

JAMES MARSHALL HEPBURN
1870 - 1953



James Marshall Hepburn, the seventh son, was born in Castlefinn in 1870 to **Samuel Hepburn**, mason, and **Eleanor Elliott**. It is said that he was named after a maternal great grandfather, **James Marshall**. His civil birth registration states he was born on the 16th December 1870 at McCulstown, a townland next to Sessiagh Allison, Castlefinn.

James Marshall learned to be a skilled mason and bricklayer. Family lore states that, James M. was contracted by the British Army to help build military barracks in South Africa prior to the Boer War. Records show that on 5th December 1896 he sailed from **Southampton, England to Cape Town, South Africa** on the SS SCOT. The voyage took 49 days.

By 1899 he was living on **Newcastle Street, in the Ballymacarrett District of East Belfast**, Ireland. On 8 August of that year he married **Elizabeth Kain**, a Salvationist and daughter of the late **Hugh Kain** and **Mary Anne (nee Glover) Nixon** at St. Patrick's Church of Ireland on Newtownards Rd., Ballymacarrett, Belfast.

In 1901, James was living and working in Chorlton, Manchester, England as a brick setter with his brothers **Andrew and Samuel Hepburn**, also bricksetters. Brother **John Hepburn** was living nearby. James M's. wife, Elizabeth Kain gave birth to their first son, **Samuel Hepburn** while living in Manchester. Samuel became a **Salvation Army Commissioner** later on in life.

The family moved back to Belfast and was living on **Middlepath St., Ballymacarrett, Belfast** in 1903 as a brick layer when the second son, **James Marshall Hepburn**, was born. This son became a **Salvation Army Lt. Colonel**.

In 1905 a daughter Ellen was born on Foundry Street in Belfast. **Ellen or "Nellie" Hepburn** became a **Salvation Army Envoy**.

It is believed that the family were members of the **Ballymacarrett Salvation Army Corps No. 1** (also called the "Pottinger Corps"). While in Belfast, Elizabeth Kain Hepburn was reported to have founded the first Young People's Corps in Ireland.

James immigrated to Toronto Canada in 1906. His family followed in July of the same year. In 1909 they lived on Bartlett Avenue in the Dovercourt District of Toronto where a baby daughter **Esther Nixon Hepburn** was born. She was named after Elizabeth Kain's half-sister **Esther Nixon (m. Snowden)**. Sadly, baby Esther Nixon Hepburn died in August 1909 from gastro-enteritis at 6 months of age.

In 1910 James Marshall Hepburn and his family returned to Castlefinn, Ireland when the Hepburn cottage in Sessiagh Allison was rebuilt by the Hepburn brothers.

On the 18th of January 1911, they attended the wedding of Elizabeth Kain's half-sister **Esther Nixon** and **David Snowden** at the same St. Patrick's Church where James & Elizabeth were married. James M. stood as witness for the groom.

The family sailed back to Toronto in February 1911 on the SS CORSICAN along with brother, **John Hepburn**.

In 1912, James M. and his family were living at 368 Delaware Avenue in the Dovercourt District of Toronto and were active in the **Dovercourt Citadel Salvation Army Corps**. A male child was born

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to them in August of 1912, but died at birth.

A number of Belfast relatives followed James M. and his family to Toronto, Canada over the next few years. They included: **Esther Nixon** and her husband **David Snowden**; Elizabeth and Esther's parents, **James Nixon & Mary Anne Glover**; Esther's brother **James Nixon Jr** and his wife **Eliza Dunwoody**; David Snowden's brother **John Charles Snowden**; James Marshall's brother, **Andrew Hepburn the shoemaker**, and his four adult daughters and others.

James Marshall Hepburn is found crossing the Canadian border to the United States on several occasions (1907, 1914, and 1915) travelling to visit his brothers John and Samuel working in Detroit, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois. He makes a final trip in 1916 to settle in Akron, Ohio where his brother **John Hepburn** was working as a bricklayer. The rest of the family followed a few months later. In 1918 another male child was born to James M. & Elizabeth prematurely in September of that year but died at birth. He was buried in the **Holy Cross Cemetery**. At the time they were living at **39 North Maple Street in Akron**.

The family is found on the 1920 Federal Census for Akron, Ohio living on North Maple Street. Also living with them is unmarried brother **John Hepburn**, a 51 year old brick layer.

In 1923, at age 52, James M. submitted his **Declaration of Intention for US Citizenship** at the **Akron, Ohio Common Pleas Court**. He states his residence to be 1134 Sawyer Avenue and that his date of birth is 11 December 1870 (which is slightly different than his Irish civil birth registration). He was described as 5 foot 9 inches, 180 lbs with grey eyes and grey hair.

Later, the family lived in Silver Lake district of Akron, Ohio in one of the many residential brick homes that James built during his building career.

James Marshall Hepburn became corps sergeant-major in the Akron, Ohio Salvation Army Corps and the entire family were active members under the ministry of **Adjutants Jennie (nee Buchan) & Joseph Hughes**, the corps officers. Two daughters of the Hughes', **Rose Evangeline & Lily Jean Munroe**, eventually married the two sons of James M. & Elizabeth, **Samuel Hepburn & James Marshall Hepburn II**, respectively.

Elizabeth Kain Hepburn died the 10th April 1928 in Akron at 52 years of age from chronic hypertension.

In the 1930 census, widowed James M. is found living with his adult daughter "Elenor" Nellie Hepburn on **Front Street, Silver Lake Village in Akron**. In 1931, he renewed his Declaration of Intention for US Citizenship.

Sometime in the 1930's James M. returned back to Toronto, Canada where he married **Janet Watkin** the widowed step-daughter of long-term friend **Robert Patterson**. Janet Watkin was the wife of the late **Albert Cutler**. James M. became step-father to Janet's three sons; **Albert George, Ernest Joseph & Reginald James Cutler**.

There are many photos of James Marshall Hepburn with family members as they spent time visiting him in Toronto on many occasions throughout the 1940s and 1950s.

He died on 11 December 1953 at his home on Devonshire Road, Toronto on his 83rd birthday and was interred with his first wife, Elizabeth Kain, in the **Mount Peace Cemetery in Akron, Ohio**.

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Issue:

1. Samuel 1901-1974
 x Rose Evangeline Hughes
2. James Marshall 1903-1963
 x Lily Jean Munroe Hughes
3. Ellen (Nellie) 1905-1977
 x Elmer Pryn
4. Esther Nixon 1909-1909
5. Male 1912-1912
6. Male 1918-1918

Sources:

1. Salvationist Obit 1928
2. Salvationist Obit 1953
3. Federal census 1920 & 1930
4. Canadian Border Crossing 1907, 1914 1915 1916
5. U.S. Declaration of intent 1923
6. The Toronto Star newspaper Dec. 12, 1953
7. Certif. of Marriage, St. Patrick's Church, Ballymacarret District, Belfast 1899
8. Vaccination Certificate 1903: James Marshall Hepburn II
9. Irish General Records Office birth, marriage, death registration
10. Canadian Death registration
11. Summit, Ohio Board of Public Health: Death Certificates
12. Passenger list: February 1911 SS CORSICAN
13. Passenger list: Dec 1896 SS SCOT
14. Passenger list: 1906
15. Land Contract: Silver Lake Allotment 1927
16. Lily Jean Hughes Archives
17. Family Letter: "Dear father" Samuel Hepburn, Commissioner
18. Communications:
 - a. James Marshall Hepburn, Lt. Col. (dec)
 - b. James Hughes Hepburn of Rockland, Mass. USA
 - c. Andrew Hepburn of Burton on Trent, England (dec)
 - d. Ardele Cutler Bond, Toronto, Canada
 - e. Belfast Temple Salvation Army Corps