

William Milliken (1877 – 1939) Assistant Warrant Officer Class 2 #15504 8th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (later: Acting Company Sergeant Major)

Joseph Milliken (born ~1833, Co Down) and **Sarah Sloan** (born ~1844, Co Down) were married in Comber Second Presbyterian Church on 23 Jun 1876. Joseph farmed land at Gortgrib in Castlereagh and the family lived at 14 Church Quarter in Dundonald. Sarah's occupation in 1901 is recorded as "Sextoness and Washerwoman" – the title of "Sextoness" may refer to the adjacent St Elizabeth's Church of Ireland. Joseph died 06 Feb 1916 and left a Will: one of the Executors was Charles McLaughlin, Station Master at Dundonald.

Children:

1. **James** born 19 Dec 1878. He worked as a guard on the Belfast & Co Down Railway and, in 1911, was unmarried and living at home (14 Church Quarter, Dundonald). He married **Rebecca Hayes Thompson** (of Ballybeen, Dundonald) at Dundonald Presbyterian Church on 28 Oct 1912. James continued to work on the railway until retirement. He died 09 Jun 1962.
2. **William** born 18 Apr 1877. He worked as a railway guard and, in 1901, was boarding at 18 Tower Street (lower Newtownards Rd), Belfast. On 15 Jan 1902 he married **Jane McCall** (born ~1877) at Donegore Church of Ireland (near Antrim town). The marriage certificate records William as a railway guard from Belfast and Jane as a domestic servant from Loughanmore (near Templepatrick). The couple had three children: **Wilhelmina** (born 1906); **James** (born 1909) and **Samuel Carson** (born 1914). In 1911, William and Jane were living at 7 Victoria Road, Sydenham. Jane and their children continued to do so throughout WW1 whilst William served with the 8th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. After the war ended, William returned to work as a guard on the Belfast & Co Down Railway. Jane died at 7 Victoria Road on 27 Jul 1935.

On 26 Oct 1937, William remarried at St Anne's Church of Ireland. His wife was Sarah Dempster (born ~1884, maiden name McDowell), the widow of James Dempster – a Co Down railway worker. The couple moved to the former home of Sarah at 34 Bow Street, Donaghadee. William died at this address (aged 62) on 17 Oct 1939 and is buried in the Sloan family grave at St Elizabeth's Church of Ireland, Dundonald.

Children of William Milliken and Jane McCall

1. **Wilhilmena** (born Belfast 29 Aug 1906). On 24 Dec 1928 she married **Thomas Alexander McKeague** (born 04 May 1904 at Bailieborough, Co Cavan) at St Mark's Church of Ireland, Dundela. Wilhelmina was recorded as a dressmaker from 7 Victoria Road and Thomas as a paper cutter from 8 Victoria Road. In 1922, Thomas had joined Glentoran football club and was capped for Ireland in 1924 against South Africa. He continued to play for Glentoran until 1930. The family lived at 30

Sydenham Park until Thomas' death on 03 Mar 1989 – he is buried in Dundonald Cemetery Grave D2 299 with his parents and his younger brother William Henry McKeague. Wilhelmina died 14 Jan 1991 and is buried in the Sloan family grave at St Elizabeth's Church of Ireland, Dundonald.

Wilhelmina and Thomas had two children: **Kenneth Hunter McKeague** born 1931 and **Derek Alexander McKeague** born 1937. Both sons are still alive. Kenneth continues to work as a trainer with Linfield Football Club and it is he who provided the photograph of his grandfather.

2. **James** (born Belfast 03 Mar 1909; baptised St Mark's, Dundela on 09 May 1909). He worked as a ship steward and, during WW2, as a flight rigger for the RAF at an airfield near Kircubbin. On 26 Oct 1932 he married **Annie Muriel English** at Belfast Registrar's Office. James died 27 Sep 1981 and is buried in the Sloan family grave at St Elizabeth's Church of Ireland, Dundonald

James and Annie had four children: **Dorothy** (born 1933); **Annie** (born 1934); **Patricia** (born 1939) and **Wilhelmina Valerie** (born 1942)

3. **Samuel Carson** (born Belfast 26 May 1914; baptised St Mark's, Dundela on 12 Jul 1914). He worked as an electrician and, on 25 Feb 1936, married **Sarah Anna Elise Boyce** at Westbourne Presbyterian Church (Lower Newtownards Road), Belfast. Samuel died in London in 1985 and is buried there.

Dr Hilary E Kennedy (Mar 2015)