

Clover LODER, nee JOHNSTON & Robert Cecil LODER

Biography as published in 1995

Clover Johnston born 13/10/1912 at Armadale, W.A. the 8th child of Elizabeth & Matthew Johnston.

Parents : Elizabeth Ann Johnston (nee McLEAN) & Matthew Johnston

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

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

Occupation: Postmistress at Milligan St. Perth from the age of 16 until marriage at 24 years.

History: Slightly shortened from her own account.

Marriage: In 1936 at Perth, to Robert Cecil Loder (b. 1912).

Residences: as shown in the text, first at South Perth and the first child, Patricia was born in 1937 when living there & Robert (Bob) joined the Civilian Military Force. In 1941 when son Gary was born Bob commanded the Chinese Labour Company at Woodmans Point. He was company commander of the 28th Battalion and went on to New Britain in the Pacific until the war ended in 1945.

During the height of the war the family evacuated to Wagin with her mother Elizabeth, her brother Gordon's two boys and her own children and being a few miles out her sister Margaret lent Clover her 1931 Pontiac, unaware that she had no driving licence. When war conditions improved they left for Perth 220 kilometres south, having saved petrol coupons and had the car serviced. She decided that a licence might be a good idea and so called at the Wagin Police Station. The Officer watched her drive down the street from the station verandah and handed over a licence on her return.

Next morning they left at 6 a.m. Elizabeth nursing Gary (11 months) with Patricia (aged 5) and nephew Russell in the back and 9 year old Malcolm beside her. This was in 1942. At Williams, 70 kilometres further, engine trouble began. A local mechanic removed the fan belt and Clover drove on and soon the engine boiled. Every few miles Malcolm filled it and their water supply ran low. They arrived at the Armadale Hotel at midnight on Christmas Eve, and a crowd was there. No help was forthcoming as the landlord believed she only wanted petrol. After closing time and explanations he and another man did look at the engine. asked what fool removed the fan belt, was told of the "help" at Williams, and he bent back the blade of the fan caused at the Wagin servicing. They slept at the side of the road until morning and reached Perth that day.

They lived at Perth and daughter Ray arrived in 1943 and Clover's trip to the hospital was by Margaret's car, but with the owner driving. With the war over Bob returned to the Crown Law Department and was stationed at Merredin for 15 years and there, in 1952, the last child, Christine was born.

At Merredin the family became very involved "with community work. Bob commanded a C.M.F. Unit, was Superintendent of Ambulance and Commissioner of Boy Scouts. For the C.M.F. services Bob was awarded an MBE. Clover took up croquet. They were transferred back to Perth in 1961 where Bob was Clerk of Married Persons Court.

The clothing factory of M. & M. Johnston had trouble finding a suitable clerk so Clover went to help and remained until Bob retired about 10 years later. They travelled to Europe & Asia, went boating and fishing and Bob pursued

his interest in carpertry (often on behalf of their children) and Clover enjoyed porcelain painting. Present address (1995) Noranda, W.A.

CHILDREN of Clover (nee Johnston) 8. Robert Cecil Loder:

1. Patricia Anne Loder b. 18/2/1937 at Perth, W.A. Married Victor John Long. [See their own biography 5227](#)
2. Gary Robert Loder b. 23/12/1941 at Perth, W.A. Occupation: Business manager. Married: Rhonda Jefferys (b. 1947). Residence: The Crest, Woodvale, W.A. Three children – 1966, 1968 & 1972.
3. Ray Clover Loder b. 27/10/1943, Perth, W.A. Occupation: School teacher. Married: Brian Watson (b. 1944). Occupation: Farming. Residence: Mukinbudin, W.A. Three children – 1968, 1970 & 1979.
4. Christine Ivy Loder b. 24/11/1952, Merredin, W.A. Married 1st: Frank Aquino - divorced. Married 2nd: Peter Hamer who has daughters Janica & Justine Hamer from an earlier marriage. Two children – 1978 & 1981.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 564 to 567.
- 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.