William Jones and Louisa Caroline Languedoc

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William and Louisa were my grandmother, May Lillian Jones's parents. William was born on May 17th, 1867, in Freemantle, Southampton, England. His parents were William Jones and Maria Young.

William had two sisters: Louisa and Annie, one of whom is in the following photograph.



Louisa Caroline Languedoc was born on May 22nd, 1873, in York, Gaspe, Quebec. Her parents were James Edward Languedoc and Jane Martha Starnes. ¹

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Not much is known about William's father. According to Jones family oral tradition, he was in the British Military and lost his life when his ship sank crossing the English Channel. William was about 11 years old when he lost his father.

William enlisted in the British army in 1883 as a member of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and was stationed in England until 1886, rising to the rank of Corporal. From 1886 to 1890, he was stationed at the British colony of Bermuda, where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. William is first from the left in the top row.



In 1890, William was transferred to Halifax, Nova Scotia where he was promoted to the rank of Company Sergeant Major in 1894. In that same year, William was once again stationed in the Caribbean serving six months in St. Lucia and then two years once again in Bermuda. In 1897, William was again transferred to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

It is in Halifax where he met his future wife, Louisa Caroline Languedoc of York, who was visiting her sister Eva, who was married to a British soldier by the name of Alexander Love. Before they could get married, William was transferred in 1899 to Work Point Barracks in Esquimalt, near Victoria, British Colombia.

Work Point Barracks was established in response for the need for coastal artillery defense in the Victoria-Esquimalt area of southwestern British Columbia (Vancouver Island). It was established in 1887 as the quartering, administrative, and command center for the C Battery, Regiment of the Canadian Artillery. In 1893, it became the command headquarters of an expanded coastal defence system which was intended to protect the Dockyard and the nearby capital of Victoria from attack by hostile warships. ²

Work Point Barracks Today



The Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA) was formed in 1899 as a distinct arm of the British Army's Royal Regiment of Artillery. The RGA were the technical branch of the Royal Artillery and was established to man and maintain the guns of the British Empire's forts and fortresses, including coastal artillery batteries. ³

Louisa travelled across Canada by train to join William in Esquimalt, where they were married at Work Point Barracks in March of 1900.

Marriage Certificate of William and Louisa. 4

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Dorothy Louisa, William and Louisa's oldest daughter was born in Victoria on January 8th, 1901. In December William was transferred to Hong Kong, where he was stationed for 6 months.

A bracelet given to Louisa from William during his tenure in Hong Kong.



In 1902, William was transferred to Broughty Ferry, Scotland, where he was discharged from the British Army in 1904.

The Jones family grew during these years in Scotland. My grandmother, May Lillian Jones (wife of Melvin Patterson) was born on May 16th, 1903, at 10 a.m. at Volunteer Hall Cottage, Queen Street, Broughty Ferry, Scotland, in the parish of Monifieth.

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex,	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar,
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Two other children, William Languedoc (March 11^{th} , 1906) and Harry James Francis (December 12^{th} , 1907) were also born in Broughty Ferry.



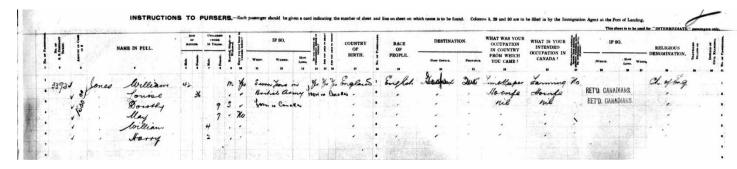
May, Dorothy, and William



Grove Academy, Broughty Ferry. May Jones is third from the right, middle row.



William and his family lived in Broughty Ferry for six years after William retired, with plans to move to Canada. In May of 1910, the family sailed from Liverpool, England aboard the vessel Siberian. They arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia on May 20th, 1910. The passage lists for the Siberian show William, Louisa, Dorothy, May, William, and Harry as passengers. ⁵



Hilda Hubley, daughter of Alexander Love and Eva Languedoc and May's cousin, recounted that when the Jones family arrived in Halifax May had such a thick Scottish accent that it was difficult to understand her!

William and Louisa were planning to settle in Peachland, B.C. where Louisa's uncle, Francis Languedoc, had an orchard. On the way, they stopped in Gaspe to visit Louisa's family. William fell in love with Gaspe and in September of 1911 bought the house and property in York (for the sum of \$1000) from John Davis, (where Tracy, a great granddaughter of William, lives today). William called the house The Anchorage because this

would be the permanent home for him and his family. A son, Charles was born on October 9th, 1911. Sadly, Charles died shortly after on October 13th. At that time, there was no hospital in Gaspe, so medical care would have been practically non-existent. When Louisa once again fell pregnant, she travelled to Halifax to give birth to her last child: James Deguery Languedoc, who was born on May 2nd, 1915. After the birth, Louisa returned to the Anchorage.

The Anchorage, York Centre, circa 1940



Although retired from the Army, William's public career in York was active, serving as mayor, councillor, school commissioner, and secretary treasurer of the school commission. During the First World War, William participated in the training of the local Home Guard, serving as Drill Instructor, and was responsible for enforcing the Military Services Act. After the war ended in 1918, he took an active role in the formation of the 82nd Field Battery, Canadian Artillery and serving as one of the original N.C.O.'s of the unit.

William and Louisa would live out the rest of their lives in York. William died in 1930 and Louisa in 1953 and both were buried in the York Cemetery. ⁶

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All Photos are courtesy of the Curzon Patterson Collection

Information about William's military service come from his official British Army Service Record

¹ Drouin Collection Registre Gaspe Anglican Church 1873

² Parks Canada pc.qc.ca Work Point Barracks

³ Ibid

⁴ British Columbia Division of Vital Statistics GR 2962 Volume 0039

⁵ LAC Incoming Passenger Lists

⁶ Drouin Collection Registre Gaspe Anglican Church 1930