

Eliza Jane SMITH (nee SEMPLE) & John Duncan Ernest SMITH

Biography as published in 1995

Eliza Jane Semple b. 28/10/1888 at Dimboola.

Parents : Margaret Margaret Ann Semple (nee McLean) & William Semple

Grandparents : Mary McLean (nee Stacey) & John McLean

G-Grandparents : Christine McLean (nee McPhee & Donald McLean

Married: at Jeparit, **John Duncan Ernest Smith**, (b. 21/1/1882. North Adelaide). Witnesses were Lucy Smith and Taney Wilkins.

Residence: Hawthorn, Vic.

History: John met Eliza when she was 15 and married her when she was 16. They had their first baby when she was 16. Eliza's mother had died soon after she was born. She lived with her Grandmother Gray. She was very lonely and often wrote letters to herself and posted them so she would receive letters in the mail. Her Grandmother Gray accidentally set the house on fire while looking for papers with a candle. The family Bible was on an oak table. The table was burned but the bible fell to the stone floor and although singed was not burned.

His occupation: John was a builder, building schools for the government, and houses. He was also a wheelwright and a fully trained butcher and slaughterman.

Deaths:

John died on 24/6/1937 aged 55 at Hawthorn, Vic.

Eliza died aged 67 on 29/6/1956 at Melbourne.

Both were interred at Bun/vood Cemetery, Vic.

CHILDREN:

1. Margaret Britannia Rosedew Smith b. 21/9/1905 at Jeparit. Occupation: Saleswoman Married: Robert Justin Dupuy (b. February 1899 at Maryborough), Vic. son of Augustus and Ellen Dupuy (nee Grantley) His occupation: Boxmaker, bushman labourer, tree-lopper, furrier. History: Marge drove the grocer's horse and cart during the war and was a saleswoman after the war. Robert did active service in 2AIF overseas. Deaths: Marge died 29/1/1961 aged 55 years. Robert died 10/4/1981 aged 82 years. Both were interred at Bunivood, Vic. Children – Ellen, Robert, Phillip & Iris.
2. Alice Melvina Pearl Smith b. 9/1/1908, Jeparit, Vic. Married: Leonard Butt born 1907 in England. Died 26/5/1961. History: "At 14 Melva lived in Mildura. Once they went to Piangal near Swan Hill. They had trotters. (She is still interested in trotting.) They set up a cafe at Meeitine serving 200 meals a day. They went from Ouyen to Piangal, camping overnight. Floods crossed the road. They got all of the women to the other side of the river and a bull charged the trotter. Her father shot the bull (which was a crime as it was not legal to shoot any one else's cattle). Piangal was a great fishing place and on a direct line to Koolnan, a soldiers settlement, by train. They were given land but it was sandy soil. She can remember a young wife with a little baby who died from dehydration. Her father made a coffin for the baby. Melva went to Mildura High School by "dray" (six horses pulled a covered dray). She recalled stealing some oranges and being made to walk five miles home as punishment.". One child – Leonard - still-born. 2nd Marriage: to Lloyd Thomas who died in 1983.
3. Robert William John Smith b. 11/3/1911, Jeparit, Vic. Married: Ellen Veronica Gill. See separate biographies.

4. Duncan Edmond Kent Smith (known as "Dunk") b. 21/5/1912 at Jeparit, Vic Married: Winifred M. R. Lyons born at Melbourne. Death: of "Dunk" on 11/5/1979. Children – Beryl & Douglas.
5. Nellie Doreen Smith (known as "Nell") b. 24/10/1916 at Jeparit. Married: Arnold McKenzie b. 1919, Camperdown, Vic. Children – Maureen & Loyus.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 314 to 317.
- 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.