

Brief History of William Charles McIntosh Jaffray

Born at Hatton of Ardoyne, Oyne, 4th. July 1884, William was the son of Isabella Jaffray, aged 22, of that address. His reputed father was John McIntosh.

The 1891 Census shows 'Willy' aged seven living at Hatton of Ardoyne with his grandfather, Leslie Jaffray, now a widower, his wife, Jane, having died in January of that year shortly after celebrating their Golden Wedding (20th. June 1880) Also living on the farm is his aunt, Elspet Skene Jaffray, (daughter of the said Leslie Jaffray) and her daughter, Elsie Cumming, aged 13.

Five years later, Elspet S. Jaffray dies (14th. April, 1896) aged 40 when Willy is rising 12, to be followed the next year by his grandfather.

Life for Willy now becomes difficult. From his recollections as told eventually to his family, he was 'on the parish' and 'life was miserable'. It is my belief that shortly after this he would be 'fee'd' to a local farmer until about 20 years of age when, around 1903/04, he emigrated to Australia and thence to New Zealand. He was offered a job by a farmer living near Hawera in the North Island whilst on passage to N.Z. which he accepted.

During the 1914-18 war he enlisted and returned to Europe and, having survived the war, paid one last visit to Ardoyne before returning to N.Z. On 8th. July 1919, he married Ivy Holmes of Porewa in 1925 he acquired his own farm property near Hawera.

He and Ivy raised a family of four children, the fifth and youngest having died in infancy.

He remained estranged from his family and 1 rebuffed all approaches by them. A copy of his family tree is attached and his children were raised largely in ignorance of his parentage and their relations.

Willy and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding in July 1969. He died on 31st. May, 1973, in Hawera, survived by his wife, Ivy, and their four children.

The farm he settled in 1925 is still in family hands. Ivy died in 1979

*Ivy was of German stock the family having changed their name to Holmes(?)*