

Elsie (Meacham) Lawrance 1891 - 1975

Elsie Meacham was born on 30th December 1891 in Longreach, Outback Queensland. She was the middle child of seven, although an older sister and younger brother died in infancy. Elsie's parents, George & Elizabeth, arrived from Northampton, UK and George was an Alderman for North Rockhampton for 4 years.

The family followed the railway west, arriving in Longreach in time for Elsie's birth. They lived in Galah Street. In 1892, Mr Meacham opened the local branch of the Meacham & Leyland hardware company, and managed the branch until his death in 1930. Elsie's Uncle, James Meacham established the company at Pine Hill in 1884 and Barcaldine in 1886. The business was a sound investment for the family and at the time of her father's death, the company was ranked with the State's leading hardware merchants outside the metropolitan area.

Elsie father was a well respected member of the community and was Chairman of the Shire Council in 1907 and involved in several community organisations.

After her father's death, Elsie left Longreach and moved to Brisbane. Until her marriage to Glenn Lawrance, she lived with her mother and younger brother at Graceville in Brisbane. There's no record of her courtship with Glenn at "High Tor", but they married at St Andrew's Church, Vulture St, South Brisbane on 20 August 1932. Elsie lived with Glen at "High Tor" for over 40 years.

For over seventy Years "High Tor" became an English style garden in a rainforest setting with a panoramic coast line vista, created by Glenn & Elsie Lawrance.



Elsie (pointing) with US Navy personal, councillors & Eva Beacom (right) at "High Tor" 28/03/1941



Elsie at "High Tor" with Ian Neilen's youngsters, Alan, Julie, Suzanne & Diane C1964



Collated by Desley Malone
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History from "Glen Lawrance of High Tor" by Cate Patterson from the Montville History Group.