

*James Jonathan Taylor Tough*  
*A Granite Worker's Immigration from Scotland to America*

## Introduction

James Jonathan Taylor Tough who was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1883 and immigrated to America in 1906. He made a life for himself in southern Rhode Island and Connecticut, working primarily as a stone cutter in the granite industry. He married Annie Bell Mitchell Walker who was the daughter of William Walker, a Scottish immigrant granite worker, and Elizabeth Kingdon who originated from Cornwall, England. They couple had three children before James died in 1925 of pulmonary tuberculosis and myocarditis, leaving his young wife to care for the family.

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## 1. JAMES JONATHAN TAYLOR TOUGH

### *Early Life*

James Jonathan Taylor Tough was born 15 February 1883 in St. Nicholas, Aberdeen, Scotland. He was the child of James Tough, Sr. , who was a foreman at “Keir Farm” and worked as a carter; his mother was Mary Pirie (Taylor) Tough.<sup>1</sup> James and Mary, members of the Church of Scotland, were married on 18 June 1875 at Kier farm in Dunblane, Scotland after Banns.<sup>2</sup>

James' mother, Mary, died between 1883 and 1891, likely in Aberdeen, when James was eight or younger.<sup>3</sup> No record of her death has been located. In 1881, James, Mary and their three daughters,

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<sup>1</sup> Statutory registers Births,” District of St. Nicholas, Aberdeen, 15 February 1883, Tough, James John Taylor, p. 105, item #315; digital image, *National Records of Scotland* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-our-records> : accessed 21 June 2021). This a pay per view/download site. See also, “Statutory registers Death,” District of St. Machar, Aberdeen, 10 February 1905, Tough, James, p. 62, item #186; digital image, *National Records of Scotland* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-our-records> : accessed 22 June 2021). James Tough was the informant for the death record. Record shows that James, Sr. married (1) Mary Pirie and (2) Matilda Massie or Louie. See also, “Keir Home Farm, Keir Mains,” Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland, digital images online (<https://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/details/896272> : accessed 21 June 2021). The site has images of the farm, the description of the property, and recent historical data on attempts to rehabilitate and repair the farm buildings. For definition of carter, see “Obscure Old English Census Occupations,” online, *World Through the Lens* (<http://worldthroughthelens.com/family-history/old-occupations.php> : accessed 25 July 2021).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., See also, “Statutory registers Marriage,” Parish of Dunblane, County of Perth, 18 June 1875, James Tough and Mary P. Taylor, p. 5, item #10; digital image *National Records of Scotland* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-our-records> : accessed 21 June 2021).

<sup>3</sup> 1891 Scotland census, digital image, *National Records of Scotland* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-our-records> : accessed 21 June 2021), Old Machar, St Nicholas parish, Aberdeen, p. 51 (printed), no. 260, entry for James Tough and family.

Maggie A., Catherine J., and Ann D, living together.<sup>4</sup> By 1891, Mary was missing from the census, James, [Sr.] was noted as being a widow, and James, [ Jr.] was living with the same sisters noted in the 1881 census.<sup>5</sup> Shortly after his father's death in 1905, James, Jr. immigrated to America.<sup>6</sup>

### **Immigration**

James emigrated from Aberdeen to America via Liverpool, England on the ship *SS Saxonía*. The ship, part of the Cunard line and built in Glasgow, Scotland, was in service for 26 years, from 1900-1926.<sup>7</sup> The *SS Saxonía* departed Liverpool on 20 February 1906 and arrived in Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts on 2 March 1906. James, 23, came to his adopted country with just \$26.00 in his pocket and paid his own fare. He was a granite cutter, traveling with many other men in the same profession. According to the passenger manifest, his final destination was supposed to be Barre, Vermont and he was to stay with James Cameron.<sup>8</sup>

While there were nearly 2000 granite workers employed in Barre in 1905, no record has been located to indicate that James actually traveled to Barre. It does not appear likely that James ever made it to Vermont. A search of the census records in Washington County Vermont in 1910 did not identify anyone named James Cameron working in the granite industry.<sup>9</sup> It is possible that he simply gave the same information as another granite cutter passenger traveling from Aberdeen, who also identified James Cameron and Barre, Vermont as his final destination. The manifest indicated that James did not purchase a ticket to Barre at the time of his arrival to Boston.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> 1881 Scotland census, digital image, *National Records of Scotland* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-our-records> : accessed 21 June 2021), St. Nicholas parish, Aberdeen, pp. 21-22 (printed), no. 136, entry for James Tough and family.

<sup>5</sup> 1891 Scotland census, Old Machar, St. Nicholas parish, Aberdeen, James Tough.

<sup>6</sup> "Statutory registers Death," District of St. Machar, Aberdeen, 10 February 1905, Tough, James.

<sup>7</sup> "Passenger Ships and Images," database online, *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=8944&h=272&tid=&pid=&queryId=27c3085afb5e67400f6469a680377a&usePUB=true&phsrc=DhL1386&phstart=successSource> : accessed 21 June 2021).

<sup>8</sup> "Massachusetts, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1963; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8745/images/MAT843\\_91-0012?pld=2048158](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8745/images/MAT843_91-0012?pld=2048158) : accessed 22 June 2021), line 24, James Tough. Roll > T843, Arriving Boston, MA, 1891-1943 > ALL > 091.

<sup>9</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Washington County, Vermont, population schedule, ED 235, sheet 7A (written), dwelling 125, family 132, Cameron, James Duran; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/4454877\\_00915?usePUB=true&phsrc=DhL1384&phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=170679098](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/4454877_00915?usePUB=true&phsrc=DhL1384&phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=170679098) : accessed 21 June 2021). James was only 4 years old and living with his family.

<sup>10</sup> "Massachusetts, U.S. Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists," *Ancestry*, line 23, Flett, Henry.

No matter where James worked as a young granite cutter, he would not have made much money. The average granite worker in Barre made only \$2.50 per day in 1905, which equates to just \$76.48 in 2021.<sup>11</sup> James eventually found work within the granite industry in Westerly, Rhode Island.<sup>12</sup>

James filed his *Declaration of Intent* to become an American citizen on 9 April 1917 in Providence, Rhode Island. At that time, he still noted his occupation as a stone cutter. He was slightly built at 5 feet 5 ½ inches, weighing 140 pounds with fair complexion, brown hair, and gray eyes.<sup>13</sup> James filed his *Petition for Naturalization* on 27 July 1923. At that time, he was still a granite cutter and lived in Pawcatuck, Connecticut with his wife and three children, Mary Elizabeth, Mildred Walker, and James Alexander<sup>14</sup> He was naturalized on 3 June 1924, just a little over a year before he died.<sup>15</sup>

## Work

In 1910, James was living on Cross Street, in Westerly, Washington, Rhode Island. He was a boarder, residing with other boarders in a family home, all of whom worked as stone cutters. Neither of the other boarders with whom he lived, was the traveling companion documented on the *SS Saxonia* paperwork, when he arrived in Boston.<sup>16</sup>

James was identified in a series about the Westerly granite workers and was one of the verified granite workers “who built Westerly.”<sup>17</sup> Westerly was known for their fine granite workers and numerous Scots who came to the area to work.

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<sup>11</sup> Paul Wood, “Barre’s granite timeline, going all the way back,” online, *The Barre Montpelier Time Argus* ([https://www.timesargus.com/news/barre-s-granite-timeline-going-all-the-way-back/article\\_9b0deaab-6cf5-5fb8-922b-70c333a1f567.html](https://www.timesargus.com/news/barre-s-granite-timeline-going-all-the-way-back/article_9b0deaab-6cf5-5fb8-922b-70c333a1f567.html)) : accessed 21 June 2021), 21 April 2008. See also, Ian Webster, “CPI Inflation Calculator,” online, *Official Data Foundation/ Alioth LLC* (<https://www.in2013dollars.com/us/inflation/1905?amount=2.50>) : accessed 21 June 2021).

<sup>12</sup> “People Who Built Westerly,” *Built from Stone : The Westerly Granite Story*, vol 49 of 52, digital image online (<https://www.babcocksmithhouse.org/GraniteIndustry/NewspaperSeries/graniteweek49laborunrest.pdf>) : accessed 21 June 2021), Tough, James. A series of articles about the Westerly granite industry was created by the *Westerly Sun* newspaper.

<sup>13</sup> “Connecticut, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records, 1790-1996,” Declaration of Intention, no 18987, James Taylor Tough, 9 April 1917; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61195/images/007763620\\_00053?pld=443029](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61195/images/007763620_00053?pld=443029)) : accessed 21 June 2021). Superior Court, New London County, Connecticut > Vol 15-17, petition no 2218-2684, 19 July 1923-8 May 1926.

<sup>14</sup> “Connecticut, U.S. Federal Naturalization Records, 1790-1996, Petition for Naturalization, no 2222, James Taylor Tough, 27 July 1923; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61195/images/007763620\\_00054?pld=443029](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61195/images/007763620_00054?pld=443029)) : accessed 21 June 2021). Superior Court, New London County, Connecticut >Vol 15-17, petition no 2218-2684, 19 July 1923-8 May 1926.

<sup>15</sup> Connecticut, Federal Naturalization Records, no 18987, James Taylor. Naturalization no 1907553. See also, State of Connecticut, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Stonington, Medical Certificate of Death, James John Tough, 25 September 1925. James’ occupation noted as a stone cutter who died from pulmonary tuberculosis and myocarditis.

<sup>16</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Washington County, Rhode Island, population schedule, ED 311, sheet 2A (written), dwelling 71, family 39, Beattie, Francis; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/4449865\\_01060?pld=26339500](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/4449865_01060?pld=26339500)) : accessed 21 June 2021). See also, Massachusetts, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, lines 23 and 24.

<sup>17</sup> “People Who Built Westerly,” *Built from Stone: The Westerly Granite Story*, vol 49.

The Scots came early to Westerly and were active in the shipbuilding and transportation industries. It was, however, the granite industry that drew most here in the nineteenth century from either Dalbeattie or Aberdeen to work in the local quarries. By 1885 almost ten percent of the Westerly population claimed a Scottish birthplace....Organizations such as the Caledonian Society and Daughters of Scotia met regularly to celebrate their Scottish ancestry.<sup>18</sup>

“At one point, about 57% of the population of Westerly worked in the granite industry.<sup>19</sup> Granite from the town of Westerly is found in hundreds of monuments around the country.<sup>20</sup> While Westerly was well known for their granite quarries and skilled workers, working in the quarries was difficult work.

The granite industry was known to have hazards generated by stone dust. The dust in turn was caused by the machinery. “Uneven ground and loose stone...flying debris...working on stilts wearing goggles...silicosis (white lung disease), cold winter weather with no heat, and accidents causing injury and death” were daily hazards faced by these mostly immigrant laborers.<sup>21</sup> The dust was hazardous and most likely contributed to James’ death.<sup>22</sup> Between 1915 and 1925, the granite industry had a lack of skilled workers in part due to deaths cause by “silicosis induced tuberculosis.”<sup>23</sup> The desire for large, beautiful monuments, commensurate with the desire for eternal memorials and sturdy buildings has not ended. The dangerous byproducts of machine drilled quarry work still resonate with local residents.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Babcock-Smith House, “Bagpipes and Curling Stones,” *Built from Stone : The Westerly Granite Story*, vol 20 of 52; digital image online (<https://www.babcocksmithhouse.org/GraniteIndustry/NewspaperSeries/graniteweek20.pdf> : accessed 21 June 2021).

<sup>19</sup> Betty-Jo Cugini and Jim Karpeichick, “Carved from Stone: Legacy of a Granite Town,” 28 November 2014, video online, *bird on the wire* (<https://rhodeislandpbs.blogspot.com/2014/11/carved-from-stone-legacy-of-granite-town.html> : accessed 21 June 2021). Short video presents and overview of the Westerly granite industry and the workers.

<sup>20</sup> John Hill, “Westerly granite found in hundreds of monuments, from Gettysburg to Roger Williams statue,” *Providence Journal*, online ([https://www.timesargus.com/news/barre-s-granite-timeline-going-all-the-way-back/article\\_9b0deaab-6cf5-5fb8-922b-70c333a1f567.html](https://www.timesargus.com/news/barre-s-granite-timeline-going-all-the-way-back/article_9b0deaab-6cf5-5fb8-922b-70c333a1f567.html) : accessed 21 June 2021), 6 October 2013. See also, “Frost’s Grave Now Marked,” *Newport Daily News* (Newport, RI, 16 April 1964), p 4, col 2; digital image online, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/56757834/?terms=Westerly%20granite&match=1> : accessed 22 June 2021). Also, “Interests of Westerly,” *Norwich Bulletin* (Norwich, CT, 28 July 1911); digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/319401777/?terms=Westerly%20granite&match=1> : accessed 21 June 2021). Discusses the architecture and building of a granite courthouse and post office in Westerly. Additionally, “Granite Around Town, online, *Babcock-Smith House Museum* (<https://www.babcocksmithhouse.org/GraniteIndustry/WesterlyRI/index.htm> : accessed 21 June 2021). Color images of granite building, markers, and memorials around Westerly.

<sup>21</sup> “Dangers in the Industry,” *Built from Stone : The Westerly Granite Story*, vol 48 of 52, digital image online (<https://www.babcocksmithhouse.org/GraniteIndustry/NewspaperSeries/graniteweek47ahazards.pdf> : accessed 21 June 2021).

<sup>22</sup> Certificate of Death, James John Tough, 25 September 1925.

<sup>23</sup> Barre’s granite timeline, going all the way back, 2008.

<sup>24</sup> Frank Carini, “Quarry Dust Covers Westerly in Concern,” online, *ecoRI news* (<https://www.ecori.org/public-safety/2017/4/15/quarry-dust-coats-westerly-in-concern> : accessed 23 June 2021). See also, “Preserving the Memories of Mankind,” online, *Memorials.net* (<https://memorials.net/granite-memorials/> : accessed 23 June 2021). This researcher, who grew up in Westerly and lives in the neighboring town, has personal knowledge of the

In 1918, James advised his occupation was a chipper and caulker working in the shipyards.<sup>25</sup> While caulking at a shipyard may seem odd for a granite worker, the tools and job are somewhat similar. A caulker's tools were mallets of different sizes, caulking chisels and a "small array of hooks or narrow scrapers" used to prepare the hull for caulking.<sup>26</sup> A stonecutter's tools included chisels of various sizes, as well as a variety of hammers and picks.<sup>27</sup>

### **Social Life**

By 1911, James and his future wife, Annie Walker were at least acquainted with one another. James was the best man and Annie Walker was a bridesmaid in a wedding that occurred on Cross Street, the street where James lived in 1910.<sup>28</sup>

Annie Bell Mitchell Walker was born in East Lyme, New London, Connecticut on 15 March 1888. She was the second child of William J. Walker and Elizabeth Jane Kingdon. William was born in Scotland and a 25-year-old stonecutter when Annie was born. Elizabeth was born in Cornwall, England.<sup>29</sup> Annie was baptized at her family home in Niantic, New London, Connecticut on 6 November 1890, along with her sister, Jessie, by the Methodist church minister.<sup>30</sup>

James was an officer in the Caledonian Society, an organization created to bring Scottish men together to celebrate their heritage. In 1916, he was elected as the second chieftain.<sup>31</sup>

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blasting that continues today in the Westerly area, and signs in neighborhoods near quarries in Charlestown, Rhode Island stating "Silica kills." In the Westerly area, granite is so plentiful, that many streets and sidewalks have granite curbs, and granite block walkways and driveways are desirable.

<sup>25</sup> "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, James Taylor Tough, order no 1937, reg no 89; digital image, *Ancestry*

([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6482/images/005266902\\_04524?pid=25571230](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6482/images/005266902_04524?pid=25571230) : accessed 22 June 2021). Rhode Island > Woonsocket City > ALL > Draft Card T.

<sup>26</sup> "Ship Caulkers and Their Tools," online, *New Bedford Whaling Museum* (<http://sydnassloot.com/caulking.htm> : accessed 21 June 2021).

<sup>27</sup> Brunner & Lay, *Manufacturers of Marble, Stone, Granite and Bricklayers' tools Stone Jacks, Derricks, and Contractors' Supplies* (Chicago, IL, no date); digital image, online, *Stone Quarries and Beyond* ([http://quarriesandbeyond.org/articles\\_and\\_books/stone\\_magazine/brunne\\_and\\_lay\\_catalog/brunner\\_and\\_lay\\_catalog.html](http://quarriesandbeyond.org/articles_and_books/stone_magazine/brunne_and_lay_catalog/brunner_and_lay_catalog.html) : accessed 23 June 2021). Stone Carver/Stone Cutter—Methods, Transportation, & Tools Used Working with Stone > Tools and Equipment > Brunner & Lay. Catalog of all necessary masonry tools. See also, Brunner & Lay, online, (<https://brunnerlay.com/about/> : accessed 23 June 2021). The business is still in existence and has been operating since 1882. It appears that the undated catalog may be from c. 1900.

<sup>28</sup> "Local Laconics," *Norwich Bulletin* (Norwich, CT, 31 July 1911), p 6, col 2, marriage of Warrant T. Sheffield and Louise J. Beattie; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/319402309/?terms=%22James%20Tough%22&match=1> : accessed 21 June 2021).

<sup>29</sup> State of Connecticut, birth certificate, Annie B.M. Walker, #180. See also, Birth record, Elizabeth Jane Kingdon, record #3323716, online, *Cornwall OPC Database* (<https://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/more-info/?t=baptisms&id=3323716> : accessed 23 June 2021).

<sup>30</sup> "New England, Select United Methodist Church Records, 1787-1922, 6 November 1890, unpaginated, digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9134/images/42836\\_dc001625-00702?pid=111963](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9134/images/42836_dc001625-00702?pid=111963) : accessed 23 June 2021), image 65.

<sup>31</sup> "At the annual meeting of the Caledonian society officers were elected," *Norwich Bulletin* (Norwich, CT, 20 December 1916), p 6, col 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com*

## **Marriage**

James married Annie Walker in Stonington, New London, Connecticut on 19 March 1913. At the time of their marriage, James lived Westerly, Rhode Island. Annie was a salesgirl who lived in Pawcatuck, Connecticut. He was 30 and she was 24 years old. This was a first marriage for both.<sup>32</sup> Westerly and Pawcatuck are adjacent towns that frequently plan events together and are primarily separated by the Pawcatuck River.<sup>33</sup> Both towns were founded in the mid-1600s.<sup>34</sup> It would not have been unusual for the two to have met or shared the same circle of friends. Since her father was also a Scottish stonemason, it is highly likely.<sup>35</sup>

## **Military**

James was a private in the 4<sup>th</sup> company of the Rhode Island State Guard, from at least from 1918-1920.<sup>36</sup> After the 5<sup>th</sup> company was called up to go to war, a need for a new local militia arose to protect the town. "The 4<sup>th</sup> Company was an offshoot of the Westerly constabulary which, in 1917, was organized for the purpose of home defense. The Company consisted of almost all businessmen in addition to men too old for Federal Service."<sup>37</sup>

James most likely drilled with his compatriots at the *Westerly Armory*, built in 1901 at a cost of \$30,000. The drill shed was to the rear of the building and still sits close to the Westerly train station. The interior was simple with varnished, dark wainscoting and maple floors. In 1902, the state militia was present for

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(<https://www.newspapers.com/image/320435179/?terms=%22James%20Tough%22&match=1> : accessed 22 June 2021).

<sup>32</sup> State of Connecticut, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Marriage License, Stonington, Connecticut, James T. Tough and Annie M. Walker.

<sup>33</sup> Westerly-Pawcatuck Downtown Business Association, "2 States, 2 Towns, 1 Walkable Downtown, online (<https://westerlydba.org/company-profile/> : accessed 21 June 2021). See also, "Pawcatuck-Westerly Duck Race, online, *The Day* newspaper (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5-CpHqEnxA> : accessed 21 June 2021). Video of the annual double town duck race on the Pawcatuck River.

<sup>34</sup> Town of Westerly 350 Committee, Westerly 350<sup>th</sup> Celebration, online, *Facebook* (<https://www.facebook.com/Westerly350/> : accessed 21 June 2021). Pictures and activities that took place during 2020 to commemorate the founding of Westerly. See also, Donita Naylor, "At 350 years, Westerly, R.I., is its own time capsule," online, *Providence Journal* newspaper (<https://www.providencejournal.com/news/20190513/at-350-years-westerly-ri-is-its-own-time-capsule>: accessed 21 June 2021), 13 May 2019. Many historic photos of the town of Westerly. Additionally, Elizabeth Wood, "Stonington's History Includes Pawcatuck," online, *Patch* newspaper (<https://patch.com/connecticut/stonington/bp--stoningtons-history-includes-pawcatuck> : accessed 21 June 2021), 10 May 2011. Provides brief history of the town and historic photos of Pawcatuck.

<sup>35</sup> State of Connecticut, Bureau of Vital Statistics, birth certificate, Niantic, Annie B.M. Walker, #180.

<sup>36</sup> "The complete roster of the Fourth company, Rhode Island State guard," *Norwich Bulletin* (Norwich, CT, 10 June 1918), p. 6, col 5; digital image, *Newspapers.com* ([https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping\\_id=14036749&fcfToken=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJmcmVlXzpzZXctaWQiOiMyMDM5NDcyMywiaWF0IjoxNjMjQxMzA2LCJleHAIjE2MjczMjc3MDZ9.DpYtpWEnqeBwHUuN5YHbK3CQMofphpBr5qUhw\\_zwik4](https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=14036749&fcfToken=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJmcmVlXzpzZXctaWQiOiMyMDM5NDcyMywiaWF0IjoxNjMjQxMzA2LCJleHAIjE2MjczMjc3MDZ9.DpYtpWEnqeBwHUuN5YHbK3CQMofphpBr5qUhw_zwik4) : accessed 22 June 2021). See also, "The Fourth company, Rhode Island," *Norwich Bulletin* (Norwich, CT, 12 June 1920), p 2 col 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/320396158/?terms=%22James%20Tough%22&match=1> : accessed 22 June 2021).

<sup>37</sup> "Military History", online, *Westerly Armory* (<http://westerlyarmory.com/history/> : accessed 21 June 2021).



naturalization. It wasn't until 1940 that women could repatriate without applying for naturalization, a divorce, or the death of an ineligible spouse.<sup>42</sup>

### **Death**

James died on 25 September 1925 at the family home in Pawcatuck, Connecticut of pulmonary tuberculosis and myocarditis. He was treated for tuberculosis for more than 4 months and heart failure for a month. His occupation was noted as a stonecutter.<sup>43</sup> He was buried near the river's edge at Riverbed cemetery in Westerly.<sup>44</sup> The Caledonia Society donated a memorial marker made of pink granite, which stands by his headstone.<sup>45</sup> His death was likely exacerbated by his years working in the granite industry.

Annie Bell Mitchell (Walker) Tough died 12 December 1952 at the Westerly Hospital from a cerebral hemorrhage. At the time of her death, she normally resided at 23 Lincoln Avenue in Pawcatuck. Annie was a chambermaid at the Elm Tree Inn, also in Pawcatuck. Her parents were identified as William Walker and Elizabeth Kingdon of Scotland and England, respectively. Her husband, who died prior to her, was James A. Tough [sic]. This was a mistake; her son's name was James A. Tough.<sup>46</sup> Prior to her death, she was quite active in the community and was a member of the Women's Relief Corps, the American Legion auxiliary, and a charter member of the local Daughters of Scotia, amongst many other associations.<sup>47</sup>

The Daughters of Scotia is a "fraternal order founded in New Haven, CT. Membership is available to women who were born in Scotland, are of Scottish descent, or are married to men of Scottish descent."<sup>48</sup> It appears that while she was not born in Scotland, she identified quite heavily with the Scottish people, as both her husband and father were Scots.

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<sup>42</sup> Gena Philibert-Ortega, "The 1907 Expatriation Act: Did Your Female Ancestor Lose Her American Citizenship?" 15 January 2019, online, (<https://blog.genealogybank.com/the-1907-expatriation-act-did-your-female-ancestor-lose-her-american-citizenship.html> : accessed 25 July 2021).

<sup>43</sup> State of Connecticut, Bureau of Vital Statistics, death certificate, Stonington, James John Tough, #51.

<sup>44</sup> *FindAGrave*, Memorial #128375281, James John Taylor Tough, digital image ([https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/128375281/james-john\\_taylor-tough](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/128375281/james-john_taylor-tough) : accessed 23 June 2021).

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.* Author's personal files shows the color of the stone as pink granite and sits next to the couple's granite headstone.

<sup>46</sup> State of Rhode Island, death certificate, no 52-166, Annie Bell Mitchell (Walker) Tough, 12 December 1952.

<sup>47</sup> "Mrs. Annie Tough," obituary, *Providence Journal* (Providence, RI, 13 December 1952), p 3, col 7; digital image, *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 23 June 2021).

<sup>48</sup> Daughters of Scotia, "A celebration of Scotland and Sisterhood," online (<http://www.daughtersofscotia.org/> : accessed 23 June 2021).



## Genealogical Summary

1. **James Jonathan Taylor Tough** was born 9 April 1917 in Aberdeen, Scotland to parents James Tough and Mary Pire Taylor. He died 25 September 1925 in Pawcatuck, New London, Connecticut. On 21 July 1899, John married **Annie Belle Mitchell Walker** in Pawcatuck, New London, Connecticut. Annie was born 15 March 1888 in Niantic, New London, Connecticut to William Walker and Elizabeth Kingdon. She died 12 December 1952 in Westerly, Washington, Rhode Island

James and Annie had three children who survived to adulthood.

2. i. **Mary Elizabeth** was born 20 April 1914 and lived in Pawcatuck, Connecticut.<sup>49</sup> She was a hairdresser working out of her home in Pawcatuck.<sup>50</sup> Mary died 15 June 1992.<sup>51</sup> Mary had one child (living).
3. ii. **Mildred Walker** was born 22 March 1916 and lived in Pawcatuck, Connecticut with her family.<sup>52</sup> She married Pasquale L. DeBartolo on 14 April 1943 in Stonington, Connecticut.<sup>53</sup> Pasquale was a tinsmith and Mildred was a housewife and lived in

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<sup>49</sup> 1920 U.S. census, New London County, Connecticut, Tough, James T.; see also, birth announcement, Tough, online, *Norwich Bulletin* (Norwich, CT, 23 April 1914), p 11, col 5; digital image, *Newspapers.com* ([https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping\\_id=14036495&fcfToken=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJmcmVILXZpZXctaWQiOiJmOTM3MjEzMCwiaWF0IjoxNjI0NDk4NDE1LCJleHAiOiJlE2MjQ1ODQ4MTV9.ZeyL1-bBQDfMCgqGFGAV7m-k8-IT5AYPPzel9pWvnsc](https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=14036495&fcfToken=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJmcmVILXZpZXctaWQiOiJmOTM3MjEzMCwiaWF0IjoxNjI0NDk4NDE1LCJleHAiOiJlE2MjQ1ODQ4MTV9.ZeyL1-bBQDfMCgqGFGAV7m-k8-IT5AYPPzel9pWvnsc) : accessed 23 June 2021).

<sup>50</sup> "U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995," Westerly, Rhode Island, 1948, p 175; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2469/images/15210818?pld=969195620> : accessed 23 June 2021).

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, see also, Mary Elizabeth Tough, headstone, digital image, *FindAGrave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/128375254/mary-elizabeth-tough> : accessed 23 June 2021), memorial #128375254, photo added by "Swann Sisters." See also, Riverbend cemetery, Westerly, Rhode Island, cemetery plot card, Annie Tough, book 5, p 171 and book 4, section 54, lot 2227, Rosewood Avenue. Mary is buried near her mother and father. Several family plots were purchased for descendants of Annie Tough and her mother. Information from Riverbend cemetery caretaker, Greg Howard. See also, "U.S., Social Security Applications and Death Index, 1936-2007," database online, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/38921264:60901> : accessed 23 June 2021).

<sup>52</sup> 1920 U.S. census, New London County, Connecticut, Tough, James T.; See also, Mildred Walker DeBartolo headstone, digital image, *FindAGrave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/138369638/mildred-walker-de-bartolo> : accessed 23 June 2021), memorial #138369638, photo added by "Mick Manfredi."

<sup>53</sup> "Marriage Records up to 2001," database online, Connecticut State Library (<https://www.ctatatelibrarydata.org/marriage-records/> : accessed 23 June 2021), Pasquale Debartolo and Mildred Lough [sic].

Westerly.<sup>54</sup> She died 25 June 1976 in Westerly.<sup>55</sup> She was the mother of two boys (living).

- + 4. iii. **James Alexander** was born 28 November 1917 in Stonington, Connecticut, the youngest of three children and the only son.<sup>56</sup> He married Virginia Noyes Weeks on 9 May 1942 in Westerly, Rhode Island.<sup>57</sup> James worked as a plumber and co-owned his business located in Westerly.<sup>58</sup> He died 9 November 1982<sup>59</sup> He was the father of four children, 3 of whom are still living.

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#### Proof: Who were the Parents of James Alexander Tough (1917-1982)

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James was the third son of James Jonathan Taylor Tough and Annie Bell Mitchell Walker. He was born 28 November 1917.<sup>60</sup> James married Virginia Noyes Weeks on 9 May 1942 in Westerly, Rhode Island at the First Baptist Church. 1920 census identifies James Alexander as the son of James and Annie.<sup>61</sup>

- 1930 census identifies James as the son of Annie<sup>62</sup>
- WWII Draft registration identifies Annie Tough as James' mother<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> "U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995, Westerly, Rhode Island, 1954, p. 60; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2469/images/13749953?usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pid=838945133>) : accessed 23 June 2021).

<sup>55</sup> Mildred Walker DeBartolo, *FindAGrave*, memorial #138369638.

<sup>56</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, Medical Examiner certificate of Death, James Tough, no 29005, 7 November 1982. See also, Town of Stonington, Certified Copy of Birth Record, James A. Tough, 28 November 1917.

<sup>57</sup> State of Rhode Island, marriage certificate, no 04938898, James Alexander Tough and Virginia Noyes Weeks, 9 May 1942.

<sup>58</sup> "James A. Tough, obituary, *Providence Journal*, database online, *Newsbank* (<https://infoweb.newsbank.com>) : accessed 23 June 2021), 11 November 1982.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, Medical Examiner certificate of Death, James Tough, no 29005, 7 November 1982. See also, Town of Stonington, Certified Copy of Birth Record, James A. Tough, 28 November 1917. Additionally, "James A. Tough, obituary, *Providence Journal*, 11 November 1982.

<sup>61</sup> 1920 U.S. census, New London County, Connecticut, Tough, James T.

<sup>62</sup> 1930 U.S. census, New London County, Tough, Annie. See also family 395.

<sup>63</sup> "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947, serial no 01119, James Alexander Tough; digital image online, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2238/images/44002\\_04\\_00051-01315?pid=12197964](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2238/images/44002_04_00051-01315?pid=12197964)) : accessed 23 June 2021). See also, "James A. Tough, obituary, *Providence Journal*, 11 November 1982.

- 1942 marriage announcement for James identifies his mother as Mrs. James Tough of 23 Lincoln Avenue, the same address the family lived in 1930<sup>64</sup>
- James' death certificate identifies his parents as James Tough and Annie Walker<sup>65</sup>
- James was buried in one of the family plots originally purchased by Elizabeth J. Walker in 1906, near his grandparents, William J. Walker and Elizabeth J. (Kingdon) (Walker) Brown<sup>66</sup>
- There are no items in conflict
- Conclusion the parents of James Alexander Tough are James Jonathan Taylor Tough and Annie Belle Mitchell Walker

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<sup>64</sup> "Two Weddings are Solemnized in Churches of Westerly: Tough—Weeks," *Providence Journal* (Providence, RI, 10 May 1942), p 4, col 6; digital image, *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 23 June 2021).

<sup>65</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, Medical Examiner certificate of Death, James Tough, no 29005, 7 November 1982.

<sup>66</sup> Riverbend cemetery, Westerly, Rhode Island, cemetery plot card, Elizabeth J. Walker, book 4, p 427 and book 4, p 210, section 17, lot 705, Main Avenue.