* The Family of Daniel Cournane in San Francisco *

(James, Cornelius, Dennis & Mollie)

James Daniel Courtney

Information concerning the Courtney Family in San Francisco as recounted from the annual City Directories:

It appears James was the first to arrive in the Bay Area.
In 1885 he was listed as a "coalpasser" and living at 320 Brannan.
In 1887 he was a boilermaker with the Risdon Iron & Locomotive Works, at the southeast corner of Howard and Beale.
In 1888 he was a boilermaker with George E. Belmor.
In '89 he was doing general labor while residing at 519 Sacramento.
By 1890 he was laboring for the National Iron Works and living at 521 Howard.
By 1892 Dennis C. Courtney had also arrived in San Francisco.
He was employed as a laborer and lived at 515 Howard, a few doors down from his brother.
In '93 they lived together at 117½ Perry.
In that year James went into the liquor business at 438 3rd St. between Harrison and Bryant.
In '96 he moved to 125 Perry, then in '98 to 111 Silver St. near 3rd.
He persisted with the same business address.

During 95-96 this time Con and Mollie Courtney were up in the Yukon attending to the gold rush. They were too young Molly in Alaska in 1900

By 1900 Cornelius D. "Con" Courtney resettled in San Francisco.
Mollie did likewise.
She was thereafter known by her married name, Wall.
Con was employed as a "helper" with H.B. Schindler and Co., manufacturers of carriages, wagons and trucks.
The company also repaired those same vehicles.
Dennis was then dealing in wood and coal for fuel at 510 Bryant St. while living at 210½ Ritch.
At that same residence, and for a single appearance only, another man, named Dennis E. Courtney, also resided.
He was a "longshoreman." related ?? living w/ Dennis (Cons Brother)

In 1901 Con was a blacksmith for Schindler & Co.
He and James had moved to 21½ Welsh.

Information concerning the Courtney Family in San Francisco as recounted from the annual City Directories:

It appears James was the first to arrive in the Bay Area.
In 1885 he was listed as a "coalpasser" and living at 320 Brannan.
In 1887 he was a boilermaker with the Risdon Iron & Locomotive Works, at the southeast corner of Howard and Beale.
In 1888 he was a boilermaker with George E. Belmor.
In '89 he was doing general labor while residing at 519 Sacramento.
By 1890 he was laboring for the National Iron Works and living at 521 Howard.
By 1892 Dennis C. Courtney had also arrived in San Francisco.
He was employed as a laborer and lived at 515 Howard, a few doors down from his brother.
In '93 they lived together at 117½ Perry.
In that year James went into the liquor business at 438 3rd St. between Harrison and Bryant.
In '96 he moved to 125 Perry, then in '98 to 111 Silver St. near 3rd.
He persisted with the same business address.

During this time Con and Mollie Courtney were up in the Yukon attending to the gold rush. They were too young!

By 1900 Cornelius D. "Con" Courtney resettled in San Francisco.
Mollie did likewise.
She was thereafter known by her married name, Wall.
Con was employed as a "helper" with H.B. Schindler and Co., manufacturers of carriages, wagons and trucks.
The company also repaired those same vehicles.
Dennis was then dealing in wood and coal for fuel at 510 Bryant St. while living at 210½ Ritch.
At that same residence, and for a single appearance only, another man, named Dennis E. Courtney, also resided.
He was a "longshoreman."

In 1901 Con was a blacksmith for Schindler & Co.
He and James had moved to 21½ Welsh.

The neighborhood of the Courtney's choosing was a working class, industrial section of town known as "South of the Slot" and also as Happy Valley.

The three brothers and one sister which constituted the Dwyer family lived in the same area.

It was ironic that both families had the same combination of siblings It was even more interesting that Jim Courtney had married Julia Courtney (a distant cousin) by that time, and Julia's sister,(Hanna] Mrs. Ed. Murphy was also living at the same Welsh St. address, 21. Ed Murphy himself lived there as well.

And for a short time, William Dwyer lived there too.

Will Dwyer's wife Margaret had died just recently. May 17 1901 - did she die in childbirth??

Margaret Courtney was another of Julia Courtney's sisters. - died Nov 17 1911

Margaret and Will had three young children: Julia, Helen and little William. + 2 more? Alice M. 1901 & Ethel M 1900-1900 ?

Perhaps the other relatives at 21 Welsh helped care for the motherless waifs. in same grave is Charles & Anne W Dwyer

In any case, this intersection of families held together only for a short time.

The Dwyer children were sent back to Ireland, and William moved on. ?? There is another William J. Dwyer in tree - son of Jerry Shea

In 1902 Dennis Courtney moved to 509 3rd St., a block down from brother Jim's liquor business.

In 1904 Con was still a blacksmith but had changed residences to 10 3/4 Walter, as had his brother Jim and family.

On January 1 of that year Con Courtney married Julia Spillane.

Father Clifford performed the ceremony.

Dennis Courtney moved to 333 3rd St.

By 1905 Dennis was delivering both coal and groceries.

Con and his bride relocated to 83 Silver St.

On Feb. 14th he purchased a house at 349 Precita.

Brother James moved to 132 Perry.

In 1906 Con was with the carriage making and repairing firm of "(Olaf) Nelson & Courtney," working out of 565 Grove.

Con and wife moved into their newly purchased house on Precita.

Then the San Francisco earthquake and fire devastated the city.

Dwyer & Courtney 3 Brothers 1 Sister

Hannah & Julia & Margaret — married Will Dwyer — Sisters

3 children 1900 census

interesting connection!

Alice F-Patrick M-Alice Donahue 1901 Boston - Apr 1901 Boston

Ethel Jan 7, 1896 F-Wm J. Dwyer M Margaret Mc Geaney

Con's workplace on Grove was destroyed by the great fire that followed the quake.
His home suffered only minor damage.
Jim and Dennis' workplaces were likewise destroyed.
With Jim's liquor store on 3rd having been burned he set up shop as a grocer on the corner of Precita and Coso.
His family lived in the flat above the store.
Dennis moved into what was to become his life's main house, 1014 Treat Ave.
He was there together with his wife, Hanna Calahan, and their two young boys: Lawrence and Bernard.
Hanna was noteworthy as being the "brains" of the family...she was also its prime motivator.
Dennis continued working as a "drayman."

Edward electrocuted 1913 1922

In 1909 Con's wife, Julia Spillane, died of typhoid fever leaving Con with three children to attend to: Leonard, Marion and Edward.
By then Con and family had moved two doors down on Precita to #355.
For a time in 1909 Jim sold groceries out of 26 Coso.
By 1910 the store was back at 28½ Precita.

By 1911 Con was continuing his wagon repair trade at 356 8th St. near Folsom.

???

In the year 1912 there was a "Sidney Courtney" working as a wagonmaker and living at Con's address on Precita.
This remained true for 1913 also.
In 1914 Sidney was a driver, living at 377 6th St.
The name Sidney Courtney was never listed again.
(Perhaps the concurrent advent of World War I has something to do with his departure or his death.)
There was another family of Courtneys living at the Precita St. address, Jim and Nora from Cork; they were not related to the main subjects of our study.
It is possible that Sidney was related to them.

By 1912 a young man from Worcester, Massachusetts had arrived in S.F.
Through his mother, Bridget A. Courtney, he was a "half-nephew" to the Courtney family in San Francisco.
His name was Jeremiah Shea.
He commenced working as a clerk in Jim Courtney's grocery store.
For a time he lived with Jim's family above the store.
He also resided for an extended period with Con at 355 Precita.
However, with World War I coming on strong Jerry chose to enlist with the U.S. Navy.

The Courtney activities remained generally the same in 1915 except that Jim and Julia's son Daniel had taken up as clerk in the store which Jerry had vacated.
In the following year their daughter Mae served her term as a clerk as well.

By 1917 Daniel Bernard Courtney, son of Dennis and Hanna, was also working as a clerk...while still living with his parents at 1014 Treat.
On June 28, 1917 Con married Margaret McMenamin of County Donegal.
They were married at St. Peters.

In 1918 another child by Jim and Julia, Alice A. Courtney, was a clerk with Pacific Telephone & Telegraph.
Her sister Mae 1906 was then trying her hand as a stenographer with Pacific Gas & Electric.
Margaret.
married Lawrence & had child Rita M ~~(1906)~~

In 1919 a man named Daniel Courtney (believed to be Jim's son) was living at Dennis Courtney's house while being employed by Dennis as a "teamster," probably hauling one of Dennis' water wagons.
Dennis had garnered a contract with the city to water down the dusty city streets on a regular basis.

In 1920 Alice Courtney was clerking for Weinstock Nichols Co.
Bernard was an assistant for the State Barking Dept.

In 1921 Bernard's brother, Lawrence, was employed as a bookkeeper while living at their parent's home on Treat.
James Courtney sold his interest in the grocery store at 28 Precita. The new owner was John Bayreuther.

In 1922 Alice was living at 427 Noe.
She evidently married soon after this.
Her husband's name was Phillip Rich.
Before long the couple were traveling the vaudeville circuit as a comedy team billed as "Phil & Alice."
Stage make-up was applied to make him appear much older than he actually was.

About ~~this time~~ 19 Con moved his family to the Harder Hotel at 2516 3rd St.
~~His wife~~ Margaret managed the place.
Together with the three children of Con's first marriage the couple were to add: Frank, Connie, Rose and Jimmy.
It was at this address that young Edward Courtney climbed a power pole after a renegade kite and was electrocuted.

Lawrence Courtney (Dennis's son) was employed as a shipping clerk for J.R. O'Donnell.

In 1924 Larry's brother, Bernard, was a cashier for the State Banking Dept.
Larry himself transferred to Proctor & Gamble Distributing Co. were he worked as a clerk.
He had relocated to Berkeley.
Jim's son Daniel was a salesman living with his wife, Rose, at 10 Coso.
Con Courtney purchased the Edgemont Apartments at 961 Pine St.

In 1925 Con was a dealer of "soft drinks" at 2582 3rd St.
(He had just previously served a six months sentence for operating an illegal still in his hotel at 2516 3rd.)
Upon being readmitted into society he moved down 3rd St. to a better hotel, at 2582.

It is then somewhat ironic that Con would venture from hard liquor into soft drinks.

(It is speculated he continued dealing in alcoholic beverages, as a distributor...one therefore believes the soft drink operations might have served as a convenient front in the delivery of the liquor.)

In 1926 D. Bernard Courtney (as he preferred being listed) was living at 38 Monterey with his wife Ruth M. Barrett.
(She was a daughter of the Barretts who were well known in car rentals and parking garages.)
(It is noteworthy here to mention that at this time Civic Center Park was only that, just a park. Con Courtney, Bernard's uncle, wrote a letter to the newspapers asking that a large parking system be built under the park. In the ensuing years a large garage was constructed under the park...and the Barrett family now runs that concession!)

Daniel J. Courtney, with his wife Rose Hagen, moved to 1420 18th Ave.
Con and his family set up house on Hampshire for a short time; then they moved into the Edgemont Apts.

James and Julia Courtney were living at 1205 4th Ave.

In 1927, after some additional studies, Lawrence was with Clay Title Insurance Co., having deserted Berkeley to return to his parents'.
Marion Courtney, Con's daughter, served as a stenographer with the Firemans Association of Philadelphia.
She was residing at the Edgement.

In 1928 Bernard and Ruth moved further up Monterey Blvd. to #84.
He remained with the State Banking Dept.
James' son Daniel was at 2112 Castro.

Con's eldest child, Leonard was employed by his uncle Dennis as a laborer and wagon driver at Dennis' house at 1014 Treat.

Con's daughter Marion was married at Old St Mary's Church to Hugh Maguire and lived at 127 Glenbern Way, San Francisco St Mary's Park. She worked as a stenographer for Fire Assn. of Phila.

1929 was the year of the stock market crash.
Things in general remained basically the same for the Courtneys.
Mollie Courtney (having not been listed in the directories) began managing the St. James Hotel at 87 3rd St. between Market and Mission.
Her nephew, Leonard, was a clerk at the main desk.
James' son Daniel moved to 107 Collingwood.

Late in the year 1929 James Daniel Courtney passed away.
His widow, ~~Julia~~ Margaret McMenamin, remained at 1205 4th Ave. where she ran the building as an apartment manager.
(She continued in that capacity until she expired on July 16, 1946.)

By 1930 Con's son Leonard was married to a woman named Mary. Nyhan
He worked as a chauffeur, and the couple lived at 712 Douglass.
Dennis Courtney was also listed as a chauffeur that year.
The late James' son Daniel became a salesman with Grandma Cake Co.

On January 5, 1932 Con Courtney's second wife, Margaret McMenamin, died of pneumonia.
Leonard went back to work for the St. James Hotel.
Con's son Frank appeared for the first time in the City Directories.
He was described as living at 175 Jules.

In 1933 Leonard was back at the Edgemont, and employed as a salesman.

Sometime during this period Lawrence Courtney removed himself to Denver, Colorado.
It is said he was employed as a teacher while there.
He also ran afoul of the law and was incarcerated for a time.

By 1934 Dennis and family had given up their long time home on Treat Ave.
They bought a building at 98 Sanchez St., at the corner of 14th St.
It was a large three story, with a grocery store on the street level which Dennis leased out for additional income.

Frank became a salesman with Richard Knight while living at 3922 18th St.

1951

Concerning the Edgemont Apartments, Con's son-in-law through his daughter Marion's marriage, Hugh Maguire, took on the physical responsibility of managing the place.
(He would also go on to become a Captain with the S.F. Fire Dept.)

By 1935 Bernard had advanced to the post of Examiner for the State Banking Dept.
Daniel and Rose were doing well with "Grandma Cake Co." and had purchased a house at 1418 18th Ave...one door down from a previous residence.
Leonard became a janitor with the Public Works Dept. and remained living at the Edgemont.

By 1936 Daniel had become sales manager of Grandma Cookie Co.
In the following year he would be listed as foreman, and the year after that, Branch Manager.
Leonard regained employment as a chauffeur.
~~Frank was similarly employed~~.

~~In 1938 Frank moved back to 175 Jules Ave~~.
~~In 1939 he moved to 55 Madison.~~
It appears that Lawrence was back from Colorado by this year, but his listings ~~are~~ obscure.
It is believed he had a wife named Clara and was employed variously as a bookkeeper, clerk and possibly as a bartender.
His final notation was as a salesman, and by then (1953) he had moved to Colma...and following that, to the east coast.

In 1940 Daniel Courtney was "Traffic Manager" for Grandma's Cookies.
Frank was employed by the San Francisco Examiner and living at the family stand-by, the Edgemont.

In '41 Leonard was a "driver" (possibly Taxi) while living at 731 Filmore.

Bernard, with his wife ~~Margaret R.~~, was living at 2667 17th Ave.

In 1942 Leonard, with his wife Marie, moved to 3832a 23rd St.

These were the years of World War II.
The Courtney family activities appeared rather stable.

On August 24, 1944, Cornelius Daniel Courtney died at age 67.

Daniel J. Courtney also passed away.
His widow, Rose, continued to live at their past mutual home, 1418 18th Ave.
(She remained there at least until 1960, and in the interim became a fingerprint technician with the S.F. Police Dept.)

In 1945 Frank was an agent with the Prudential Insurance Co.
He was then residing at 1028 Pine.

interesting info on Aunt Connie

Jim Courtney's widow, Julia Courtney, passed away on July 16, 1946.

In '48 Con's daughter, Cornelia "Connie," was residing at 2701 Jackson.
It is believed that during the war she was working at Hunter's Point as a "defense worker" involved with chemical warfare.
(Eventually she became a nurse and then was instrumental in training other nurses.)
Frank was listed as a "salesman" (insurance), living ~~with his wife~~ at 1035 Pine.
Leonard and his second wife Marie were located at 3836 23rd St.
His sister Marion was staying at the same address 127 Gineborn Way ~~and once again employed as a stenographer~~.

On December 13, 1948 Mollie (Courtney) Wall expired at the age of 73.

In 1951 Dennis C. Courtney also passed away.
He was an owner ~~He was a resident of 98 Sanchez St. at the time~~.
He also had a house built on Arlington in Redwood City.

Thus passed the last of the original four Courtneys to arrive in San Francisco.

In 1953 Bernard moved to 2070 Jefferson. with his 2nd wife Lucille Byrne
He remained an examiner for the State Banking Dept.
Frank was a broker for Time Realty and was again living at the Edgemont Apts.
~~Leonard and Marie moved to 860 Geary, Apt. 305.~~
He began work as a bartender at "Original McCarthy's Big Serve."
He remained employed there for numerous years.

NO

In 1955 Frank was a real estate broker for William E. Dowd.
He was probably also ~~managing~~ the Edgemont.

Bernard died of a heart attack in

James Courtney was baptised on April 3, 1867.
He was born at his father's farm, Knocknasartnett.
He was the eldest boy child from his father's second marriage.
His parents were Daniel Courtney and Mary Ann Crowley.
At about age 18 he left home and set sail for America.
In San Francisco he would meet and marry a young woman from Kenmare, not fifty miles from his own place of origin near Killarney.
Her name was Julia Courtney.
She had been born on October 17, 1869.
Her parents were a farmer named John Courtney and his wife Ellen Donoghue.
Julia had three sisters: Margaret (Dwyer) who moved to San Francisco, Kate who remained single in Ireland, and Hannah (Mrs. Ed Murphy) who also immigrated to San Francisco.
Julia and Jim were married at the Cathedral on Van Ness.
The two were distant cousins, sharing the same grandfather (who had produced children from two marriages), Patrick Cournane.
The couple would sire a total of ~~eleven~~ 10 offspring, among them were: Mae, Alice, Daniel, (Margaret, ~~Rita~~ one person) and Vince.
(Two of the younger children were to pass away within a single week's time...one by an accident, the other through complications to an illness.)
There was 22 years difference between the oldest and youngest children.

James came to be known as "Papa Jim" and is best remembered for the years he spent on Precita St.

He was the first of the Courtney family to reach "the far west."
He tried his hand at various occupations, but those of longest tenure were at running a liquor business then a grocery store.
His best known store was a small corner grocery at 28 Precita.
His immediate family lived in the large flat directly above the store.
Other, more remote, family members spent time there as well.
Jerry Shea, late of Worcester, was one such tenant in 1912.
Jerry also clerked in Papa Jim's store.

Papa Jim also maintained an apartment building next to the store. The particular building was located on Coso St.

Another of Jim Courtney's tenants was his niece, Julia Dwyer (an orphan of William and Margaret...and sister of Helen and Will Dwyer Jr.).
Julia was in the habit of hanging her freshly laundered clothes on a clothesline after they had been washed.
This was a common practice.
On one memorable day "Papa Jim" took some offense at the line full of water laden clothes fluttering in the wind.
He pulled out his knife and cut it, with everything collapsing *in* a heap on the dust.
Perhaps Jim felt the clothes detracted from the sale's appeal of his nearby store, or maybe he just woke up grumbling...in any case, a family schism was created through that incident.

Jim was referred to at the dinner table as, "Here Comes Himself."
"Children are to be seen and not heard."

Jim had become portly and was not particularly well-liked.

James "Papa Jim" Courtney passed away sometime in Feb 28 1929...at age 62.
His wife Julia succeeded him for another 17 years.
Julia (Courtney) Courtney expired on July 16, 1946. ✓

Of their surviving children:
Mae ? married a man named Porter, 2 Porters ?? of the S.F.P.D. Detective Bureau.
Daniel married a woman whose first name was Rose. Hagen
Rita married a man named Griffin. ??? 1st or last name
Alice A. married a man named Phillip Joshenburger, and the two became a vaudeville act called, "Phil & Alice."
(During WWII Phil changed his last name to Richardson then simply shortened it to "Rich."
They had a son who was born in Berlin while the couple was on tour...the son now lives in Redwood City.

Still around?

James and Julia's youngest child, Vince, was born at 28 Precita in 1911.
For many years he went by the nickname, "Buddy."
During the depression years he labored in various capacities for the San Francisco Examiner.
Later he became a fireman for the city.
In that capacity he was injured...suffering a smashed vertebrae.
He was fitted with a body cast brace.
Though the injury was unfortunate it gained him relatively easy but extremely interesting duty on Treasure Island while it was hosting the 1939 World's Fair.
Afterwards Vince served as an inspector with the fire department.
He was stationed at S.F. City Hall and recalls being there the same time as Jeremiah Shea, his cousin.
After spending 20 years with the fire dept. he went on to invest another twenty in real estate.
He is currently living with his wife Dorothy in Daly City.