

Our Connection To The *Irish Republican Army!*

Written by: Timothy A. Duffie
January 12, 2008

On her death certificate Harriet Elizabeth Allen Duffy, a paternal grandmother to the Duffie-Woodworth clan, was listed as Duffie. That's right.....**Duffie with an "ie"**! The "Informant" was her daughter Ida Ethyl Duffie Hallam. For whatever reason, she opted to use Duffie on her mother's death certificate even though she had to know that her mother was legally Harriet Elizabeth Duffy.



Blake Monroe Duffie was legally "Duffy", as were all his siblings including Ida Ethyl. No surname was given on the birth registration. The assumption was that the child's surname was the same as the parents. James Munroe and Harriet Elizabeth were listed as Duffy on all the birth registrations. Therefore, their children were all legally Duffy.

The spelling change was gradual to the point that ultimately all the children used "Duffie", none apparently willing to face the ire of the venerable Harriet Allen Duffy for failure to comply. I strongly suspect that Harriet Elizabeth Allen Duffy was a force with which to be reckoned!

We will never know for certain why the spelling was changed. We were led to believe that it was a Catholic vs. Protestant issue, and that well may be true. Harriet Elizabeth Allen Duffy, whose funeral service was conducted by S. Franklin Logsdon of Moody Church and others, probably had strong Catholic vs. Protestant issues.

However, after learning that we came from County Monaghan, Ireland, subsequent research turned up a "John Duffy" who died in County Monaghan, Ireland, in the 1920s. He was active in the Irish Republican Army. The obituary stated that the Duffys were known as the "**Bread Duffy Clan**". Sounds to me like they put bombs in loaves of bread!

Let's throw a little spice into our otherwise dull and depressingly boring family history and consider the possibility that Harriet Elizabeth Duffy would have been aware of a family connection to the IRA. Her father-in-law, Patrick Duffy, Jr., was born in Ireland. He would know the family from both an historical and contemporary perspective. We have learned that we have literally thousands of Duffy cousins in Canada and Michigan, so we can assume that the clan continued to migrate to Canada, bringing with them news of our IRA ancestors.



(Come to think of it, Harriet's mother-in-law, wife of Patrick Duffy, Jr., was Armina Collins. Is it possible she is an ancestor of Michael John "Mick" Collins, the Irish revolutionary leader and director of Intelligence for the IRA killed by the bloody Brits in 1922?)

So perhaps it is a toss up as to whether Great Grandmother Harriet Allen Duffy changed the spelling so as to distance her descendants from the dastardly Catholics...or to separate her grandchildren for all generations from the **Bloodthirsty Bread-Bomb Bakers Of The Notorious Bread Duffy Clan.**

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FORM 6 PROVINCE OF ONTARIO 036652
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CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH: County of Westmorland Township of Southwest Berlin
 If in City, Town or Village Hamilton Street Jrognia House No. 286
(Name) (Name)

If in hospital or institution, give name _____

2. NAME OF DECEASED: Duffie Harriett
(Given name or names)
 Residence Hamilton 286 Jrognia Ave
(Usual place of abode)

3. Sex F. W. 4. English 5. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced Widowed
(Province or country) (Day) (Year)

6. BIRTHPLACE Durham Ont
(Province or country)

7. DATE OF BIRTH May 17 (Year) _____
(Day) (Year)

8. AGE OF DECEASED: Years 25 Months 4 Days 2
(If less than one day old hrs. or min.)

9. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED: Retired
 (a) Retired (Trade or occupation or kind of work)
 (b) _____ (Kind of industry)

10. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (in years and months)
 (a) At place of death 25 yrs (b) In province _____
 (c) In Canada (if an immigrant) _____

11. Name of father Sethe Allen
 12. Birthplace of father Westmoreland N.Y.
(Province or country)
 13. Maiden name of mother Margaret Jacob
 14. Birthplace of mother Durham Township
(Province or country)

15. Name of Informant Ida C. Hall
 Address 307 Clarence Rd. Hamilton
 Relation to Deceased Daughter

16. DATE OF DEATH Oct 7 1933
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from Sept 7 1933 to Oct 7 1933
 and last saw him alive on Oct 7 1933
 The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: Arteriosclerosis, Aneurysm
 (duration of) 2 yrs. 2 mos. 0 days
 CONTRIBUTORY CAUSE Myocarditis
 (Secondary) (duration of) 2 yrs. 0 mos. 0 days

18. Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? _____
 Did an operation precede death? No Date of _____
 Reason for operation _____
 Was there an autopsy? No
 (Signed) D. J. Berry M.D.
 Address 115 St. Lawrence St. Hamilton
 Date Oct 9 1933
(Month) (Day) (Year)
 State the Disease causing death, or in death from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal. In case of stillbirth write "born dead."

19. Place of Burial St. Colman Date of Burial Oct 10 1933
 20. Name of Undertaker L. C. Arn Address Norwich Box 3
 Filed at 9:55 P.M. this 10 day of Oct 1933
(Hour) (Month)

BURIAL PERMIT was issued by: J. J. Berry
 Name J. J. Berry Address Hamilton Date Oct 10/33
Division Registrar

Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should STATE CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. RACIAL ORIGIN will be described by stating to what people or classes the deceased belonged, such as Irish, Scotch, French, German, etc. The terms "American" or "Canadian" should not be used, as they express citizenship but not a race or people. THIS FORM MUST BE FILED FORTHWITH WITH THE DIVISION REGISTRAR OF THE DIVISION IN WHICH THE DEATH OCCURRED BEFORE A BURIAL PERMIT CAN BE ISSUED. WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK. THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD.