.A. on 19/3/1906 aged 37 years - of a stroke. interred at Karrakatta Cemetery.

DEATH: of Henry (Harry) Gifford at Perth in 1918. interred Karrakatta Cemetery.

Margaret & Thomas had 1 child :-

1. Mabel Power (no 2nd name) born in S.A. on 26/2/1891. Married: Thomas Kilmartin whose horse training stables were at Glenelg. S.A. No children of the marriage but when the stable foreman in their employ was accidentally killed they adopted his young son John, known then as John Kilmartin, who married Patricia (?) and resided at Somerton Park, S.A. Mabel's death date not traced.

Margaret & Henry had 1 child :-

2. Elizabeth Gifford born 5/9/1894 at North Adelaide. Unmarried. She was still living aged 91 in 1985.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THIS BRANCH: dated 1985 and written by a McLean descendant:

"Elizabeth (Bess) Gifford was the daughter of Margaret McLean and formerly Power. She was named for the mother of her father Harry Gifford who was of English birth and she was born at North Adelaide. She was half-sister to Mabel Power and about 4 years younger. (actually she was 3 years younger)

As a baby Bess was taken with the small family to Western Australia by boat (note; the railway did not operate until 1917 - E.M.S.). At the time there were thriving oyster beds at Fremantle and the family lived at Claremont.

Harry worked at Harris Scarfes, but whether at Adelaide or at a Perth branch the unnamed writer does not say. When Bess was in her 12th year, Margaret her mother. died of a stroke. Bess stated that her mother had ridden with the S.A. Hunt Club at the Barr Smith property as a young woman.

When Harry Gifford died at Perth as W.W.1. was ending Bess (aged 24) returned to South Australia and lived with Mabel at 61 Penzance St. Glenelg. Mabel seems to have been widowed early as she worked as a nurse at Parkside (now Glenside, hospital for psychiatric patients). Bess was employed at the Grosvenor Hotel on North Terrace, Adelaide, opposite the railway station, then at the Adelaide Club as a librarian.

When Mabel died (date not given) Bess lived with John and Pat Kilmartin at Somerton until she had a fall in 1973 and so went to "Alwyndor", a private nursing home at Dunrobin Road, Hove, the next suburb south. In 1985 Bess could still read, walk with the aid of a frame, was still mentally alert though a little deaf and was most interested in the McLeans. At John Kilmartin's she had left some family papers and welcomed any visitors." Her death date has not been noted.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 122.
- 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.