## **FERGUSSON, Margaret Taylor**

Margaret was born Margaret Taylor Cameron, on 24th January 1862, Bosworth-street, Richmond, N.S.W., the third daughter of James Cameron (M.A., D.D., 1826-1905) & his wife Eliza Sophia Bowman (1832-1886). James Cameron was the Presbyterian clergyman for Richmond for many years.**1**

Margaret Cameron married the Rev. John James Lumsden Foote Fergusson on 11th January 1890 in the Presbyterian Church, Richmond.

Rev. J. J. F. L. Fergusson, M.A., was the second son of the Rev. W. Fergusson, M.A., of Ellon, Scotland.**2**

Children of the marriage were:

Margaret Wilsie (1892-1978)

Maurice Cameron (1893-1915)

Ian Lumsden (1898-1977)**3**

In May 1903 Rev. J. J. L. F. Fergusson became seriously ill with influenza and died in early June, after an illness of 5 weeks.



At the time of his death he was Richmond’s Presbyterian clergyman.

‘The deceased was born at Ellon, Aberdeenshire (Scotland), in 1860, and educated at the Grammar School and King's College. Aberdeen, where he graduated in 1881. He pursued his professional studies at the New College, Edinburgh, passing his final exit examination in 1885, standing sixth over the whole of Scotland. After serving two years in the old country and one winter at Lisbon, Portugal, he came to New South Wales, at the end of 1887, and was first settled at Bega, on the South Coast, where, by his energy and influence, he re-organised a shattered charge, and left it a healthy parish. His next work was very onerous, being that of founding a new suburban church in Sydney, which he succeeded in doing, when he had to return to the country owing to a break-down in health. After assisting the minister at Campbelltown for one year, he was settled in Richmond in November 1896, where he resided up to the time of his death.’

‘He was a member of a very old Ayrshire family, his grandfather being an officer of the Army, and his father, the Rev. William Fergusson M.A. (who still survives him), is a minister of the Free Church of Scotland.’

‘As a husband he was most devoted, and as a father most affectionate, which makes the vacancy in the home all the more keenly felt. He was a man of high educational attainments, and as a preacher and public speaker he possessed unusual ability.’**4**

In September 1903 a memorial tablet to the late Rev. Fergusson was placed in the Presbyterian Church.**5**

In October 1903 Margaret and her three children left Richmond for Beecroft. For the previous 8 years she had been devoted to the Richmond Sunday School.

That month there was a celebration of her father’s fifty years’ ministry. ‘In 1853 Dr. Cameron took on a ministry which embraced Richmond, Kurrajong, Penrith, Castlereagh, and as far as Luddenham; and services were conducted in the various places during weekdays. He carried on these arduous duties for a period of ten years, when the late Mr. G. Bowman built, at his own expense, the present church in Richmond in 1863.’**6**

On 29th August 1908, Margaret Taylor Fergusson, widow of the late Rev. J. Fergusson, died at Beecroft.

‘The deceased lady, after attending the arrival of the American fleet, was attacked by the prevailing influenza, pleurisy supervened, and pneumonia following, a weak spot was found, and the sufferer succumbed suddenly to heart failure.

The late Mrs. Fergusson was always an active worker for all good objects, and more especially for the Presbyterian Church in the suburb and district.’

She left a daughter and two sons. Her remains were taken to Richmond for burial.

‘The daughter has lately successfully passed the Junior University examination, whilst the elder son is at college, while the little lad attends the public school at Beecroft.’**7**

**Bibliography**

1 Ancestry.com

2 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Tuesday 21 January 1890, page 1

3 Ancestry.com

4 Hawkesbury Herald (Windsor, NSW: 1902 - 1945), Friday 26 June 1903, page 8; Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW: 1888 - 1961), Saturday 27 June 1903, page 4

5 Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW: 1888 - 1961), Saturday 26 September 1903, page 12

6 Hawkesbury Herald (Windsor, NSW: 1902 - 1945), Friday 9 October 1903, page 14

7 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 5 September 1908, page 10