

## **CARMICHAEL Annie Cordelia (nee JEFFERY)**

contributed by family researcher Theresa Murphy, [tmurphynz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tmurphynz@xtra.co.nz)

**Annie Cordelia Jeffery** was the last child of **Richard Gardiner Jeffery** and **Ellen Backhurst**.

She had three sisters and three brothers. Born in Onehunga in 1876, she was only 2 years old when her father died in 1878. As she grew into adulthood she remained living with her mother, whilst her older siblings married and made homes of their own (though several remained in Onehunga.) It would have been a warm and reasonably comfortable life with the family enjoying time together (including church and social occasions), along with their **Backhurst** and **Williams** cousins. (See the **Backhurst**, **Jeffery** and **Williams** biographies on this website)



Ellen Elizabeth, Annie Cordelia and their mother Ellen Jeffery c.1892

After her mother died in 1909, Annie continued to live in the family house on Symonds Street and later Jackson Street, Onehunga.

**Annie** shared her home with a woman called **Mary Elizabeth Finn**, who remained a life-long friend. Annie eventually brought a property at 17 Cardwell Street, Onehunga in 1925 for 150 pounds, where the couple lived for the next few years.

In 1932, it may have come as a surprise to the family when Annie announced that she was going to get married. She was then 55 years old and had remained single up until then. Her husband-to-be was a 75-year-old farmer named **James Carmichael**.

**James** had been widowed in 1929 when his wife **Agnes** died. James and Agnes had several grownup children.

**Annie and James** married on 22 February 1932 at Saint Saviour's Church, Blockhouse Bay and then made their home at James' farm at Wall Street, Penrose. And Mary Elizabeth went with them.

But the following years were not always kind to Annie. She was still living at Wall Street in 1938, as was Mary. It seems that not long afterwards she was beset by a number of illnesses which seriously debilitated her. It may have been for this reason that Annie shifted to 10 Puriri Street, Greenlane to be nursed by her good friend, Mary Finn, assisted by Ann Jackson.

This terrible ordeal would have saddened her family who would have done all they could to assist her. However, the end came on 8 July 1942 (only one week after the death of her eldest sister **Alice Eliza Kellsall**.) Annie had been taken to a private hospital at 26 Domett Street in Epsom (which now forms part of *Gillies Road Hospital*.) She noted in her will that she wished to be cremated "*without flowers and without mourning and that my ashes shall be scattered as my Trustees think fit.*" She also left up to fifty pounds for a headstone to be erected on her parent's grave at **Saint Peter's Cemetery**.

The bulk of the estate, her house in Cardwell Street, household and personal effects and clothing she left to her good friend Mary Elizabeth Finn *“in grateful recognition of her care and loving kindness during the many years she has resided with me.”*

**Annie** was cremated at Waikumete Crematorium. It is most likely that her ashes were interred in her parents' grave in **Saint Peter's Cemetery**, given that she is mentioned on the headstone that had been placed there at her request, and that her name was entered into the church's burial records.

**James Carmichael** died 14 August 1947 and is buried in the *Hillsborough Cemetery* with his first wife, Agnes.

**Mary Elizabeth Finn** continued to live at 10 Puriri Street where she died on 22 July 1950. Her grave is at *Purewa Cemetery* with her sister.