

Harriet (Mary) MILSTEAD, nee ASHBY & Rudolph Stephen MILSTEAD

Biography as published in 1995

Harriet (Mary) Ashby b, 12/7/1917. Nicknames "Dimps" and "Gin". 3rd child of Mary and James Ashby of Kongorong.

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

Married: Rudolph Stephen Milstead (D. 6/3/1911)

His occupation. Farmer of Port MacDonnell.

On their 50th wedding anniversary their daughter Dianne Facey wrote a booklet of their history some of which is given here:-

"Rudolph (Dolt) Milstead was the 3rd child of Ernest and Rose Milstead of a family of 6 children. Harriet (Mary) Ashby "Dimps" or "Gin" was born at nearby Kongorong in 1917. and was 3rd in a family of 10 (8 brothers and one sister). All of them attended the Kongorong School At Port MacDonnell Doll was terrorizing the local community so he was despatched to Adelaide with his uncle, Reg. Wilkie, to work on the Tramways and attended night school to learn fitting and turning. For recreation at weekends he danced and swam and earned a Swim through Adelaide certificate. The depression. and the death of his father made for job difficulty so he returned home and worked in the building industry for two years.

Life for Mary was hard as she grew up. With so many brothers she and her sister Jean were required to play cricket with them but only allowed to field. Mary too went to the city to work, in a cake shop for 12 months, then returned to Mt Gambier to work at the bakers at the OK. Pie Shop. She and Rudolph met at a Saturday night dance where he insisted on calling her "Gladys" until he learned better. He built a sailing boat he called the "Margaret Rose" and won many events

including the 1938 Port MacDonnell Regatta. Mary accompanied him as crew just once and never again.

Dolf's charm won the lady and they married in church on 23/4/1941 in spite of his belief that it would fall down if he entered it. Two weeks later it did just that in a whirlwind. W.W.2. was in progress and Dolf and a brother Hugh were called up and he was able to go home on leave to see his new born daughter Wendy, and again when she was a year old Nine months later Dianne arrived. Dolf came home for good in 1945 at the end of the war only to be a victim of Polio. After several months being treated in Adelaide he was told to return home and get a wheel-chair because he would never walk again.

Mary earned their living cooking pies and pasties and worked at a fish factory while Dolf by sheer determination and with many falls learned to walk again. After much perseverance he decided to build a boring plant to earn for his family. A retired friend helped by running to the blacksmith for the required tools and always had words of encouragement even during the blackest times. Dolf advanced from crutches to walking stick and at last discarded that too. He continued his job and as a boring contractor, farmer and smithy to the town, being ever ready to lend a hand where needed.

Nine years after Dianne, a son, Bray, was born. Mary played the piano at dances, was secretary of the Port MacDonnell tennis club and President of the Ladies Committee of the Football Club. The high ideals of both husband and wife, their humour and industry. their intellect and character has been highly appreciated by their three children " Summary only

Children –

1. Wendy Joy Milstead b 14/9/1942, Mt Gambler. Occupation. Nurse. Married: Phillip John Barter (b 24/6/1941, Adelaide) Occupation: Doctor of Medicine. Residence Eden Hills. S.A. Children - Paul (b. 6/2/1967, Adelaide) & Helen (b. 26/8/1969 in Canberra)
2. Dianne Mary Milstead b. 23/7/1944. Mt Gambler. Occupation: Teacher Married: Norman James Facey (b. 14/9/1944. Korumburra Vic) Occupation" Farmer of Millicent. S.A. Their postal address: Millicent. S.A. Di Facey researched the Archibald McLean section and produced the bulk of it plus a small book in 1988. There are now additions herewith included, supplied by her. She and her family are much involved with community work in the Millicent district, all very busy people. Children - Kathryn (b. 16/8/1972), Julie (b. 7/3/1976) & John (b. 15/8/1978) – all born in Millicent.
3. Bray Stephen Milstead b 7/10/1953. Occupation: Farmer of Port MacDonnell, S.A. Married: Debra Dunning (b. 28/3/1959). Children - Allie (b. 4/12/1984), Tyne (b 28/7/1987) & Shelby (b. 28/3/1991) – all born in Mt Gambier.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 437 & 438.
- 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.