

Appointments & Service

| Outfit Year* | Position | Post | District | HBCA Reference |
|--|---|----------------------------|----------------|---|
| <i>*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May</i> | | | | |
| 1862, 15 Feb. | Signed contract at Stromness | | | A,32/34, fo. 75 |
| 1862, 6 July | Sailed to York Factory in <i>Prince of Wales</i> , arriving 13 August | | | C.1/857 |
| 1862 - 1863 | Labourer | General Charges | | B.239/g/102 |
| 1863 - 1867 | Labourer | | McKenzie River | B.239/g/103-107 |
| 1867 - 1876 | Farmer | | McKenzie River | B.235/g/1-3; B.239/g/108-113 |
| 1876*-1878 | Postmaster | Fort Halkett (Toads River) | McKenzie River | B.235/g/4; B.239/k/4 |
| 1878 - 1882 | Postmaster | Fort Simpson | McKenzie River | B.235/g/5-6; B.239/k/4 |
| 1882 - 1900 | Clerk | Fort Norman | McKenzie River | B.235/g/7-11; B.239/k/4; D.38/26; D.33/1-4 |

Contracts: Northern Department Engagement Registers indicate that he signed contracts at Stromness, 1862, Fort aux Liards, 1867 & 1869, Fort Nelson, 1871 and Fort Simpson, 1873.

B.239/u/2,#974; B.239/u/3,#901

Leaving HBC service: The Commissioner, C,C, Chipman, wrote to the Board on 11 September 1896:

"Mr. Irvine, who unfortunately lately lost his wife, has a large family, and he feels it necessary to live somewhere where they can be educated and looked after, as he has but small means. He has said always to have been faithful and to have given satisfaction... I beg to recommend him for a Pension of £25 per annum."

A.12/FT 334/1a, fo. 29

Chipman wrote again on 4 June 1897:

...I beg to inform you that Mr. Wm. Irvine, who retired from the Service last year, after the death of his wife, having since made satisfactory arrangements for his family being taken care of, has applied to be re-engaged in the Service; in view of the strong commendations as to his qualifications as an Indian Trader that I have, and that Mr. Camsell desired his services, the renewal of his Contract for three years has been sanctioned. The Pension authorised by the Board has therefore been cancelled.

A.12/FT 334/1a, fo. 31



Irvine wrote to Lord Strathcona on 1 September 1901 from Halcro SK, near Prince Albert, where he had retired and gone into farming. With his large family of youngsters (his oldest son was only 13) he was having a hard time and asked for a pension. He added a postscript to the effect that he had been advised to trade against the HBC in the Mackenzie River area but would not do so.

A.12/FT 334/1a, fo. 58-59d.

Chipman offered him a job but Irvine asked too high a salary

A.12/FT 334/1a, fo. 57

*Parish changes to native

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Age - Ascertaining his year of birth is not easy to do from the HBC records. To judge from his age as given in different years, he was born in either 1843 or 1844.

In his letter of 1 September 1901 Irvine wrote "I left Scotland when I was only 17 years of age."

D.38/26, fo. 39, 41, 43,45;
A.12/FT 334/1a, fo. 4
A.12/FT/334/1a, fo.58



Filename: Irvine, William (B) (ca.1843-1918) (fl. 1862-1900) April 1986 MGM: wg Revised July 1987 JHB/ek Rev. AM 2002/12