

Donald Edward ASHBY & Gwen ASHBY, nee MILLHOUSE

Biography as published in 1995

Donald Edward Ashby born 21/5/1915. Nicknames "Doogy". "Doug" and "Old Zeke".

Parents : Maria Mabel (Mary) ASHBY (nee McLEAN) & James Edward ASHBY

Grandparents : Maria Elizabeth McLean (nee Kruger) & Charles Soward McLean

G-Grandparents : Anna Soward McLean (nee Janeway) & Archibald McLean

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

Occupation: Farmer of Kongorong. S.A.

Married: Gwen Millhouse (b. 30/1/1917)

When Doog left school he worked at home. then for others of the district and for the council with horses. He made 8/- (80 cents) a day carting stones from the quarry with horse and dray and making the roads. Many farmers worked some time for the council to pay their rates. It was a long day as he had to be up at 4.00am to feed and harness the horses and drive 4 miles to start work at 7.30 am.

He learnt to shear at Kongorong first by hand and after 12 months by machine. After a couple of years with Bob Chant he went North and to the West Coast, shearing, and returned to Mt Gambier at Show time (October), This became a yearly event to shear away in the winter and home around Kongorong during summer.

He met and married Gwen. For a few years they lived with his parents and worked for very little on the farm. Many of the boys had left for the war. Doog joined up but was refused, as Australia was desperately short of shearers. After saving for many years Doog and Gwen then bought their own farm in Kongorong and worked this until their sons took over. Doog and Gwen retired to Nene Valley. They are keen bowlers and spend the winter months travelling in Queensland.

Children:

1. Donald Mark Ashby b. 30/6/1944. Married: Margaret Joy Kemp (b. 26/10/1944). His occupation: Farmer of Kongorong. Children - Anne (b. 18/2/1965), Allen, (b. 23/12/1966) & William (b. 3/1/1968).
2. Elinor Gwen Ashby b. 17/6/1946. Married: Paul James Duigan (b. 3/7/1943). Residence: Mt Gambler. S.A Occupation: Boiler foreman Children - Joanne (b 17/9/1966), Krista (b 27/2/1967) & Sharon (b. 30/7/1969).
3. John Franklin Ashby b. 12/4/1946. Married: Frances Heather Andrew (b. 19/11/1947) Occupation: Farmer of Kongorong, SA. Children- Luke (b. 28/1/1972), Adam (b. 31/5/1973), Eric (b. 17/1/1976) & Catherine (b. 15/9/1981).
4. Ian Andrew Ashby b. 20/12/1950. Married: Jacqueline Finlay (b. 23/9/1949). His occupation: Farmer of Kongorong. SA Children - Ian (b 17/12/1973 & Emma (b. 4/10/1976).
5. Jane Maria Ashby b. 12/10/1953. Married twice. Married 1st: Kevin Rex Seidel (b. 7/2/1952). His Occupation:Farmer of Kialla. Victoria. Divorced. Married 2nd: Bob Merkesteyn (b. 2/1/1941). Child - Jennifer Jane Seidel (b. 15/11/1974).

• SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 435 & 436.
 • 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.