

WILLIAM MISKELLY(McSkelly) - ELIZABETH HOLDOM

William was born and registered as MISKELLY and after finishing his education he joined the rest of the family in the weaving industry. In 1856 age 20 he married Elizabeth and by the 1861 census they had 2 Children, Mary and Elizabeth. On th 1861 census the family name was entered as McSkelly along with James Montgomery's family who lived next door. From here on in Williams family were registered as McSkelly on all future census including the Scottish.

Why the name change ? It seems quite strange that William and James Montgomery should have their surname written as McSkelly when right next door to them lived their father who's name was written as Miskelly. Was it just an error by the census people ? or was it a deliberate name change as James was about to move his family over the border to Scotland. At the next census James Montgomery is back to Miskelly so I guess we will never know why the change but it stuck and the McSkelly's are still around today all descended from William.

Sometime between then and 1871 he moved to Kirkandrews near Carlisle and took up a position as a Foreman at a chemical works. Four more children had come along by this time, Agnes Isobella, Ellen and William. Their son John born 1866 died before his first birthday.

Sometime between 1871 and 1881 William moved his family to Castleton over the border in Scotland and his profession was now that of bricklayer. A further son Arthur was born in 1872 and his daughter Elizabeth died in 1883 age 22 from a lung disease that she had been suffering from for over a year.

By 1891 the family had again moved this time to Hawick where William was still a bricklayer and his son William had followed him into the profession. By 1901 William was now living in Perth retired from Bricklaying. Elizabeth died in 1901 and William in 1905 and both are buried in Perth in Scotland.