

Elizabeth Frances McLEAN & Florence Ruth McLEAN

Biography as published in 1995

Elizabeth Frances McLean was born at 'Waterloo' Angas Plains on 3/9/1876.

Florence Ruth McLEAN was born at 'Waterloo' on 15/12/1877.

Parents : John McLean & Elizabeth, nee Dixon

Grandparents : Donald McLean & Christina, nee McPhee

These two sisters were never married, lived together and led identical lives.

They attended the Angas Plains Public School with other members of the family.

They lived at 'Waterloo' until Alf's impending marriage in 1904 – until they were 27 & 28 years old. They accompanied their mother to the residence in 12 Chapel Street Strathalbyn, remaining there for five decades – for the rest of their long lives.

In addition to the property frontage on Chapel Street, they also owned two large blocks of land connected to this property with frontage to Murray Street. The land they owned was previously the property of the Primitive Methodist Church, the church building and their house was the manse still standing on the corner of Chapel Street and Murray Street.

On this land they kept, in earlier days, a couple of cows, several pigs plus a horse and cart and a large flock of fowls.

Elizabeth did most of the outside work being a keen vegetable gardener.

Until they reached old age, they kept several boarders, who were assured of being well looked after.

They were always very thrifty with money and supported themselves.

Whilst gardening they found 29 coins, mainly pennies dating back to 1850. Children must have lost them and their nephew Jack McLean still has the "Capstan" tobacco tin full of coins.

They were staunch supporters of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strathalbyn. The writer recalls his Auntie Lizzie telling him, that at times she had still been milking the cow when the church bell commenced ringing. She had completed these duties and taken her seat in the church choir before services commenced.

They lived till old age brought about their demise, greatly respected by their nieces and nephews from whom they gained much enjoyment.

Elizabeth died on 8/10/1957, age 81 years, and was buried in the Strathalbyn Cemetery.

Florence died on 27/4/1962 aged 84 years, and was also buried in the Strathalbyn Cemetery.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 332.
- 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.