

EULOGY AT FUNERAL OF MARION CARMENT WOOD

28 August 2014

David Carment

Marion was the only sibling of my father Maxwell Carment. As my mother Diana had no siblings and my grandfather David Carment's only surviving sibling was an unmarried sister, she had a special role in the Carment family of Sydney, which by the mid 1950s included my sister Annie, my brother Tom and me. We saw and communicated with her and her family on many occasions over a long period and loved her dearly.

Marion and I shared an interest in the Carment family's past. Proud of the fact that most of her ancestors were Scottish, she greatly enjoyed her visits to places in Scotland with which they were associated and meeting relations there. At her daughter Diana's suggestion, I will speak briefly today about the Carments.

The first of Marion's recorded direct Carment ancestors lived in the south of Scotland during the late seventeenth century. They were active Covenanters, members of a movement that was persecuted for resisting government control of the Church of Scotland and emphasizing the Church's Calvinist traditions. Her great great grandfather David Carment and great grandfather James Carment were Church of Scotland ministers in the Highlands who in protest against aristocratic privilege in the church broke away from it in 1843 to join the new Free Church of Scotland. Marion's grandfather David Carment, an actuary, migrated to Sydney in

1872 and died there aged 90. As well as being notable in his profession, he was active in a wide range of community organisations and a keen yachtsman. Marion's father David Carment was a naval architect who lived until he was 91 and followed in his father's footsteps as a yachtsman. Her brother David, known by his second name Maxwell, Carment was a chartered accountant and company director.

Marion took a particular interest in her Carment female forbears. They included her great great grandmother Margaret Stormonth, David Carment's wife who was described as 'a woman of very superior mind and eminent piety', and great grandmother Elizabeth Maxwell, James Carment's wife and from a family that was prominent in Dundee. By the time of her death aged almost 96 just a few months before Marion's birth, Elizabeth was the devoted matriarch of a large extended family in Britain, Australia and North America. Marion had clear memories of Elizabeth, known as Lizzy, Shallard, the English born wife of her grandfather David Carment who was blighted by the childhood deaths of three of her five children. Marion was close to her long-lived aunt Elizabeth, known as Bessie, Carment, who shared and encouraged Marion's fondness of cats and good children's literature as well as support for worthy charities. Marion's mother Ida Mackie was the daughter of a well-known Glasgow shipbuilder. A richly talented craftswoman and cook with an extraordinarily quick wit, she was strict in matters of behaviour but abundant in love for her children and grandchildren.

The eminent Australian historian Alan Atkinson recently observed that one's ancestors are 'an early shadow of yourself'. There is much about Marion that supports this view, including her Christian faith, intelligence, craftsmanship and well lived long life. Perhaps most notable was an

inherited love of family that was, in the Apostle Paul's words, both 'patient and kind'. Among the Carments she will be long remembered.