

JESSIE MACKAY - DIED IN HER 104th YEAR

Genealogy V3-84  
on Vol. 3

Lucknow's grand old lady, Miss Jessie MacKay, died at the Wingham and District Hospital on Friday, April 16. Miss MacKay was 103 years of age having observed her birthday on October 28th of last year.

Miss MacKay had not enjoyed good health for about three months and had been bedfast for most of this time. She was removed to Wingham Hospital on Thursday night. Her friend and companion, Mrs. Wa MacIntyre, who had made her home with Jessie for a number of years, visited with Jessie on Friday afternoon at the hospital. She seemed improved and Mrs. Mac Intyre returned to Lucknow only to be advised of her sudden death a short time after reaching home.

Jessie was one of nine children born to Hugh and Catherine Kerr. She was born in what was known to many as the Graham home, located just west of the Supertest garage, and which has been dismantled. Across the road, on the United Church grounds her father operated the first blacksmith shop. He was a native of Glasgow and came to Lucknow after the founding of the village.

Six of the MacKay family were born in Lucknow, Maggie, Donald, Angus, Jessie, Johnnie, and Hughie. In 1873, the family moved to the farm atop the hill on the second of Kinloss, just west of the Lucknow-Holyrood road. The three others in the family, Annie, David and Alex were born at the second concession. Jessie was the sole survivor of the family. The parents and all other members of the family had been laid to rest at the South Kinloss Cemetery.

The MacKay family had long been devoted servants of South Kinloss Presbyterian Church.

When the family moved to Kinloss Jessie was six years of age. She attended public school at the second of Kinloss. She later attended Lucknow High School.

As a young woman, doctors recommended that Jessie go to the "frosty climate" of Duluth for health reasons and this was the start of about 35 years which she spent in the United States. It was in 1890 that Jessie left for Duluth and in the next few years she lived and worked in various places in the United States.

She trained as a practical nurse at Milwaukee, specializing in obstetrics, and later spent about fifteen years in Chicago serving as a nurse and doing charity work with needy people. She studied at the Delaware Water Gap Sanitarium and became proficient as a masseur in giving the water treatment for various sicknesses.

Jessie went to Europe in 1904, again on the advice of doctors for health reasons.

In 1922 she returned to the home farm in Kinloss upon the death of one of her sisters. In 1949 the MacKays sold their farm to Herb McQuillin and Jessie, Annie and Angus moved to Lucknow where Angus died a year later. Annie died in 1964 at the age of 90.

Jessie's mother died about 1897 and her father about 1907. Miss MacKay resided in her home on Gough Street until selling to Earl MacDonald recently. She has since made her home with Mrs. Annie MacIntyre, also on Gough Street.

Only one member of the MacKay family ever married. He was Alex who resided in Edmonton. Mrs. Alex MacKay, a sister-in-law, is still living in Edmonton. A niece, Mrs. John(Dorothy)Lennie and a nephew, Donald MacKay, both of Edmonton survive,

