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AMELIA HONORAH REYNOLDS

2nd Generation Australian

Eldest child of Charles Albon and Ellen Reynolds nee Kemp
Born 13th May 1890 at Eureka Creek , Atherton Tablelands, Qld.

(Delivered by a girl called Dora)

The house was a handbuilt cedar log cabin built for her parents at a cost of Ten Pounds. In 1894 the family were forced to leave Queensland due to losing their savings in the Bank Crash of that time. They left their home and travelled in a Cobb and Co. Coach which took them to the coast from where I believe they then sailed by boat to Melbourne. Amelia's parents, both born in Victoria, had met each other in North Queensland. Her father Charles had been tin mining in the area and her mother Ellen had gone there to visit her sister and family.

Amelia's sister Louisa had been born in Herberton in 1892 , so they were a family of four at this time.

Arriving in Melbourne the family went to stay with Amelia's grandmother Eleanor Opie/Reynolds for some weeks, then rented 30 Brougham Street, Bendigo for a short period. This was the first time Eleanor Opie had met her two grand-daughters and their mother. Their next move was to Lalbert where Ellen's parents had a wheat farm of 1000 acres. Amelia's brother Robert was born at Lalbert in 1896. The family then returned to Bendigo and the Mandurang property of 360 acres was purchased. A son "Hugh" was born here but did not survive. In 1900 another son Hector was born at Mandurang. This was the place where Amelia spent her childhood, attending the small country school there with sister Louie and brother Robert. Originally the Mandurang property had been a vineyard, but at that time all local vines had been pulled out so it became a small farm. Vineyards are now flourishing again.

In order to continue school Amelia went to Melbourne to stay with her Aunt Catherine Gibbons. She attended the same school as Lily and Frank Beaurepaire.

About 1902 the family sold the farm and bought a house in Albert Park so that the children could further their education. Due to the death of Robert in 1916 the family moved to East Hawthorn, first renting a house in Burwood Road, from where Amelia was married and then buying another home at 1 Lingwell Road Auburn.. The house in Burwood Road is now gone. When Amelia and Frank married in 1917 they shared a home with Frank's Father William in Clifton Hill. Frank's mother had died a year earlier.

Before her marriage, as Amelia enjoyed sewing, she took a job as a tailoress in Melbourne. She then worked for Louis Epstein who had a well-known tailoring business. The three girls she worked with became life-long friends. While living in Clifton Hill Amelia often went by train to Auburn to see her parents - her mother Ellen was not well.

In 1920 Amelia and Frank purchased a home in Smith St. West Richmond. Frank worked as a house painter and decorator. In August 1922 their first daughter Iris was born. This was a very happy period for Amelia.

In 1925 Amelia's Mother Ellen died in Auburn. This changed the plans of Amelia and Frank as they decided to go and live in Auburn and take care of Amelia's father Charles. They sold their home in West Richmond. Iris was three years old at this time. In 1930 their second daughter Ruth was born. This period was part of the depression years. Frank had little work as people were not improving their properties at this time. However they managed to survive by having fruit trees in the garden, growing their own vegetables and keeping hens for eggs. Amelia made clothes for the family and made soap for household purposes. As the family home was paid for it only needed maintenance. Eventually Frank was employed again

and their situation improved. Most of the work in the garden and looking after fowls was done by Amelia's father Charles.