

# David McLEAN

## Elizabeth Emma McLEAN, nee CURNOW

Biography as published in 1995

**DAVID McLEAN** born 1/6/1870 at Strathalbyn, 6th child of Hugh the Younger & his wife Margaret (nee Tannahill). Registered at Strathalbyn, on July 15th.

Parents : Margaret McLean (nee Tannahill) & Hugh (the younger) McLean

Grandparents : Christina McLean (nee McPhee) & Donald McLean

**MARRIAGE:** on 1/6/1897 (on David's 27th birthday) at the residence of his bride Elizabeth Emma Curnow (daughter of William & Jane (nee Noyes) Curnow) of East Moonta & born 15/7/1877) At this time David's place of residence was Paskerville, S.A. Thereafter they resided at Wallaroo S.A

On the marriage certificate Elizabeth's parents were of Wallaroo Mines.

**DEATHS:** David died at Wallaroo on 9/11/1949 at Wallaroo. His residence was at Irwine St. He was aged 79 years. Elizabeth Emma died on 26/10/1950 aged 73 at Wallaroo. Both interred at Wallaroo Cemetery.

**HISTORY:** David had become a blacksmith & had his business at Wallaroo. It has been noted in Directories that other blacksmiths at that town were named Keough so may have been related and the cause of David leaving Strathalbyn and learning the craft at this northern town. His grand-daughter Joyce Williams recalls that he was a quiet person and bent over with constantly shoeing horses, being in a farming district. Deliveries in his time were by wagon and huge draught horses and which used to take trucks of grain up and along the jetty to load on ships so much work on the horses would have come David's way.

A letter from Elizabeth to her husband's sister Elizabeth Ann (Annie) of W.A. has been preserved by the Johnston family:

Irwine St. Wallaroo, Sunday, April 28th. (1943)

Dear Annie,

I received your letter and I hope this finds you and all your family in the best of health, we are well. I received a cable from Hugh (note, son of Elizabeth & David) from England It took only three days to come over and it was quite a thrill to hear from him in such a short time He was quite well when he sent it, and I received an aerograph letter from him on Friday. The aerographs take about one month to come over. Our youngest girl works in town (Adelaide) and she was home over Easter and my eldest grand-daughter Jean Kempster was home also. Jean is in the W.A.A.Fs. She is stationed in Adelaide.

Dave is quite well. We had three inches of rain at Easter time. Things are very quiet over this way, there is a clothing factory started in the old hospital and my granddaughter Margaret works there. Margaret is Jean's sister and was called Margaret after your Mother, so I will close, hoping you will come over to see us as soon as you can travel. - With love from your sister-in-law, Elizabeth McLean.

Only a portion of a second (& perhaps earlier letter) has been preserved :-

..... was up here Christmas time. Eva has been working in Sydney for nearly two years now, she would have been home Christmas time but wasn't allowed to travel. Our youngest girl is a nurse, she works in Adelaide. If your son-in-law can come this way we will put him up for a few days and would be pleased to meet him. We have the

oldest boy at home, he is a butcher. The eldest girl is married and one of her girls is in the W.A.A.F. and is stationed in Adelaide.

I have had some lovely letters from different people who have had Hugh to stay at their place, one letter was from a lady of the Presbyterian Church in New York.

Dear Annie, we would be pleased to see you if you could come with your son-in-law and stay with us and have a good holiday, Dave is 73 and still shoes horses. I begged him to give it up but he won't. I am 66 but Hugh told me before he left home that I am only a kid yet so I will close with love, from Elizabeth McLean.

Maggie's address - Mrs H. Clarke, Harriet St. West Croydon, South Australia. (Note: from grand-daughter Joyce Williams of Perth. As she recalls her grandfather David McLean from her childhood he was profoundly deaf due to his work as a blacksmith.)

**CHILDREN: (9) OF DAVID & ELIZABETH MCLEAN.**

1. David Roy McLean b. 8/11/1897 - died aged 4 months on 23/4/1898. As there is no record at Wallaroo both birth and death probably took place at his Curnow grandparents' house at East Moonta.
2. Doris McLean (no 2nd name) b. 10/4/1901 at Wallaroo, S.A. Married: Arthur Roy Kempster at Wallaroo where they both lived all their lives. Arthur son of Henry Kempster was b. 15/8/1896 at Wallaroo. Deaths of Arthur at Wallaroo aged 69 years in 1965. And of Doris Kempster on 1/4/1989 aged 88 years at Wallaroo, S.A. interred there with her husband. Three children – 1924, 1926 & 1933 – all born at Wallaroo, S.A.
3. Eva McLean born 6/9/1902 at Wallaroo, S.A. Unmarried. In 1943 she was living and working at Sydney, and subsequently moved to Melbourne for the remainder of her working life. In later years she returned to Wallaroo, Death: in 1980 aged 78. Interred at Enfield Evergreen Cemetery near Adelaide.
4. David McLean born 10/2/1904 at Wallaroo, S.A. Married: Lilian Wiles late in life. They were both of Wallaroo. Deaths: Lilian McLean died in 1964 after only two years of marriage. David died on 2/9/1977 aged 73 years at Wallaroo where both were interred.
5. Allan McLean born 24/9/1906 at Wallaroo, S.A. Died: on 28/3/1908 aged 18 months. interred at Wallaroo.
6. Roy McLean born 26/11/1909 at Wallaroo, S.A. Occupation : Leading Blasting Furnace Hand at Wallaroo Smelters & also at the Mt Lyell Fertiliser Smelters Married: at the Presbyterian Church, Wallaroo, Mary Yeates, daughter of Frederick (Roy) Barr Yeates & his wife Margaret May (nee Thomas). Residence: Wallaroo. Deaths: Mary McLean died at Wallaroo on 3/12/1967. Roy McLean died on 28/4/1971 aged 63 years at Wallaroo where both were interred. Four children – 1931, 1936, 1940 & 1943 – all born in Wallaroo.
7. Jean McLean born 1/9/1912 at Wallaroo. Death: on 3/9/1923 aged 11 years, by drowning in a dam. interred at Wallaroo.
8. Alda Lorraine McLean b. 24/7/1918 at Wallaroo. Married: at St. Matthew's Church, Marrayatville near Adelaide, Morris McCarthy (now deceased). Residence. in 1995, Salisbury Heights, S.A. No children.
9. Hugh Maxwell McLean born 26/9/1920 at Wallaroo. Unmarried. Joined the R.A.A.F. in 1942. travelled to England via America to serve in the U.K. Returned to S.A. and resided at Kingston Park. Death: on 10/7/1985 aged 65 years. interred at Adelaide.

• SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 551 to 555.  
• 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](http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com) or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.