

Alexander Ewen McLEAN & Alice Maude McLEAN, nee ROSSER

Biography as published in 1995

Alexander Ewen McLean (registered in error as Alexandrew) born 19/12/1877 at Kingston, S.A.

Parents : Maryanne McLean (nee McIntyre) & Hughie McLean

Grandparents : Christina McLean (nee Black) & Hugh (the elder) McLean

G-Grandparents : Christina McLean (nee McPhee) & Donald McLean

Said by his son to have "taken Willie's place" as head of the family (due to their father's failings) but as Alex was about 11 years old, when Willie died he could not have been a very sturdy prop to the mother. The reminiscences already mentioned were written by Douglas, son of Alexander, with an account of the career of Alex with the S.A. Railways which he joined in 1900. He was transferred to Jamestown.

MARRIAGE: to Alice Maude Rosser, b. 24/3/1887, who died at Jamestown, S.A. on 11/4/1934 aged 47 years, and was buried there.

From signalman at Jamestown. Alex was appointed to Mingary on the Broken Hill line about 1917, where the population consisted of about 4 families, all railway people, with goats as a side line. Alex became the "goat King" as he owned the largest herd, due to taking over from a man who left in a hurry. There were caterpillar and locust plagues, which meant the railway lines had to be "sanded" to ensure the train wheels would grip. In 1919 the family moved to Gumbowie between Terowie and Peterborough - the fate of the goats was not revealed. The youngest child was born at Jamestown in 1924, and Alice, his wife, died there in 1934.

Alex retired to the Adelaide suburb of North Croydon (now called Croydon Park), and during World War II worked at the nearby Simpson's Factory, with his daughter, Joyce, house-keeping for him.

DEATH: Alexander McLean died aged 78 years, on 2/7/1956, and was buried in Centennial Park Cemetery.

CHILDREN:

1. Douglas Alexander McLean, b. 6/10/1912, m. Doris Whit. They had one child – Donald. After leaving school Douglas became a rabbit trapper, then on his 15th birthday he began working on a station at £1 (\$2) a week, about 5 miles from the Gumbowie home. He worked a 78 hour week. Subsequently Douglas moved to Clare, and then to Waitpinga, near Victor Harbor where the only child was bom. He moved to Adelaide in 1948. His occupation was not disclosed in the article he wrote for the Port Lincoln "Times" of 7/8/1984. A full page copy of this article is available from D. & C. McLean Genealogical Council, cost \$5. After world travel in 1975 he decided on Port Lincoln, after collecting his wife from Tasmania where she had remained during his time overseas, and this seems to have been his last resting place. Death: In 1987 in his 75th year at Adelaide, from injuries received after being knocked down by a car in Whyalla when visiting his son there. He was cremated at Centennial Park.
2. Archibald James McLean, born 15/6/1914. Married: Constance Rouse. They had 2 children – Robert & Archibald (John). Occupation: Railway employee who was at various country towns, and by the time of his retirement he was Superintendent of Railways at Adelaide. They had built at Oaklands Park, SA. to give the children a settled home, and that is still the present residence in 1993. Archibald died 2/4/1993, aged 78 years, at the Spinal Unit, Royal Adelaide Hospital
3. Joyce Olive McLean, born 8/7/1916, at Jamestown, S.A. Housekeeper for her father at North Croydon during World War II. Married: Malcolm Cook. No children. Present Residence: Blair Athol, S.A.

4. Thelma Jean McLean, born 4/1/1924, at Jamestown, S.A. Occupation: Nurse. Married: (1st) Augustus Lynch (b. June, 1923 - his parents George and Ellen Lynch). Thelma & Augustus had 2 children – Mary & Judy. Augustus's occupation: NSW Railways Clerk. Augustus died in August, 1986. Second marriage to Victor Harris. Thelma and Victor did not have any children. Residence: Booborowie, SA. where Victor died. Thelma's present address:- Burra, S.A.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 208 to 210.
- 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.