

**Alfred John McLEAN
& Marie Alwena Elizabeth McLEAN (nee BERNDT)**

and

**Edwin James McLEAN
& Adelaide Rose McLEAN (nee HULL)
& Olivia Mary McLEAN (nee PARKER)**

Biography as published in 1995

Alfred John McLean and Edwin James Mclean were twins, born 16/10/1871 at 'Waterloo', Angus Planes.

Parents : Mary McLean (nee Stacey) & John McLean
Grandparents : Christine McLean (nee McPhee & Donald McLean

The twin boys were the 3rd and 4th sons, and 12th and 13th children of this family.

MARRIAGE: In 1899 Edwin James McLean and Adelaide Rose Hull, of Adelaide, were married in Strathalbyn. Edwin had met his wife through her brothers who had been working in the district.

At this time Edwin had not commenced construction of his subsequent home, "Maplemore" on Section 2075 opposite "Waterloo". As a temporary home he established separate living quarters in the end of the farm barn. The framing of this temporary accommodation can still be seen today!

In the meantime the biggest development ever known in agriculture occurred with the development of the artificial plant manure - superphosphate. This has previously been mentioned.

On the 14th December, 1903, John McLean died aged 87 years, and was buried with his first wife, Mary, in the Strathalbyn Cemetery. The headstone on this grave is very interesting, as in conformity with John's wishes expressed in his will, the names of other family members who did not survive are recorded. These are 4th child, Margaret Ruth, born 27/7/1852, died 18/2/1864, 11 years, diphtheria; 6th child, John James, born 12/11/1853, died 26/1/1864, 10 years, diphtheria; and Eliza Ann, bom 14/8/1861, died 24/3/1864, 3 years, diphtheria.

This records the tragic loss of three children, within two months, from a diphtheria epidemic in the district.

Subsequently in the execution of John's will, Alfred and Edwin McLean jointly purchased the whole "Waterloo" property, which they continued to farm on shares until 1919. They had to arrange for the payment of the various bequests contained in John's will, and for their stepmother to take up residence in Strathalbyn, purchasing the old Primitive Methodist Church Manse, at 12 Chapel Street, Strathalbyn, which Misses E. and F. McLean with their mother, Elizabeth McLean, (John's widow) occupied for over 50 years.

MARRIAGE: In the meantime Alfred John McLean in 1904 married Miss Marie Alwena Elizabeth (Else) Berndt, of Adelaide, a friend of Ted's wife. Mrs McLean, Senior, and her daughters. Elizabeth and Florence, moved into Strathalbyn to live and Alf with his bride, occupied the "Waterloo" homestead. Ted and Addie in the meantime having moved to their new home "Maplemore".

Up to this time they had been childless, but by odd circumstance both ladies became pregnant within a few weeks of each other, Else and Alf having a daughter, Mona Mildred Agnola, and Addie and Ted also a daughter, Loma Edith, - Mona born on 23/5/1905 and Lorna on 14/7/1905.

Mona became a teacher in the S.A. Education Department, holding various senior appointments being Headmistress of Black Forest Infant School on her retirement in 1965.

Lorna became a triple-certificated nursing sister, holding various appointments throughout the State before retiring as Matron, Port Lincoln Hospital. She died on 17/4/1975 at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Mona McLean, aged 90 years, currently resides in good health, at Linden Park. Being the senior living descendant of John and Mary McLean.

DEATH: Alfred John McLean's death occurred suddenly, at the age of 35 years on 6th March, 1907, at "Waterloo" Angas Plains in the following circumstances:- "In the evening he proceeded to disinfect a room in the house by means of a solution of carbolic acid and water to eradicate fleas, using a watering can as he had on previous occasions. On the completion of the work he walked towards the stable trough, to rinse out the can and complained of sickness.

He called out to his wife, "Else, I'm poisoned; get me some salt and water." She immediately got the emetic, which he swallowed. He tried to take a second dose, but fell to the ground and all possible means were used to restore consciousness. He died within two or three minutes.

A Police inquest was held - Mr Edwin J McLean, twin brother, stated that the deceased was 35 years old and in the best of health. He held a lantern in the room during the disinfecting process. The nozzle fell off the can once or twice, and his brother was careful to hold it with a piece of paper to replace it.

He believed the door of the room that was being fumigated was shut. Dr Curtis was of opinion that death was caused through the deceased inhaling carbolic acid fumes

The jury recorded a verdict - "That death was due to accidental inhalation of poisonous fumes".

Following this fatality, Mrs Else McLean continued to share farm the property, in conjunction with her brother-in-law, Ted McLean, until 1920.

DEATHS: In 1914, Mrs Addie McLean became ill with a then incurable disease, pernicious anaemia, experiencing a long illness until her death on 25th April, 1918.

This disease these days is virtually unknown, and a patient showing symptoms is speedily prescribed drug treatment now available.

She was buried in the Strathalbyn Cemetery.

In 1920 Mrs Else McLean retired to Norwood. She took up residence at 66 Beulah Rd, Norwood, being most hospitable to the family of her brother-in-law, Ted McLean. She died in Adelaide on 10/3/1943.

Mrs Olivia McLean stayed with Else McLean and her daughter Mona, prior to the birth of Olivia's youngest son, Benjamin Ernest McLean. In 1942 Else built, with her daughter, Mona a modern home at Linden Park where Mona continues to reside in 1995, aged 90 years.

2ND MARRIAGE: In the meantime, Ted McLean remarried in Melbourne on 26/7/1919 to Miss **Olivia Mary Parker**, who had relatives in the district » an aunt, Mrs Agnes Oldfield, near Milang.

Mrs Olivia McLean was a talented musician, being an Associate of the London College of Music. She taught music and played at various functions - her most successful pupil locally was Mr (later Senator) Gordon S. Davidson.

DEATH: Ted McLean continued farming on "Maplemore" Angus Plains until his death on 23rd August, 1950 at Strathalbyn.

In 1928 he won the Southern Wheat Crop Competition with a crop grown where "Navarino" homestead is now situated. Ted called this paddock the "pine paddock" because it was vegetated mainly with native pines when cleared.

This crop was an excellent and heavy crop, and because of a riding accident just prior to harvest, Ted was unable to reap the crop himself. He engaged Mr Bill Day of Milang to reap the crop with a Case side-engined tractor and header. This was the first tractor used on McLean properties.

DEATH: Mrs Olivia McLean died on 2nd August 1955, at Strathalbyn.

Alfred and Marie had one child :-

1. Mona Milfred Agricola McLean – 23/5/1905. Mona became a teacher in the S.A. Education Department, holding various senior appointments being Headmistress of Black Forest Infant School on her retirement in 1965. Mona, aged 90 years, currently resides in good health, at Linden Park. Being the senior living descendant of John and Mary McLean.

Ted and Adelaide had one child :-

1. Lorna Edith McLean – 14/7/1905. Lorna became a triple-certificated nursing sister, holding various appointments throughout the State before retiring as Matron, Port Lincoln Hospital. She died on 17/4/1975 at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Ted and Olivia (nee PARKER) McLEAN had 3 sons :-

1. Alfred Parker McLean, born 5/5/1920 at Strathalbyn. Married Lola Blackman. [See biographies 5076](#)
2. John (Jack) Sherwood McLean, born 21/10/1921 at Strathalbyn. Married Jean Kelly. [See biographies 5077](#)
3. Benjamin Ernest McLean, b. 18/11/1925, at Strathalbyn. Married Joan Natalie Smith. [See biographies 5081](#)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 324 to 330.• 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. |
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