

Franks Forage No 4A.

Two Archibald Montgomeries.

We know that Sir Henry Fairfax the 1st baronet of The Holmes married Archibald Montgomerie Williamson Ramsay, daughter of Thomas Williamson Ramsay and maybe are surprised that such a name belonged to a female. In fact, she was the second female Archibald Montgomerie.

Archibald Montgomerie 1.

William Hagart married Marion Cairns in 1765 and they had five sons and two daughters. The eldest child was christened Archibald Montgomerie and was a girl. How strange you may ask? William had a distinguished army career before setting up as a wine merchant in Leith and his commanding officer was Archibald Montgomerie, 11th Earl of Eglinton who became his patron. Thus he named his first child after the Earl. Other female Archibalds followed. To quote the Hagart-Hayes Family Tree website "Archibald's charms must have been considerable for on 28th June 1785, she made a very advantageous marriage to Robert Ramsay of Maxton, a partner in the merchant firm of Ramsay and Williamson in Leith. Maxton was a country house in Roxburghshire. The husband died early on (1814) and without issue left Archibald in outstanding financial condition with a house in Leith, a dozen servants and a house in the country. She died on May 7th 1832".¹

Archibald Montgomerie 2.

Robert Ramsay of Maxton was the brother-in-law and cousin of Thomas Williamson for Thomas married Robert's sister Elizabeth on 7th June 1785, three weeks before Robert married Archibald in the same church. They were business partners as stated above and also dealt in property. In 1810 they purchased the Maxton estate and after Robert died in 1814, Thomas Williamson assumed the additional name of Ramsay.

Thomas had three sons and four daughters. The second son, Thomas, lived in India and was presented with the silver centre piece in the Dining Room at Charlecote. The first and fourth daughters, Jean and Elizabeth never married but the third daughter, Archibald Montgomerie married Sir Henry Fairfax, 1st baronet in January 1830. Although Archibald was apparently named after her aunt, her maternal grandmother's maiden name was also Montgomerie for Jean Montgomerie married Robert Ramsay of Camno in Dundee in 1749. (Robert Ramsay of Camno was the father of Robert Ramsay of Maxton). Thomas Williamson Ramsay died in 1838 and Archibald on 13th July 1844 aged 50. It would appear that in 1876 when Elizabeth Williamson Ramsay died, she was the last surviving Williamson Ramsay for in that year Sir William Fairfax inherited Maxton and the name Ramsay was added to his name before that of Fairfax.²

Notes

¹ Website no longer available

² *Burkes Peerage & Baronetage Ramsay-Fairfax-Lucy*

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