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UN S U N G H E R O

NAME William Henry Charlton MACLEAN

BORN Bathurst, NSW; 11/6/1853

DIED Rockhampton, Qld; 13/7/1945

SPOUSE Nora Mary Pearce

MARRIED 1881

CHILDREN Agnes, Jessie, Hector Albert, William Henry, Eric, Beryl
 and Ross Gordon

RESIDED 1853 : Bathurst, NSW
 1861 : "Gyranda", Eidsvold, Qld
 1872 : "Cracow", Eidsvold, Qld
 1878 : Droving
 1887 : "Wandoo", Banana, Qld
 1910 : "Glenora", near Rockhampton, Qld
 ? : "Waratah", Rockhampton, Qld

WORK William Henry Charlton Maclean was born at Bathurst, NSW
 on 11 June 1853.

In 1860 his family moved to Queensland and in 1862 his father, John Shand Maclean, took up a selection on the Dawson River which he named "Gyranda". The property still bears the same name. His father died in 1862 and "Gyranda" was sold about ten years later. The family then purchased "Cracow" Station which was sold in 1878.

It was at this time that William Maclean took up droving and horse dealing. A very interesting account of one of his early trips is given by him in a letter to Mrs Sophy Homer. This letter gives some indication of the hardships endured by the drovers of that era. He undertook many large drives which extended from the Gulf of Carpentaria to Melbourne. In 1890 he took 2700 head of bullocks from "Wrotheram Park" on the Mitchell River near Cooktown to Wellington in NSW, a distance of nearly 1800 miles (2880 km). The drive occupied eight months and not a beast was lost. He received 19 Shillings per head and netted 1700 Pounds (\$3400). It is believed that at that time this was the largest number of cattle lifted from a property in Australia in one mob. It is also very likely that another journey from the Gulf of Carpentaria area to Melbourne could have been a record for the longest droving trip undertaken in Australia at that time. As a drover he was renowned for his ability to accurately count cattle and to deliver full count, or account for all losses.

In 1887 he purchased "Wandoo" in the Banana district in Central Queensland. Although he continued droving for many years, "Wandoo" was his home until 1910 when he handed over management to his oldest son, Hector Albert Maclean. "Wandoo" was sold in 1925. Other properties owned by him or in partnership with his sons include "Mount Mulgrave" Station in North Queensland, "Red Hill" in Central Queensland, "Cocklebinda" near Baralaba in Central Queensland and "Glenora" near Rockhampton.

While living at "Wandoo" he served on the Banana Shire Council and later while living at "Glenora" he served on the Livingstone Shire Council.

After "Glenora" was sold (date unknown) he lived at "Waratah" in Rockhampton. Although semi-retired he retained a property at Baralaba and continued his cattle dealing activities until shortly before his death. He was a keen judge of cattle and horses and was a familiar figure at the Rockhampton saleyards and Callaghan Park Racecourse, where his best performer Olenga was a consistent winner.

Throughout his life he was a keen supporter of all sporting activities but was most renowned for his feats as a drover. Most of his droving was done for the firm of Moreheads and as their records were, unfortunately, lost in the Brisbane floods of 1974, further details of his exploits are not available.

TREE

GP Hugh Maclean

P John Shand Maclean m Agnes Susannah Kable

CH *William Henry Charlton Maclean*, four brothers and four sisters whose names are not known

FURTHER INFORMATION

HOF Vertical File: MACLEAN, William Henry Charlton
'A History of Queensland : Its People and Industries'
Morning Bulletin, 13/7/1945

CONTRIBUTOR

Hector C Maclean and Kenneth M Maclean (grandsons)