

Jane Maria SANDERSON 1821-1854

Extract from the writings of Aunty Ella

The eldest child, Jane who died within a few years of arriving was a very talented musician and painter in oils. I saw many of them when staying with Aunt Annie (Mrs McCoy). They were paintings in oil of the woods around Killingworth by Moonlight. They were lovely. She also painted Miss McCoy in her Ermine Robes which she wore when attending any public function with two of the Princesses of the Russian Court for whom she was their English Governess. It was a real masterpiece. She herself was engaged to a Russian nobleman, but she had to flee from Russia. She had written a book "A Woman's Life in Russia" which caused a stir in the Court and she had to get away secretly - or she would have been shot.

So she came back to her brother Capt. McCoy - Aunt Annie's husband, instead of going back to Scotland. Aunt Jane or Jean as she was called never married - she was only 30 when she died.

She hated Australia and could not settle down like Aunt Annie. The life was so different to her English home. She spoke 5 languages - German, French, English, Italian and Spanish and sang in them all. I had many of her songs but they were destroyed. Dad said she had a beautiful voice. The Doctor said she was too clever and had no scope in the new World. Therefore she fretted and went into a decline and died young. Dad was very fond of her.