

Murray John ASHBY & Margaret ASHBY, nee EDGE

Biography as published in 1995

Murray John Ashby b. 22/2/1927 at Kongorong, S.A. Nickname - "Eakie".

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: Margaret Edge (b. 10/10/1926).

His occupation: Dairy farmer of Kongorong but moved to Mt Schank shortly before his death.

-He was a noted sportsman and represented the Mt Gambler Cricket Association and earlier the Kongorong Club. and played competitive tennis and darts.

Eakie was always big for his age and even though Viv was older Eakie was bigger and stronger. Viv remembers being the loser in his fights with Eakie. When VIV was at school and Eakie wasn't they would wrestle and Eakie would say "I've got the school boy down".

Eakie was in trouble one day in school so went out and climbed a pine tree. When Old Schol went to get him down Eakie said "You come and get me" and pelted pine cones at him.

One day, his parents went to town and left Herb (aged about 8 or 9). Eakie and Viv at home. The telephone rang. Herb answered it and said "Nobody home" and hung up. The telephone had not been connected very long and everyone was shy of it.

When Eakie left school he went to join up but they wouldn't let him as he was too young and told him he had to work in the factory. Eakie said if he wasn't old enough to join up he wasn't old enough to work in the factory. They said he was big enough and strong enough so that's where he was to go.

Warley remembers asking Eakie to mend his motor bike before going to see Margaret. He didn't have time so Warley hid his rubber boot. When Eakie went to find it to go to work at the factory the next morning there was hell to pay.

Eakie and Chas represented Mt Gambler in Country Cricket in Adelaide one year and while they were playing a man started firing bullets at the players. One of the opposition was killed and one injured Eakie came home and said he was so scared he hit the ground so hard he hid under the grass.

His death notice from the "Border Watch" newspaper of 8/11/1966:-

Ashby - on November 4th at Nene Valley, Kongorong (result of accident) Murray John of Mt Schank, loved husband of Margaret Ashby. father of Carol, Deborah and Heather. aged 39 years He was interred at the Mt Gambler Cemetery.

An account of the drowning was also published. Headed "First Day fishing tragedy" and "Searchers still comb beach". Although a number of theories have been expounded, the cause of Friday's crayboat tragedy in heavy seas

off the coast between Port MacDonnell and Carpenters Rocks has not been determined. Police and local residents are still combing the shallows at Nene Valley for the second member of the crew 17 year old Peter John Black, of Kongorong. The body of the Skipper, Murray John Ashby, 38. of Mt Schank was recovered 2 miles north-west of Nene Valley shortly after 6 p.m. Friday

The first news of the boat's non arrival in port was received by Senior Constable C. G. Wilson. it had been due at Port MacDonnell at 2 pm. Mr Blackall of Kongorong sighted an overturned boat in the shallows N.W, of Nene Valley. Mr A. M. K. Ashby, a brother recovered the body. The 27 foot boat, the "Lancier" was split down the centre lying on a reef 300 yards offshore. The motor and rigging were missing and two life jackets were still hanging in the boat. A watch worn

by Mr Ashby had stopped at 2 p.m. SC Wilson is preparing a report of the mishap for the Coroner (Shortened version with the main facts).

Children –

1. Carol Margaret Ashby b. 7/8/1947 at Mt Gambler. Married: Barrie Raymond Schmidt (b. 10/9/1946). His occupation: Plumber of Mt Gambler. Children - Tanya (b. 4/12/1970) & Fiona (b. 16/2/1973).
2. Deborah Gail Ashby b 22/2/1953 at Mt Gambler. Occupation. Nursing Sister. Married Keith M. Burton. His occupation Carpenter and Builder of Adelaide. One child - Zoe (b. 15/3/1987).
3. Heather Ann Ashby b. 6/3/1954 at Mt Gambler. Married twice. 1st Michael John Britton (b. 1/6/1949). His occupation Painter of Engadine, N.S.W. Married 2nd: Lyle (Fred) Williams. Residence: Kilburn. S.A. Children - Ngaire (b. 5/5/1974), Steven (b. 22/10/1976), Jeffrey (b. 28/9/1984 of the 2nd marriage), & Rohan (b. 19/3/1990 of second marriage).

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 443 & 444.
- 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.