

S T O R Y   O F   A   L I F E

MYRIL McDOUGALL BOWMAN LLOYD was born on 26th April, 1887 at "Harthrop", Bathurst, N.S.W., the home of her maternal grandparents, the Hon. E.J. Webb and his wife Selina. Myril was the third child of Ernest Matthew Bowman and his wife Catherine Emma (Katy) Webb, coming after Kenneth and Kathleen and followed by Heather. Her first home was Merotherie and in 1892 the family moved to their property and new home, 'Wargundy', Craboon, near Gulgong. Myril was educated at home until she went to the P.L.C. Croydon in 1900 as a boarder. From there she went to Sydney University in 1905, where she received a B.A. and an M.A. in 1910.

1911 she did a cruise to the Dutch East Indies, and later her first trip to Europe with her sister Heather, then in 1915 studied physiotherapy in Sydney. Another trip to England followed, via New Zealand and Canada, and in 1917-18 she worked in Army Hospitals in England. She vividly remembers driving donkey carts in New Forest. Myril Bowman returned to Australia via Canada in 1919, and met her future husband, Milton Lloyd, on the ship.

In 1922 she left Australia to visit Heather in Montevideo, Uruguay, via the west coast of U.S.A. and South America, going onto Paris via New York with Heather. Myril started the study of sculpture with Antoine Bourdelle. She visited Montreal in 1923 and saw Milton Lloyd again - he was studying medicine at McGill University.

An exhibition of sculpture in Paris in 1925 received good reviews. Dr. Lloyd came to Paris to study bronchoscopy, and they were married in September 1925. Their son Ian was born in December, 1926. Mrs Lloyd continued her study of sculpture and in 1929 arrived in New York city where Milton had already established residence. This was the time of the Stock Market collapse. Mrs. Lloyd continued to study sculpture with Archipenko in a more modern vein. From 1930 they were settled on Staten Island, New York and Mrs. Lloyd made several trips to Europe to visit her mother and sister, and a cruise of Baltic ports to Leningrad. A trip to Italy in 1939 with her neice resulted in a hasty departure due to World War II.

Mrs. Lloyd became involved in 'Bundles for Britian' on Staten Island from 1940 - 45. In 1941-52 she studied painting with Ozenfant in the purist style, and gave up sculpture as the work was too heavy. She made a return visit to Australia in 1952 after an absence of 30 years, and visited Alice Springs with Heather, hiring a bicycle for sightseeing. They met Albert Namatjira. Milton died of a stroke in 1954 and the following year Mrs. Lloyd left New York to live in the south of France in a pension in Cannes, until 1967, painting in Ozenfarnt's studio. During a trip to Australia in 1956 she gave an exhibition of paintings at the Biziertha Gallery. She also collated Dr. Lloyd's poems and had them printed into a small book.

In 1967 Mrs. Lloyd returned permanently to Australia, living alone in a flat at Kirribilli until 1986. During 1972, at the age of 85, she made her last trip to Europe, on her own, including a 3 week cruise of the Greek Islands and visits to Cannes, Paris and London. Prior to 1986 she also made trips to New Zealand, Tasmania, Indonesia and Malaysia with her family - her son Ian and daughter-in-law Alison, and grandsons Stephen and Milton. In 1986 Mrs. Lloyd's back pain required hospitalisation and she moved into James Milson Nursing Home in June.

Mrs. Lloyd is a great admirer of Winston Churchill and especially of the following words from his writings:

"Let us be contented with what has happened to us and thankful for all that we have been spared .... Let us accept the natural order in which we move .... Let us treasure our joys but not bewail our sorrows .... The journey has been well worth making - once."

Mrs. Lloyd is a remarkable lady, a loving mother and adoring and adored grandmother.

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