

Uriah Rowsell

[A hand-written text found between the pages of the personal diary of Reginald Norman Rowsell]

Dated: May 4, 1980

Monday April 28, 1980 was a memorable day for me.

Several times when our family was growing up, father used to tell us about his family and his father's family. One of these was his aunt Ann Rowsell, his father's sister, who it seems left the environs of Leading Tickles and went to live in St. John's. The same thing was true of his uncle, his father's brother, who also went to live in St. John's. Dad was not sure of this uncle's first name. Dad said it could be Eli, Levi or Uriah.

On my first visit to St. John's in June 1929, I noticed that the name Rowsell was almost unknown only one or two in the telephone directory of the capital city. But I did call to see my great aunt, Ann Rowsell, who by marriage was the widow of one Samuel Churchill who lived with her daughter, Sue, who was the widow of Captain ? Marshall, who lived on Prescott Street.

Strange as it may seem I cannot recall asking my great aunt about her brother.

I was aware [of] a man by the name of Rowsell who worked at Ayre & Sons and [of] a fairly well-known young lady at St. John's by the name of Phyllis Rowsell. I was aware of their presence during my busy years in the United Church Presbytery and Conference. However, I made no attempt to contact them. The Rowsell at Ayre & Sons died and his daughter, Phyllis, married a Mr. Byron March, a superintendent of education in the Integrated School Board of the St. John's area. He is now deceased.

Just recently, I wrote a letter to Mrs. March, asking her if she were a descendant of my great uncle, Eli or Levi or Uriah Rowsell. Mrs. March called me by telephone to say she was the grand- daughter of Uriah Rowsell.

That is what makes this day a red-letter day for me. I am on the right track. I'll have to do some more travelling here to increase my knowledge. Mrs. March tells me she remembers her father talking about Samuel Churchill, who was, of course, the husband of his aunt, Ann Churchill (nee Rowsell, sister of Uriah).

Note

We know from a letter written to William Rowsell of Rattling Brook that Uriah's son's name was Sidney and that he lived at St. John's. This would be the Rowsell who worked at Ayre & Sons.

A note I have says that Uriah had a grand-daughter Lillian. Might this be a mistake and should be Phyllis (also has 2 L's in the name and is similar in sound). - rne.