

Ethel Tryphena "Triffie" Hiscock

Ethel Tryphena "Triffie" Hiscock was born in Victoria, Newfoundland (then an English colony, now a Canadian province).

Triffie's parents were Mary Ellen Hiscock (nee Clarke) and John Hiscock. Triffie married William Burse (b.1894-d.1967) of Old Perlican, in 1930, and they raised 4 children, Clyde, Helen (who died when she was 15), Adelaide and Graham. Triffie was also step-mother to 3 children, Monica, Lucy and Graham (who was killed in WWII, while in the Royal Navy, when he was 21), from William's previous marriage to Bertha Martin, who had passed away in 1927. In 1972, Triffie married Herbert Tilley of Chelsea, Massachusetts. Herb & Triffie were married only 17 months, when Herb became ill and passed away.

Triffie's faith in God and her love and devotion to her family, kept her looking up during her life; she was a person who made and kept friends easily, due to her warm and approachable nature. Triffie enjoyed writing poetry, especially in her later years, and often read her poems at various events such as family weddings and birthdays. One such poem, Triffie wrote while riding on a bus, returning home after visiting family. She found an old envelope to write on, in her purse, and wrote the following:

The Swaying of the Trees

I was driving home, on a nice Spring day,
When my eyes beheld some trees.
They looked so green and beautiful,
All swaying in the breeze.

Then my eyes saw something else,
As we sped along the way;

It was the trees that had grown old,
and could no longer sway.

How much those trees could tell us all,
If they could only say,
"We, too, were green and beautiful,
But now we're stiff and gray."

So, thank the Lord for those who care,
At the closing of the day,
And thank Him for the love they give,
When we are old and gray.

At times, it doesn't matter much
To feel the gentle breeze,
But, today, I got a blessing
From the swaying of the trees...

Triffie was visiting family when she passed away suddenly from a heart attack, in Thunder Bay Ontario, on Mother's Day 1990. A private prayer service was held at Jenkins Funeral Home, in Thunder Bay, before cremation took place. A public memorial service was held at St. Andrew's By-The-Sea United Church (Old Perlican, NL) on July 15, 1990, with a private inurnment service at the Old Perlican United Church Cemetery.

Family links:

Spouses:

William Bursey (1894 - 1967)

Herbert Tilley (1905 - 1973)*

Children:

Helen M. Bursey (1933 - 1948)*

*Calculated relationship

Burial:

Old Perlican United Church Cemetery

Old Perlican

Avalon Peninsula Census Division

Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada