

Sophie Henrietta SOMMER & Robert Tannahill McLEAN

Notes from SUSAN NICHOLLS as at 1 June 2016

- Parents
 - Sophie was the third child of Fredrick August Louis SOMMERS and Mary Ann, nee WATT & WHITFIELD
- Birth
 - Born on 8 July 1869 near Oakbank (Maryann's parents came from Oakbank so assume Maryann was with them at the time of Sophie's birth)
- Marriage
 - Married on 2 sept 1890 to Robert Tannahill McLEAN at the residence of Frederick Sommer, Yatina hotel. (This piece of information was very significant because it told me that the family had moved from Callington. I was then able to look up the publican's book to confirm that in fact Maryann had the license. This was probably because Frederic was insolvent in 1883)
- Children - four children were born
 - 1891 birth of Roy L, (unfortunately died the same year) in Broken Hill (Again this was very significant. At the time I did not know that Frederick worked at Broken Hill for 14 years. I discovered this in March 2016 when I found an application for Fred's naturalisation which he did not continue with at that point in time. I believe the family was based in Adelaide and Frederick worked in Broken Hill when work was scarce in Adelaide. Frederick commuted a few times a year by the Broken Hill train.) But obviously Sophie and Robert McLean go to Broken Hill. There are two references I can find besides the two births
 - 1893 Broken Hill Hugh M. (in May 2016, I was finally able to find the M. In looking through other Hugh M's death and marriages I could not confirm whether it was the correct one. Fortunately on Hugh Milne's marriage details they included the father Robert Tannehill, hence I knew the M stands for Milne. This of course meant it was more possible to trace his whereabouts and his children.
 - 12 years later on 9 march 1905, Robert Napier, at Norwood
 - 23 Sept 1907 in Adelaide, a daughter, Melba Agnes
- Grandchildren
 - Hugh Milne married Jessica Priscilla Roberts on 26 Mar 1921 was to have at least two children, Robert William (known as Bob) and Edith Mavis.
 - Robert Napier married Mary Florence Collins and had Margaret and Pauline. Pauline married Mervyn Fennell and had a son and daughter, David and Susan, who would be the great grandchildren of Sophie.
 - Melba Agnes married Frederick S Potts 7 April 1928 at St Andrews Presbyterian Strathalbyn and was to live in Langhorne Creek. She herself had two daughters Maureen Rhonda, who married Noel Martin, and Florence Marlene who married Marcus Henningsen. Maureen had five children (and sadly died young at the age of 43) and Florence had two so there are at least seven descendants from this line.
- Deaths
 - Sophie's husband died 13 February 1931 age 66, he was a butcher
 - Sophia died 15 January 1956 in Langhorne Creek and is buried at West Terrace Cemetery with her husband (25 years after her husband)

Sophie was born near Oakbank, which is where her maternal grandparents resided. I am assuming that Maryann had her baby at her parents' residence. (Owing to the death of her baby sister Sophia was the second living daughter.) Sophia spent her childhood and youth in Callington.

Sophie was married in 1890 at her father's residence at Yatina hotel, this was the first sign that the family had relocated. Her husband was Robert Tannahill McLEAN and as his family came from Strathalbyn I assume they knew each other from the Callington days. It is possible that Sophia had stayed in Callington and only the marriage as such was at Yatina

and Sophie herself had not moved there. However given that her first two children were born in Broken Hill, Robert and Sophie at least moved to Broken Hill. Here their first two children were born in 1891 and 1893.

Robert McLean was listed as a butcher on later censuses. I am unsure if this was his occupation while he was in Broken Hill. I do have a government gazette for 1895 for beef markings for a Robert McLean, Yarraman New South Wales. I also have in 1903 a Robert McLean who is a station overseer at Broken Hill, but these may not refer to our Robert McLean. There is a 12 years gap till their third son and child is born in 1905 at Norwood. This birth occurred at Edmund Street where Sophie's parents were residing. The birth certificate states the father was a butcher at this time but no details of where; he may be still in Broken Hill or at Strathalbyn. The birth of Melba Agnes at Warsnop Avenue Adelaide, again where Sophie's parents are residing, is more informative. The informant is the father, who is a butcher at Strathalbyn and residing at Jeffrey Street Strathalbyn. When the family left Broken Hill, and whether they moved to Adelaide before moving to Strathalbyn, I cannot ascertain.

Another find in May 2016 was the school records for Strathalbyn. These showed that Hugh Milne enrolled at Strathalbyn primary school 27 Oct 1903, his last school being Broken Hill. From this one assumes the family were in Strathalbyn in October 1903 and had come directly from Broken Hill but the Guardian is given as Hugh Mclean, who is Roberts brother, so it may be that Hugh Milne, the son, was in Strathalbyn before his family. I am suggesting that Sophie went to her parents for the birth of her son in 1905 and in 1907 again to her parents, who are now in Adelaide, for the birth of her daughter. This is a good example of how even the birthplaces can mislead one about the families movements.

In 1919 PO directories the family is at Strathalbyn where Robert is listed as a butcher. This is where Robert's family, the McLeans had lived since early in the 1830s (actually 1841) where I think Hugh Mclean, Robert's grandfather, established himself as a farmer in the very early days of South Australia. There were still many relatives living there in 1919.

The Strathalbyn school records show that Robert Napier enrolled on 13 May 1912 and left June 1919. Melba Agnes commenced on 18 Jan 1915 and left March 1923.

Hugh Milne left school on 27 Nov 1909 because he was of the age limit. He was married to Jessica Priscilla Roberts at the Methodist church Adelaide on 26 Mar 1921. A son Robert William (Bob) was born 28 Dec 1921 and a daughter Edith Mavis 16 April 1925. (Because McLean is a common name I thought it would be difficult to find the birth notices however in the heading they had "née Jessie Roberts" which made it far easier for me to pick up.)

The next occurrence is the marriage of Melba Agnes in 1928 at St Andrews Presbyterian Church Strathalbyn to Frederick Stanley Potts. They had two daughters.

Unfortunately in 1931 Robert Tannahill died. By this stage Sophie and Robert and family had moved to Langhorne Creek.

In 1939 Robert Napier is listed as a chauffeur at Belair. In 1943 he has moved to Victoria St Kilda and is a munition worker and appears he stays in Victoria till 1949. At some stage he marries Mary Florence Collins and has two children Margaret and Pauline.

Sophie dies on 15 January 1950 at Langhorne Creek, 25 years after her husband. She has six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Grandchildren.

Hugh Milne marries Jessica Priscilla Roberts on 26 March 1921. On 28 Dec 1921 Robert William Milne (Bob) is born. I do not believe Robert married. A daughter Edith Mavis is born on 16 April 1925 at Forestville. Mavis married Melvin Frederick Wilson and they had two sons. The sons married and between them had five children.

Robert Napier dies 25 August 1976 and on his death notice it gives wife Shirley, children Margaret and Pauline and son-in-law Mervyn. Pauline married Mervyn Fennell and had David and Susan Fennell. David had a daughter but sadly both he and his daughter are now deceased. Susan has two children.

Melba Agnes had two daughters. Maureen Rhonda married Noel Martin. They had five children, Sue, Mike, Chris, Jane and Nicky. This information was found out from her death certificate. Unfortunately she died at the age of 43 on the 9 September 1972. Fortunately I have made contact with Sue Martin and there is now a further generation.

Melba Agnes' second daughter is Florence Marlene. Florence married Marcus Henningsen and had a son and daughter Paul and Jan.

Residences

- From 1869 to 1889 her childhood and youth were in Callington.
- In 1890 at her marriage she is in Yatina.
- In 1891 the birth and death of her first child at Broken Hill
- In 1893 birth of second child, Hugh M Broken Hill
- School attendance records show that Hugh Milne was enrolled at School in October 1903. I believe this is when the family moved to Strathalbyn.
- In 1905 birth of third child, Robert Napier at Norwood, I believe that Sophie went to her parents for the birth of her son.
- In 1907 the birth of last child, Melba Agnes is in Adelaide. Again I believe Sophie went to her parents for the birth of her daughter.
- In 1919 the census says that Robert and Sophie are at Strathalbyn, he is listed as a butcher.

Other notes

- On 26 March 1921 Hugh marries Jessie Roberts. On 28 December 1921 Robert William was born. This was followed by the birth of Edith Mavis on the 16 April 1925, at Forestville.
- On 7 April 1928 Melba Agnes married Frederick Stanley Potts at St Andrews Presbyterian Strathalbyn.
- In 1930 Robert Napier is still listed as a butcher at Strathalbyn. Sophie Henrietta is at Langhorne's Creek so I am assuming that they have moved their residence and Robert is continuing his business at Strathalbyn.
- In 1931 Robert Tannahill McLEAN dies at Adelaide Hospital.
- Birth of Maureen approx. 1929 and Florence ?1934.
- For the 1939,1941 and 1943 electoral rolls Hughie Milne McLean and Jesse McLean were at 29 Victoria Street Parkside, he was a presser and she was listed as home duties
- On 1939 to 1941 Robert Napier McLean is listed at Belair as a chauffeur
- In 1943 it appears Robert Napier has moved to Victoria is listed at 220 Canterbury Road Saint Kilda west as a munition worker.
- In 1949 he is still in Victoria at Alexander Road Cockatoo as a labourer/saw miller.
- On 27 Dec 1947 Maureen Rhonda marries Noel Martin
- In 1952 Florence Potts moves to Parkside to board with her aunt and uncle in order to pursue study to become a secondary teacher.
- In 1956 Sophie McLean nee Sommer dies "of Langhorne Creek", at Adelaide. For more than 25 years she lived in Langhorne Creek.
- In ? Florence Potts marries Marcus Henningsen and had two children.
- In 1966 electoral roll Robert Napier Mclean is at 5 Melville lane Strathalbyn, labourer.
- In 1958 electoral rolls show Frederick Stanley and Melba Agnes Potts at Langhorne Creek; also Maureen Rhonda and Noel Martin at Langhorne Creek.
- In 1966 Frederick and Melba are still at Langhorne Creek. On Olive
- On 28 January 1964 Jesse McLean Hughes wife dies at Adelaide her residence is given as Parkside.
- On 1 January 1970 Hugh Milne McLean dies at the age of 79; his residence and death place were Parkside.
- On 9 Sept 1972 Maureen Rhonda Martin dies at the age of only 43 leaving behind 5 children. Also the children lose their father only 5 years later on 20 Dec 1977. Fortunately their grandparents are still alive.
- In 1976 Sophie's son Robert Napier dies address given as Blakiston Road Littlehampton. I do not know how long he was residing there.
- On 10 sept 1985 Melba Agnes Potts, Sophie's daughter, dies at the age of 77 "of Langhorne Creek". It appears that Melba spent her life in the area from her birth through her marriage in Strathalbyn to her death in Langhorne Creek.
- On 6 March 89 Robert William the son of Hugh and Jesse McLean dies at the age of 67.
- In 1994 Melba's husband Frederick dies and is buried at Langhorne Creek Cemetery. Some Descendants of Sophie nee Sommer still reside in Langhorne Creek, great-grandchildren of Sophie.

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