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Mr. F. R. Williams (Hon Treasurer)
Ringmore Historical Society
c/o The Paddock
Ringmore, Kingsbridge, Devon
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Dear Mr. Williams,

I recently encountered the surname RANDLE in my family history research. I saw your interests in the Nov. '96 issue of the DFH and decided to write, in case we are researching the family.

My great grandfather, William George TOZER, was the illegitimate son of Mary Louisa Elliott TOZER. He was born in Totnes on January 29, 1885. In 1892, when he was seven years old, she became ill with rheumatic fever and was no longer able to care for him. He came to Canada in 1894 at the age of nine years old.

I have searched in vain for information about his mother and just discovered that she married a man named George RANDLE on August 25, 1895, a year and a half after her son came to Canada. The marriage certificate states that George Randle was a widower, 39 years old, and employed as a mason. His father was Samuel Randle, a fisherman. The 1881 census shows that George was born in Aveton Gifford and was, in fact, living there with his first wife Emily and one-year old son Samuel in 1881. In 1891, I found the following listing in at Weir Cottage in Littlehempston:

Dennis Dawson, head, 72, widower, manager Weir Fishery, born Ireland
Samuel Randle, lodger, 61, married, fisherman, born Torquay
Elizabeth Randle, housekeeper, 64, married, housekeeper, born Aveton Gifford

Following the marriage of Mary Louisa and George in 1895, the following births were recorded in Totnes. I have not confirmed whether any of these were George and Mary Louisa's offspring but some of the children's names have strong family connections, as I indicate in parentheses:

Samuel Terry Randle - 4th Quarter - 1895 (Samuel was the name of George's father and his son from his first marriage)

Caroline Florence Randle - 4th Quarter - 1897 (Mary Louisa's aunt Caroline Tozer died in this same quarter, in October 1897)

Annie Randle - 4th Quarter - 1899 (Mary Louisa's mother's name was Anne and she had a cousin named Annie)

George Randle - 1st Quarter - 1902 (named after George?)

Edith Randle - 3rd Quarter - 1903
Dorothy May Randle - 4th Quarter - 1906
Violet Mary - 3rd Quarter - 1908 (named after Mary Louisa?)

I looked for Mary Louisa Randle's death record but the LDS library here does not have records for many of the years I need to search. However I did find the following deaths recorded for Totnes:

William J. L. Randle (20) - 1st Quarter- 1916
Emma Randle (82) - 1st Quarter - 1917
Elsie M. Randle (42) - 3rd Quarter - 1931
Samuel Randle (81) - 3rd Quarter - 1934
Mary K. Randle (49) - 1st Quarter - 1935

There were two entries for Randles in Totnes in White's Directory for Devonshire, 1850:

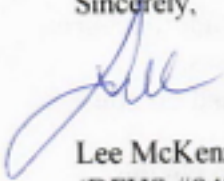
Samuel Randle, relieving officer - no address given
William Randle, cornmiller - living in Bridgetown

So far, I lack information to make connections between these individuals. If you know anything about these or other Randle's from Totnes, Torquay or Aveton Gifford, I would be pleased to hear from you. Mary Louisa Elliott Tozer's ancestors have been traced back another nine or ten generations to Ugborough in the 1500's. I haven't done all the research myself - I have just been fortunate to find other researchers who are eager to exchange information. I am also interested in ELLIOTT's from South Pool. Mary Louisa Elliott Tozer's mother Ann Elliott was born there c. 1839, the daughter of James Cormish Elliott, a cooper, and his wife Elizabeth. They had two other daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret. By 1851 they were living in Totnes.

My great grandfather had twelve children and many, many grandchildren who are now spread out across Canada. He didn't tell anyone in the family about his background and, as far as we know, he had no contact with his family in Totnes after he arrived Canada. Eight of his children are still living and they range in age from 66 to 87; four of them are no longer in good health. He died in 1977 at the age of 92, just a couple of weeks before he and his wife Annie were to celebrate their 69th wedding anniversary.

There are still gaps in the family tree I would like to fill in. I am also writing up the family history as a book and would like to learn as much as possible about Devon, particularly the area around Totnes. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Lee McKenzie McAnally
(DFHS #8429)