

JAFFRAYS, WOODRIFFS AND MOIRS

In 1785, John Richmond JAFFRAY was born in Kinross, in Eastern Scotland, about 17 miles north of Edinburgh, on Loch Leven. He migrated to London in the early part of the 19th century and developed a profitable trading business with America, under his own name. He bought a six-storey house at 28, Eaton Square in London. His first wife, a member of the WOODRIFF family, gave birth to a son, Edward Somerville JAFFRAY, in 1816. He, eventually, joined and directed the successful merchanting company in New York. This company had been founded in the early 1800's by John R. JAFFRAY but was known in the States as Robert Jaffray & Co and by 1838 it had become a major corporation. Edward S. JAFFRAY died in 1892 and the company was liquidated in 1895. John R. JAFFRAY's second marriage, about 1820, was to Caroline WOODRIFF, who was aged a mere 15. In 1821, their first son, William, was born. In 1823, she gave birth to their second son, Arthur Woodriff JAFFRAY.

Meanwhile, Caroline JAFFRAY's elder brother, John Robert WOODRIFF, who was born in 1791 and became an officer in the Royal Navy, married his first wife in 1819 and then, in 1836 his second wife, Jessie Brownsmith (?) Sumarel. Jessie came from Grouville, a suburb of St. Helier in Jersey. In 1842, John Robert WOODRIFF's wife, Jessie, gave birth to their second daughter, Mary Twynam WOODRIFF, Preston-cum-Sutton Poyntz, in Dorset. This was not far from Weymouth and Portland Harbour where John WOODRIFF may have been posted. In 1848, at the age of 57, he was promoted to Commander.

In 1858, Arthur Woodriff JAFFRAY, the second son of John Richmond JAFFRAY, married his first cousin, Mary Twynam WOODRIFF at St. Michael's, Chester Square in Belgravia, close to Eaton Square. He was 35 and Mary just 17. They were married by Rev. Joseph H. Hamilton, who lived at 15 Eaton Place, not far from the Jaffray home. Mary's address on the marriage certificate is given as 1, Bermuda Place, Bath Road, Peckham (this no longer exists). The couple went to live with Arthur's father and five servants at 28 Eaton Square. The following year, 1859, Mary's father, recently promoted to Captain, was retired on half-pay. In 1860, at the age of nearly 70, Captain John and Jessie WOODRIFF's youngest daughter, Caroline, was born.

In the 1861 census, Captain John Robert WOODRIFFF was not listed with the rest of his family. His wife, Jessie, and all her children had joined Arthur and Mary at the house of John Richmond JAFFRAY, but not in Eaton Square. At the time of the census, he was renting Betchworth House, in Betchworth, Surrey. His household, according to the census, consisted of 19 persons, of whom 9 were servants.

One of the reasons for going to live in Betchworth seems to have been that Arthur was having a large house built for him and his new wife at Hartsfield, in the village. It was suspected, however that the aged husband of Jessie WOODRIFFF may have had a stroke or something similar at the time of his retirement in 1859 and the conception of Caroline.

The 1861 census says that Captain John R. WOODRIFFF RN was not at Betchworth House with the rest of the family but was virtually alone in the house which he and Jessie owned or rented at 6 Victoria Road (now called Victoria Rise), Clapham. When he died in 1868 the cause of death was given as “softening of the brain – some years”.

Arthur and Mary returned from Betchworth to Eaton Square, where their daughter Lilian Helen JAFFRAY was born on 24th March, 1862. Arthur, his father and, perhaps, his elder brother William were all working at their family-owned American Export office at 7, St. Mildred's Court, off Poultry in the City. The American Civil War was presumably making their business more difficult at that time.

Sadly, Arthur died in a shooting accident at Betchworth on Sunday, the 4th December, 1864, aged only 42. William, his elder brother, was still living at Betchworth in The Cottage, Upper Street. In 1870, John Richmond JAFFRAY died at 28 Eaton Square.

In the 1871 census, Jessie WOODRIFFF, widow of Captain John Robert WOODRIFFF, his daughter, Mary Twynam JAFFRAY, also a widow, and the rest of his children were living at 6, Victoria Road, Clapham. Mary and Arthur's daughter, Lilian Helen JAFFRAY age 9, was living with her uncle and aunt, William and Jane JAFFRAY at The Cottage, Upper Street, Betchworth, together with William's children Edward (b. 1864) and Mary (b. 1866).

On 28th June, 1871, Mary Twynam JAFFRAY re-married at Christ Church, Paddington. Her address was given as Craven Hill Gardens

(number unspecified). Her new husband, Lt. James Gordon MOIR, of the "19th Regiment", later known as The Green Howards, was living at 40 Chepstow Villas in Kensington (W 11, today), on the corner of Denbigh Street, owned by Mrs MOIR, presumably his mother. The wedding witnesses did not include either mother. The two named witnesses were John Richmond WOODRUFF, Mary's younger brother, who was a member of the JAFFRAY firm in the City, and John Bartlett, presumably the choice of Lt. MOIR. James MOIR was born at Fatyghur in India on 16th March, 1842, the same year that Mary Twynam JAFFRAY was born in Dorset. His father, George, is described as a 'merchant' on the marriage certificate but with no indication of whether he was still alive.

Sometime after their wedding and before 1874, James MOIR by then a captain, and his new wife went to live at Hartsfield in Betchworth. In 1874, there is a record of Captain MOIR successfully obtaining a diversion of the track that ran from Sandy Lane towards the Street in order to prevent it crossing his drive. Perhaps Mary had been left enough money in the will of either her former husband or that of John R. JAFFRAY, to complete Hartsfield.

Between their wedding date and 1881, James and Mary MOIR had six children: George (1872); Alan (1874); Henry (1875); Alice (1877); Leslie (1879) and Robert (1881). At the 1881 census, their residence was Betchworth but with no address, although it may still have been Hartsfield. The same census records Jessie WOODRUFF, a widow aged 65, as living at Ivy Cottage, Betchworth, with her unmarried daughters, Lucy, aged 24, and Caroline, aged 21, and three female servants.

Mary died in February, 1885, at Colley Manor, Reigate, but James lived on until 11th July, 1903, when he died at Elgin Crescent, Kensington. We do not know what happened to him between the time of Mary MOIR's death and the 1891 census, when five of the MOIR children and the remaining WOODRUFF daughters were all in the household of their Grandmother, Jessie WOODRUFF, who was then living at Payfield Buckland, the village next to Betchworth.

Jessie WOODRUFFE died in early 1893, aged 76, in Reigate.

Mary's daughter, Lilian Helen JAFFRAY married Jarvis K NRICK in 1882. After starting their married life at a house called Lowood in Reigate, they moved to the beautiful Kenrick family home, Pendell House, near Bletchingley, believed to have been designed by Inigo Jones, where all their nine daughters were brought up. Their first daughter was called Mary. At its largest, their household consisted of eleven family members, two governesses, seven indoor servants and three gardeners. Four of the daughters married and had children, of whom three were still alive in 2009. After the last daughter left home, Jarvis and Lilian sold Pendell House and moved to Wimbledon, where Lilian died in 1925, aged 63. Jarvis lived on until 1949 and died, aged 97, at East Blatchington, East Sussex, where his daughter Audrey was living.

The MOIR family, but not the JAFFRAY (at least in the UK), has continued until today (2009). George died, aged 28, in the Boer War. Alan James Gordon MOIR joined the army and was commissioned in the Royal Scots. He had a very distinguished career. After attending Marlborough College from 1887-1891, he fought in the Boer War. He was promoted to Lt. Col. in 1916 and Colonel in 1919. In 1929, he was presented with the Legion d'Honneur. He ended up as a Brigadier, with a CB and CBE and died on 22nd March, 1940. His brother Leslie, married a Betchworth girl, Beatrice Coles, in 1906 and Beatrice's brother, Hugh Coles married Leslie's sister, Alice MOIR in 1909. Robert MOIR, the youngest son, married Madeleine du Buisson of Snower Hill House, Betchworth in 1916. It was one of Betchworth's greatest social events of the year.

Alan J. G. MOIR's son, James Vandeleur Gordon MOIR, born on 29th September, 1922, apparently at Ruyton Manor, Ruyton XI Towns, Shropshire, also went to Marlborough from 1936-40. He then joined the RAF VR but was regimented out in 1943 and was drowned just after the second World War in 1947. His son was Lt. Col. A. C. Druce MOIR, also a Marlburian and, finally, there is Col. MOIR's son, Martin James Gordon MOIR, born in India in 1938, another Marlburian, who is living in London, aged 71 (in 2009).

There was, at the time of his death in 1864, a rumour in Betchworth that Arthur W. JAFFRAY had overextended himself financially in the building of Hartsfield and had killed himself as a result. However, there is an 'impressive memorial' to him on the West wall of St. Michael's Church, Betchworth, as well as a lych gate dedicated to his memory. He was, presumably, given a verdict of accidental death by the local coroner, since suicide is not something of which the Anglican Church approves.

After Mary's death, Hartsfield was sold to Mrs Higford. She was a wealthy owner of the property, with its sixteen acres of land and many servants, who kept it in good shape, with the lake 'clear enough to swim in', and entertained several important visitors as well as local socialites. The next owner was the Lloyd family from Broome Park, the neighbouring estate to Hartsfield. They lived at Hartsfield until the second World War, when the army requisitioned the house for the Royal Corps of Signals. After the war, Hartsfield was a residential hotel for a time before being bought by Midland Bank. From the look of the little cul de sac today, the Midland also seems to have bought the premises in St. Mildred's Court in the City of London, where the JAFFRAY firm had its offices. In 1994, Securicor plc bought Hartsfield as a training centre for their personnel and completed a refurbishment programme, which lasted for a year. In 1997, the facility was opened to the market and in 2000, it was sold to Initial Style Conferences. By 2001, all of Hartsfield had been upgraded and 'restored to its former glory'. It is now one of the De Vere Hotels chain and offers conference facilities for 120 persons and has 50 guest bedrooms with en-suite facilities.

John R.P. WOODRUFF, relationship unknown, but certainly a descendant of the WOODRUFF/JAFFRAY family, thought to have been listed on his tombstone in Virginia USA, as being born in Dorset, married the grand-daughter of Edward Somerville JAFFRAY. They had a son, John JAFFRAY WOODRUFF, known as Jack. When Jack married Elaine Du Pont Irving in New York in 1909, they visited England. Pendell House in Bletchingley, Surrey, where they met Jarvis Kenrick's youngest daughter, Evelyn, among others. The JAFFRAY family in the States were, at one time, next-door neighbours of Washington Irving who was living in a mansion called Sunnyside, which had been the residence of Mr. Rockefeller. Elaine Du Pont Irving grew up in Sunnyside and had happy memories of it, according to Tomos ap Rhys, Evelyn Kenrick's son, and one

of the two surviving great-grandsons of Arthur W. JAFFRAY, who has lived in the USA for many years.

Illustrations

1. Portraits of Arthur W. and Mary T. Jaffray.
2. Picture of Hartsfield in 1910.
3. Picture of De Vere Hartsfield Manor Hotel today (2009).
4. Picture of Arthur W. Jaffray's memorial in St. Michael s Church, Betchworth.
5. Map of Betchworth.