

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4862

Lomax, Alice Christina

(1893 - 1994)

Born 20 October, 1893, Majura Australia

Died 31 December, 1994, Campsie Australia

Occupation Publican, shopkeeper, Teacher

Summary

Alice Mayo was a third generation Australian, the daughter of William Mayo and Mary Ann Warwick. Her grandfather, Albert Mayo, had arrived as a convict in 1839 and lived and worked in the Duntroon area. Alice Mayo married Harold Vere Chumleigh in 1913. They were divorced in 1934 and she married Ferdinand Lomax in 1935. She worked as a schoolteacher as well as running a florist shop in Double Bay and a lingerie shop in Penfold's Buildings in Sydney. She played the piano as well as tennis. She grew up in Majura and lived between there and Sydney until the time of her second marriage. She and Ferdinand Lomax ran hotels at Boree Creek and Brown Mountain before retiring to Batehaven. Ferdinand Lomax died in 1969. Alice Lomax lived to the age of 101, only moving to a Nursing Home at the age of 99.

Details

Alice Mayo had one brother and seven sisters, one of whom was married to Claude Lomax. She also had extended family in the Canberra area; several uncles having settled there. She seems to have come from a family of independent women. Her mother was a postmistress in Canberra before her marriage in 1880, while in 1907 the 'Misses Mayo' were running the Majura Refreshment Rooms in Queanbeyan. A year later another 'Miss Mayo' offered board and residence in the same town. In 1911, Alice Mayo's sister, Elizabeth, took up a position as a probationary nurse at Queanbeyan Hospital.

Alice Mayo's first husband, Harold Vere Chumleigh was a soldier, a colourful character who appears to have reinvented himself and had several wives. Alice Chumleigh sued for divorce in 1934 on the grounds of desertion. Her husband had been transferred to Townsville in 1928. Alice Chumleigh was living with her sister, Ethel Sells, who had divorced her own husband in 1922, in Marrickville in Sydney.

Published resources

Resource Section

Chumleigh, Harold Vere (1880 - 1970), Fielding, Jean P. And Thyer, J. H.

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

From Lady Denman to Katy Gallagher: A Century of Women's Contributions to Canberra, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2013,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/ldkg>

Archival resources

National Library of Australia

[Biographical cuttings on Alice Christina Lomax, Canberra pioneer, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

Author Details

Catherine Bishop

Created 8 January 2013

Last modified 19 February 2019