William McIntosh was born on 4th July 1881 at his grandparents farm house, Hatton of Ardoyne, near Oyne, Aberdeenshire in Scotland. His mother Isabella was 22 years old and living with her parents Leslie and Jane, and her sister Elspet, teenage brother George, Elspet's daughter Elsie, and nephew Alexander Ross. Most of her other eight living brothers and sisters had already married and were settled in the area with families of their own. His mother registered his birth, giving him the names William Charles McIntosh Jaffray, perhaps giving him his father name, even though she didn't give it to the registrar.

His grandparents Leslie and Jane had been living at Hatton for about 30 years, moving there from the nearby village of Chapel of Garioch. They had had a family of thirteen children only to lose their eldest Alexander at the age of 28, William when aged 10 and the youngest Mary, when just a baby. Isabella was the tenth child and fifth daughter and was born at Hatton in December 1861. Hatton was a farm of about 40 acres and the farm house a typical *but and ben* - a two room cottage where the but was the outer room or kitchen and the ben the inner room or parlour.



The old farm house at Hatton of Ardoyne

William may have been given the Jaffrey surname at birth but in every extant official record he is plain William McIntosh, called Willie as a child. He had a myriad of cousins nearby to play with but farm work would have dominated the family's life, as there is no record of any extra farm labour being employed. The family were able to have a servant girl in the house In June 1887 Isabella had a second son whom she named Charles and in December 1888 Frederick was born,



Believed to be Leslie and Jane Jaffray

but sadly died the following year aged only nine months. It seems that Isabella found it difficult to support her sons as a single woman, so young Charles was boarded with the Davidson family at Hornfield in Rayne and William remained with his grandparents at Hatton, while his mother worked as a domestic servant in nearby Fyvie.

His grandparents Leslie and Jane Jaffray (nee Smith) were to have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in June 1890 but it wasn't to be as Jane died on 31 January of that year. A photograph of an elderly couple, formally dressed for a studio portrait is believed to be Leslie and Jane and is currently held by the National Museum of Scotland.

That same year the family left the but and ben for a new and substantial farmhouse at Hatton.



The "new" farmhouse at Hatton built c 1890



at her feet is her 5 year old ander, and Jeanie Burr nee Alexander sits with her youngest on her knee and some of her other twelve children about her. The photo was 32 with her youngest child Isabella on her standing in the son Robert and his elder sister Elsie is seated at the far right. The lady

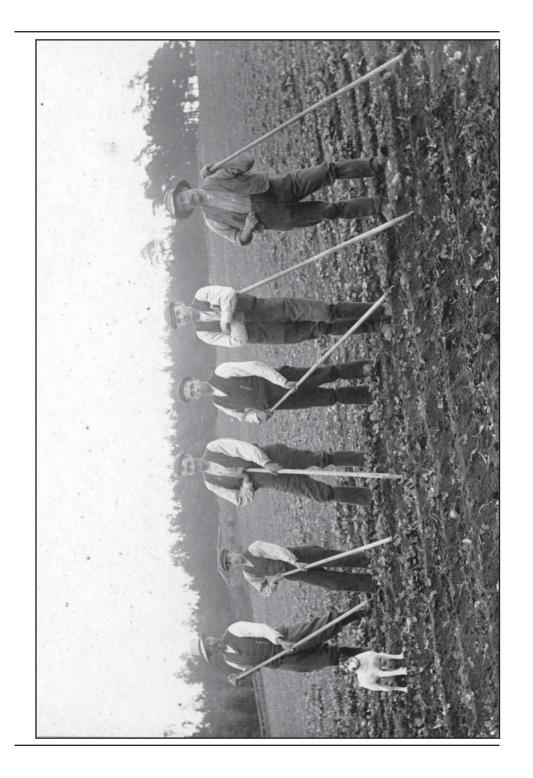
taken in 1900 when the Burr family were visiting from New Zealand.

In September 1891, when she was 29 years old, Isabella married 36 year old Robert Alexander and they settled at his family home of North Sunside, Rayne, to the north of Oyne. Three children were born to them there - Elsie in 1891, Robert in 1896 and Isabella in 1899.

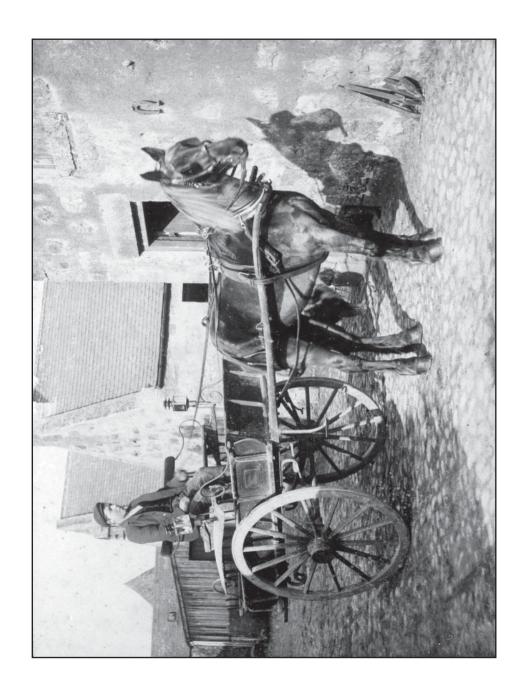
Meanwhile William remained with his grandfather and aunt Elspet at Hatton, but his life was to change very quickly. In April 1896 his aunt Elspet died of cancer aged only 40 followed almost a year to the day later by his 82 year old grandfather Leslie. For reasons unknown thirteen year old William and his ten year old brother Charlie didn't live with their mother and step father and by 1901 were working as farm labourers for Alexander Benzie at Mosstown. Their cousin Alexander Ross (son of their aunt Jean Jaffray) had taken over the farm at Hatton.

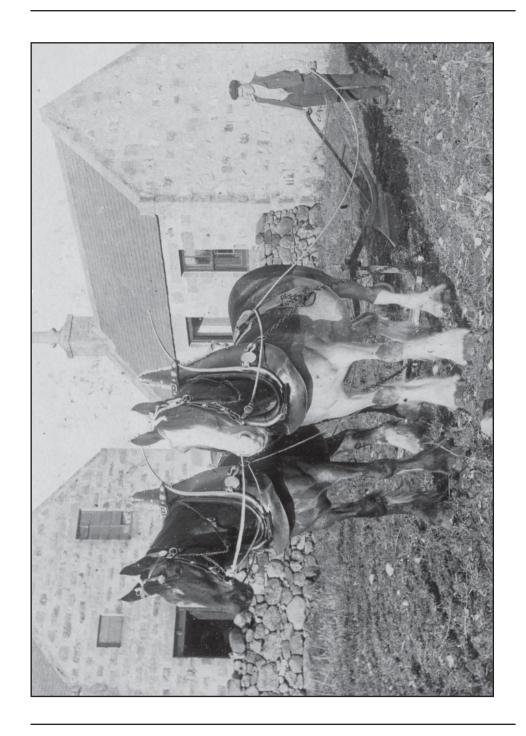
It may be that at this stage William started working more with the heavy horses that were a vital part of the farming world. He mentioned in later years that he worked for the Wildgoose family for a time, and also for a Mrs. Durniss. While in his early twenties he worked for McRobies Stables in Aberdeen and made two trips to Canada and another to South Africa to accompany stud Clydesdale horses to their new homes.

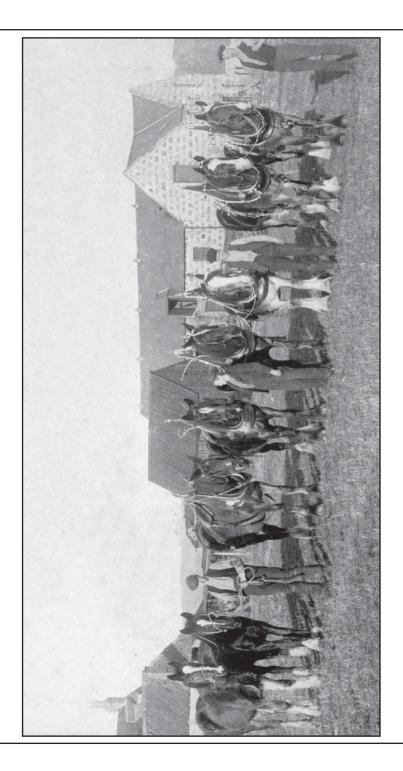








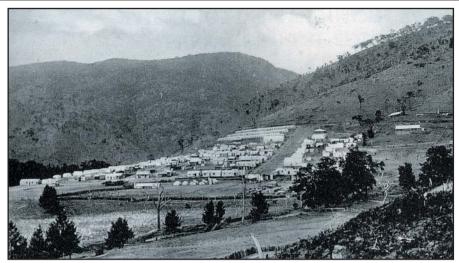




Perhaps those journeys showed him that there were opportunities for a young man to make a good future for himself outside of Scotland as the next record we have of him is taking a  $\pounds 9$  assisted passage to Australia in about 1908. It is thought that he went first to southern Queensland, near the border with New South Wales, where he worked as a farm labourer. He then went south of the Blue Mountains to Burrinjuck where a new dam was being constructed to provide irrigation water to the pasture lands of central New South Wales. At the time it was to be the second largest such dam in the world. It is not known whether he worked with the horses at Burrinjuck - certainly there were many teams loading in supplies for the building of the railway and for the many men and their families on the construction site.



Barren Jack (Burrinjuck) - 15 May 1907. Labourers working on the construction of the railway along Carroll's Creek.



Barren Jack City c 1908

However Australia's climate proved to be too hot to be comfortable so as soon as he had paid off the remainder of his fare to Australia William left for New Zealand. He was very low on cash by the time he reached New Zealand and quickly took up an offer of farm work for the Gardiner family of Riverlea, in Taranaki. The settlement of Riverlea was very new - barely 10 years since the first settlers had cleared their sections of bush and built small timber shelters that would do until funds were available for a house. The land was still covered in part by dense native rain forest, and where partially cleared, tall burnt tree stumps dominated. There was plenty of work other than milking the cows - the council employed men to clear the bush, and other settlers also hired men for the same work. William started at Gardiners by getting the 140 cows into the milking shed very early in the morning and then assisting with hand milking. A top milker could manage 30 cows at a sitting so the Gardiners would have needed at least 4 people twice a day. He worked occasionally for the Griffin family cutting bush and with his friend Tommy Fowler took a contract with the county to fell timber over 4" diameter at Rowan on Grace's property. Fortunately for William an error on the contract meant that what should have read 4 feet actually read four inches and much less work!

Life wasn't all work for some stories of practical jokes have also been heard. With his good friend John Gardiner (later to lose his life in World War 1) he trained the dogs to howl when people sang, and tied them up under the Riverlea Hall so that when the Bretheren held Bible meetings the dogs would accompany them Catholic Mass was also said in the hall and when priest would tie his gig to the gate William and John would unharness horse, take it through the gate and

reharness it. One day they even white washed it!.



Mill working at Makaka, near Riverlea, c 1910 Loan and Merchantile factory at Riverlea c 1903



William moved south to the nearby settlement of Auroa and went into partnership with Dave Donald to lease the farm around the school which was owned by Duffs. It was presumably in these years before the War that he met his future wife Ivy Holmes who was working for O'Dea's at Auroa.

In 1913 William's brother Charlie emigrated to Auckland but had only just settled when war broke out and he enlisted in the NZEF and left again for England. William himself also enlisted and began active service in May 1918.



William McIntosh No: 74884 Rifleman 3rd RB

2 November 1917 Attestation

6 March 1918 Posted to B Coy 39th Pvte

27 April Posted to B Coy 35th

22 May Granted LNP 21st – 28th May

31 May Granted Extension of LNP to 1 June 1918

29 May Began Active Service 5 June Embarked Troopship 105

31 July Disembarked Liverpool. Marched in and posted

to NZRB Res Dep Brocton; Rifleman

25 September Left Brocton for France
27 September Marched into camp Etaples
30 September Joined 3rd Battalion NZRB

4 November Reported wounded

8 November General Shrapnel wound, left leg. Army Hospital

France 33/GH Carriers DR 707

5 December Army Hospital Wnd Lft Leg

6 December Admitted New End Mil Hosp wnd Ift leg

19 December Transferred to Con Hos Hchch

11 March 1919 Embarked SS. Raranga at Portsmouth 25 March Disembarked Newport Nova Scotia

29 March Reembarked
30 April Disembarked NZ
27 May Discharged Wellington

6 May 1919 Pension Recd
27 July 1921 British War Medal
20 March 1922 Victory Medal

## Physical Description:

Age: 33 years 4 months

Height: 5' 7½"
Weight: 152 lbs

Chest: Min: 37" Max: 39½"

Complexion: Medium
Eye Colour: Blue
Hair Colour: Dark Brown
Religion: Scots Presbyterian

Distinguishing Marks: 2 vaccination scars left, slight left varicocele, sight defective. Fracture of left tibia 8½ years ago. No disability

He left New Zealand with the 35th Reinforcements in June 1918 and, after further training in England, joined 3rd Battalion, 3rd New Zealand (Rifle) Brigade on 27 September 1918 in Etaples. The New Zealand Division, which included the Rifle Brigades were involved in the final thrust against the Germans at the Hindenberg Line. Following is an extract from the 1966 Encyclopaedia of New Zealand describing the activities of the Division in September and October 1918.

In September the tempo increased: Haplincourt, Bertincourt, Ruyaul-court — all in ruins — and then the southern half of Havrincourt Wood, from the deep thickets of which on the ninth the Division assaulted the Trescault Spur, the last position before the Hindenburg Line. There the defence hardened. Picked German troops threw everything into the battle — flamethrowers in the front line, intense gassing of rear areas, heavy counterbattery fire — and the New Zealanders gained only a slight advantage in five days of bitter fighting, though this check cost the enemy heavy loss of first-class units. When the Division was relieved on the fourteenth the crest of the Spur remained in no-man's land.

Against the Hindenburg Line proper the 2nd Brigade gained ground on the twenty-ninth and the 1st Brigade was irresistible, sweeping past the first objective and over the Cambrai Road to pause breathlessly before the Escaut or Scheldt Canal and river below, the spires of Cambrai to the north, and the inviting land to the east, unscarred by war. After an awkward pause, the 1st Auckland and 2nd Wellington crossed the canal and river lower down in the VI Corps sector and seized CrèGvecoeur on 1 October against stiffening opposition. The Division now faced the very last of the Hindenburg defences on heights to the east. On 8 October, under a barrage, the 2nd Brigade hacked its way through wire 50 yards deep – a hopeless task had the enemy not lost heart. Linking up with the Rifles pushing on from CrèGvecoeur, the advance quickened, Lesdain and then Esnes fell, a short step next day and then a long one on the tenth to Viesly. On the eleventh the 1st Brigade crossed the River Selle south-west of Solesmes. There on the twelfth, a year to the day from the reverse at Passchendaele, the Division attacked another Belle Vue Spur and had some sharp fighting before it fell. In five days the Division had advanced 11 miles and had taken over 1,400 prisoners and much material at a cost of 536 casualties. The pace, to men used to advancing yards rather than miles, was exhilarating; but supplies now had to catch up.

## Le Quesnoy

The Division gained Beaudignies after dark on 23 October and the high ground beyond next day, bringing into view the mediaeval fortress of





Le Quesnoy, ringed with 60-ft ramparts and full of civilians. A barrage, of extraordinary complexity, planned so that not one round fell in the town, led the infantry round both sides on 4 November, with batteries leapfrogging forward to cover the advance nearly to the Mormal Forest. Bypassing the fortress on both sides but taking four neighbouring villages, the infantry reached the edge of the forest at 2.15 p.m. A standing barrage meanwhile played on the ramparts and with the aid of scaling ladders the Rifles carried the outlying bastions and entered Le Quesnoy soon after 4 p.m. Nearly 2,000 prisoners, 60 field guns, and hundreds of machine guns were taken in this fitting climax to two and a half years on the Western Front. The infantry were relieved on the eastern side of the forest at midnight on 5–6 November and the war ended five days later.

It seems likely that William received his leg wound at the storming of Le Quesnoy on November 4th. He was sent to the convalescent hospital at Hornchurch in Essex, where many New Zealand wounded were treated and it's likely that during this time he made his last trip back to Scotland. Later he told his family that there was no one left who remembered him. He also spoke of the devastation in Halifax, Nova Scotia caused when two ships collided in the harbour and the resulting explosion destroyed 1630 homes and killed 1900 people. Although his military record doesn't mention a stop-over on the way over it is possible that it occurred. Certainly a year later when returning to New Zealand in March 1919 the ship was berthed for four days in Newport, close to Halifax.



Halifax, Nova Scotia December 1917

His safe return to New Zealand was celebrated with his marriage to Ivy Holmes at the Roman Catholic Presbytery on 8th July 1919. Ivy's aunt Annie Corney and her husband John were the witnesses and the wedding snap shows their sons (Ivy's cousins) Lionel and Hector and her friend Rene He was .35 years old and she 23.



Lionel Corney, Rene?, William McIntosh, Ivy Holmes, Hector Corney

Ivy had been born in the settlement of Porewa, near Marton on 3rd October 1896 to 22 year old Rose Wolfsbauer and registered as Ivy Cecilia. Rose had come to New Zealand as a baby in 1875 with her parents Thomas and Elisabeth and elder half brother Mathias from the village of Tarcsa, now in Austria but then part of Hungary. Elizabeth nee Edwell, was Thomas' second wife, his first wife Theresia Reichardt having died in childbirth when Mathias was two years old. They came to New Zealand on the ship Lammershagen with a number of other European immigrants and settled in the Inglewood where they had a further five children: Heinrich (1876-1876), Annie (1877-1965), Maria (1878-1950), Domini (1881-1964) and Thomas (1882). By 1880 they had a farm on York Road, inland from Midhirst but life was difficult and Thomas worked away from home road breaking in order to supplement their income as they were suffering real hardship. In April 1883 he left home to work in Manaia and Elisabeth, finding the hardship too much to bear, took her own life. Her husband was left with six children, the youngest only four months old. We know that life continued to be hard for Thomas and his children as in October 1885 he appeared before the Police Court to show why he could not contribute to the support of two of his children who were in the Nelson Industrial School.

"Mr Pardy said the case had been adjourned to allow defendant time to see whether he could induce anyone to take the children. The defendant was in poor circumstances, as were a number of his countryman who





Ivy Holmes - 1916

were settled on poor land near Mt Egmont, and was unable to contribute anything. Defendant said he had asked several people to take the children but they would not do so without payment. His Worship gave judgement that defendant would have to pay when he was in a position to do so, but that at present no order would be made."

He did find a Polish family to take Domini, but we do not know anything further of the other children's early years.

Although Rose was baptised Theresia, once in New Zealand she was only ever known as Rose. Thomas moved from Taranaki to the Marton area by 1892 when he became a naturalised New Zealander. His son Mathias followed suit in Hurley-ville in 1899. Rose must have stayed near her father, as in 1894 her daughter Lily Elizabeth was born, followed by Ivy in 1896. When aged 24, in March 1899 she married Australian born William Holmes and they moved to Wellington where he had work as a cook. Ivy went with them and took the Holmes surname, but nothing further has been found of Lily. Rose and William Holmes had a son, also named William , born in Wanganui a month before they married. Sadly William senior died of diabetes and tuberculosis aged only 40, in 1912. Ivy attended school in Wanganui, at St Johns Convent, where she was known as Theresa, and was close to her two aunts, Annie Corney who lived with her family in Wanganui, and Maria (Mary) Ansford who lived in Raetihi and later in Wanganui. Ivy came north to Auroa, to work for the O'Dea family and presumably met William McIntosh who was farming there.

William and Ivy started their married life on a leased farm near the central Taranaki town of Kaponga (Eltham Road, Kaponga side of Rowan Road) where their first child Clarice Isabel was born in February 1920. They then moved south near Manaia to Imlay's farm on Upper Glen Road and two more children arrived: Charles William in April 1923 and Mary Elsie in January 1925. When Mary was six months old they took the lease of a farm further up the mountain at Riverlea - in fact just a mile or so from the Gardiner's property where William had worked on his arrival in New Zealand nearly twenty years before. They were to remain here until ill health ended independent living forty years later. Their second son John Jeffrey was born in November 1930 and the youngest Esther, who sadly died at birth in 1933.

The dairy industry in New Zealand was experiencing stable prices for butterfat of about 18d until 1926 then in 1927 dropped to 15d. It rose again to 18d in 1928 but thereafter steadily sank to a disastrous 9d in 1932. At this time nearly half of New Zealands dairy farmers were technically insolvent and daily life was an endless routine of work in mud. A description by one farmer's wife is typical of the time...

"Rise at 4:30 have a cup of tea...wife to shed, set machines, hubby to bring cows...start milking 5am hard going to 8am; wife returns to house to get breakfast, also to see to children and cut lunches for them to take to school. Hubby feeds calves, fowls and ducks, then breakfast. Load milk on express (a four-wheeled cart), harness horse wash cart down, yoke team to plough disk etc. Wife to start housework about 10am, dinner at 12:30 to be ready to taken down to paddocks (if harvesting three or four men working). Usual times fencing, repairing sheds, fixing yards besides other farm duties till 3:30 ... afternoon tea ...children given something to eat on returning from school. Husband and wife to shed again 4 till 7. Hubby washes machines, feeds calves etc. wife in meantime has returned house, washed children and put to bed before sitting down to her tea at 8pm...by time washed up is 9pm ... too tired to do anything else but crawl into bed."

In the eight days from February 1st 1936 rainfall totalled 12 inches, with nearly 8" falling in one day alone. The Mangawhero River which runs through the McIntosh farm, rose alarmingly and large boulders were heard to tumble down



Charlie, Mary and Clarrie c 1928



stream. William had to cross the river on his horse to get home and was swept from it by the torrent. He managed to reach the bank but the horse was never found.

The children attended Riverlea School, just a mile down the road until each reached the age of 12. After leaving school Charlie and Clarrie worked at home on the farm, while Mary went to the convent in Wanganui for a year of high school. John attended Stratford Technical College. In the later stages of World War 2, Charlie was conscripted and was sent to Trentham Training Camp, but the war ended before he saw active service. During the War a Home Guard was formed, and spent some time digging trenches and practising routine in case of invasion. William and his friend Scotty (Archie) Munro, the local blacksmith, were not above taking the mickey as one night they placed some gelignite near the trenches and lit it when the Home Guard were in the vicinity, just to see the reaction.

William preferred to stay at home and was not often seen at community functions. He didn't attend church but retained his faith and made sure that his children were raised as Protestants rather than in the Catholic faith that was part





John, Charlie, Mary and Clarrie c 1936



Clarice, Mary, John and Charlie c 1936



of Ivy's childhood. There was contact with Ivy's aunts Annie and Mary but none, it seems, with her brother William in Wellington.

After the War in 1946, Clarrie married returned serviceman Laurie Phillips and settled in Wanganui where Laurie worked for the railways. They had two sons born to them, Graeme in November 1947 and Peter in December 1948.



Mary was the next child to marry, in Kaponga in 1953 to David (Ted) Williamson. They settled on nearby Oeo Road to begin their farming career. Their first child Shona was born in March 1955 followed by Murray in 1957.



Charlie married Nancy Smith a couple of years later and had two sons, Willie in 1958 and Bruce in 1962.



The youngest, John, travelled to the UK in the late 1950's, one of the first to do the great New Zealand OE (Overseas experience). His father William asked him to go to Hatton and particularly look up an elderly John Jaffray. John went to Hatton and the occupant Mrs. Ross took him to meet Isabel Grey, William's half sister. They then went to see John Jaffray's son, Leslie Massey who lived in a bothy with an earthen floor. On his return John met and married Gaelyn McKenzie and they also had two children, Fiona in 1960 and Alistair in 1961.



So by 1961 William and Ivy had eight grandchildren- two girls and six boys. Three of the children and their families lived locally and Clarrie was less than two hours drive away. Also in 1961 William suffered serious injuries, including a broken pelvis, when he fell from his horse. A few years later a second fall from the horse put him Hawera Hospital, where he remained in care for the next eight years. However in 1969 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.



Peter Phillips, Shona Williamson, Graeme Phillips Fiona McIntosh, William McIntosh, Murray Williamson William and Ivy Alistair McIntosh, Bruce McIntosh



William died a month or so before his 89th birthday on 31 May 1973, having been married for nearly 54 years. Ivy remained at home until she became too frail and then spent time living with each of her daughters in turn, finally joining William on 20th February 1979 aged 83. They are buried together in the Hawera Cemetery.



John, Mary, Clarrie and Charlie William and Ivy



## EXTENDED FAMILY

Isabella ALEXANDER nee JAFFRAY

Born: 2 December 1861 Hatton of Ardoyne, the daughter of Leslie JAFFRAY

(1815-1897) and Jane nee SMITH (1819-1890)

Died: 2 January 1951 Meikle Wartle.



Mr & Mrs Robert Alexander outside Baldyquash Cottage about 1930. Daughter Elsie with children Isobel, Mabel, Billy and Leslie (who died of diptheria) and Olive.



Four generations at Baldyquash 1947. Isabel Gray, Isabel Alexander, Olive Hepburn, Irene Hepburn

Erected by WILLIAM ALEXANDER in loving memory of his wife ISABELLA BROWN who died at North Sunside, Wartle 1st March 1905 aged 84 years and of the said WILLIAM ALEXANDER who died at North Sunside 14th April 1914 aged 93 years and of their son WILLIAM who died in New Zealand 13th July 1913 aged 64 years and ROBERT who died at Baldyquash Wartle 19th January 1931 aged 76 years also ISABELLA JAFFRAY wife of Robert Alexander who died at Baldyquash Wartle 2 January 1951 aged 89 years



Isabella had six children:

1. William Charles McINTOSH 4 July 1884 - 31 May 1973

2. Charles JAFFRAY 4 June 1887 - 16 November 1864

Charlie first emigrated to New Zealand in 1913, joined the New Zealand Army in 1914 and served for the duration of the war. He was severely wounded and reported missing, but later found alive in a shell hole and sent back to England. He returned to Scotland after the war and emigrated to New Zealand again in 1922. He didn't marry and settled in Pukekohe.

- 3. Frederick JAFFRAY 27 December 1888 27 September 1889
- 4. Elsie Skene ALEXANDER 4 November 1891 1982. She married William REID and had children Isabel BOYD (1916-1984), Mabel WALKER (1919-), William (1921-1926) and Leslie (1924-1926)
- 5. Robert ALEXANDER 25 June 1896 19 January 1972. Married 1st Norah Rettie and had Isabel MORTENSON (1921-1996). Married 2nd Mary EMSLIE and had George (1920-1996). Emigrated to New Zealand in 1924 and settled in Palmerston North.
- 6. Isabella Brown AIEXANDER 19 November 1899 18 February 1994. Married Henry GRAY and had children Charles (Jeff) (1922-), Isabella MANDER (1925-) and Alexander (1935-).



