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CHARLES TORVILLE

SHELLEY SWEENEY

SEPTEMBER 14, 1984

REVISED
AUGUST 2009

BY ELIZABETH SEITZ

REVISED
DECEMBER 2013

BY ELIZABETH SEITZ

AND MICHELLE K. OLSON

Who was Charles Torville? Mystic, poet, writer, farmer... Here in these papers lies a fascinating portrait of a very unusual man. Born in England, he emigrated to Canada to eventually become a farmer in Canada's grainbelt. Not only did he weather the physical and financial storms of the thirties, which sent lesser men to poverty and the breadlines, but he prospered. He farmed and he wrote. One can imagine him filling in empty winter evenings with words, seeking to find the magical combination that would bring him fame and fortune through songs and poetry. He searched for personal truth through mystic and secret societies such as the Order of the Eagle and the Lily and the Mystic Brotherhood University. He left a literary legacy in his writings. And he left a legacy of money for English students here at the University of Regina to carry on his search for literary excellence. His own writings are not good. They are the confused, distorted ramblings of a lonely man. Some of his songs surprisingly hold a poignant appeal. Whether you catch a glimpse of life in England at the turn of the century, however, or experience the get-rich-quick lures of music publishers of the 1930s, the papers of Charles Torville add up to some very interesting reading.

Box 1

PERSONAL DOCUMENTS

101 1916 - 1968

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

201 General - 1907 - 1968
202 Auntie Martin - 1906 - 1911
203 Cousin Louie - n.d.
204 Joe Hemshell - 1907 - 1908
205 Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Ramsay - 1908 - 1909
206 Sister Elsie Torville - 1906 - 1908
207 Jack and Annie Winter - 1909 - 1911

PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

301 Charles Torville (Photos #44 - #54)
302 General (Photos #55 - #73)
303 Airplanes and General (Photo #74 - #88)

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

401 1947 - 1955

CHARLES TORVILLE AS BUSINESSMAN

501 Barr and Morgan Solicitors - Correspondence
502 Freeman Publishing Company
503 Income Tax Returns - 1919 - 1932, 1939 - 1943, 1964
504 Nelson Manufactured Home - Plans and Correspondence
505 Records of Accounts, Shares, Indenture - 1915 - 1969

Box 2

CHARLES TORVILLE AS MYSTIC

601 Dreams and Visions
601-1 Diary - 1917, 1936 - 1939
601-2 Recordings - 1932 - 1941, 1967 - 1970
601-3 Recordings - 1935, 1941, 1967
602 General Correspondence and Writing
603 Horoscope - Correspondence and Readings
604 Mystic/Secret Societies and Organizations - Correspondence
604.1 AMORC (The Ancient, Mystic Order Rosae Crucis, also known
as the Rosicruci San Jose, California - 1929)
604.2 Mystic Brotherhood University, Tampa, Florida - 1933 - 1937
604.3 Order of the Eagle and the Lily, Seine, France - 1936 - 1937
604.4 Royal Arch Masons - 1936
605 Occult Books and Pamphlets

CHARLES TORVILLE AS SONGWRITER

701 British Song Society - Correspondence - 1935
702 Julian Wright, composer and Peter Derek Ltd., Music Publisher -
Correspondence - 1934 - 1937
703 Music Writers and Song Publishers - Correspondence - 1935 - 1947

Box 3

CHARLES TORVILLE AS WRITER

801 Arthur H. Stockwell Ltd. - 1933 - 1936
802 Hodder and Stoughton Autobiography Prize Competition - n.d.
803 Song of My Soul - 1965
803-1 Manuscript
803-2 Galley Proofs
804 Vantage Press Publishing - 1960

805 Published/Printed Poetry - Poems, London: Arthur Stockwell Ltd., Poems, Song of My Soul 1965, Saskatoon: Freeman Publishing Co. Ltd.

806 Poetry

	806.1-1	notebooks and loose-leaf
	806.1-2	n.d.
	806.1-3	1929
	806.1-4	1929
	806.1-5	1930
	806.1-6	1930
	806.1-7	1930
	806.1-8	1930
	806.1-9	1930
	806.1-10	1930
	806.1-11	1930 - 1932
	806.1-12	1930 - 1932
Box 4	806.1-13	1931
	806.1-14	1931
	806.1-15	1931
	806.1-16	1932
	806.1-17	1933
	806.1-18	1934
	806.1-19	1934 - 1935
	806.1-20	1935
	806.1-21	1936
	806.1-22	1936
	806.1-23	1936
	806.1-24	1937
	806.1-25	1937
	806.1-26	1937
	806.1-27	1937, 1939
	806.1-28	1940 - 1941
	806.1-29	1940 - 1941
	806.1-30	1944 - 1946
	806.1-31	1950 - 1953
	806.1-32	1958
	806.1-33	1960
	806.1-34	1960
Box 5	806.1-35	1961
	806.1-36	1961
	806.1-37	1965
	806.1-38	1965
	806.1-39	1965 - 1966
	806.1-40	1965 - 1966
	806.1-41	1965 - 1966
	806.1-42	1965 - 1966
	806.1-43	1966
	806.1-44	1966
	806.1-45	1966
Box 6	806.1-46	1966
	806.1-47	1966 - 1967
	806.1-48	1966 - 1967
	806.1-49	1966 - 1967
	806.1-50	1967
	806.1-51	1967
	806.1-52	1967

Box 7

	806.1-53	1967
	806.1-54	1967
	806.1-55	1967
	806.1-56	1967
	806.1-57	1967
	806.1-58	1967 - 1968
	806.1-59	1968
	806.1-60	1968
	806.1-61	1968
	806.1-62	1968
	806.1-63	1968
	806.1-64	1968
	806.1-65	1968
	806.1-66	1968
	806.1-67	1968 - 1969
	806.1-68	1969
	806.1-69	1969
	806.1-70	1969 - 1970
	806.1-71	"Akashic Records and Poems" - August 1970
	806.1-72	1970
	806.1-73	1970
	806.1-74	"Professional Private"
807	Prose	
	807.1	1919
	807.2	Impressions of England – 1935
900	EPHEMERAE	

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 44	? and Charles Torville's mother Date: Size: 4 x 5 Black and white Photographer: Location: 75-4, Box 1, 100.1
Photo 45	Charles Torville's mother and father (?) Date: Size: 4 x 5 Black and white Photographer: Location: 75-4, Box 1, 100.1
Photo 46	Martyrs Memorial, Tolpuddle Date: Size: >4 x 5 Sepia Photographer: Additional Information: post-card - British Location: 75-4, Box 1, 201
Photo 47	Farming Date: 1927 (?) Size: 3 x 5 Black and white Type: negative

Photographer:

Additional Information: negative in envelope marked January 7, 1927

Location: 75-4, Box 1, 201

- Photo 48 Charles Torville in downtown Regina
Date: c. 1963 - 1964
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Additional Information: Letter dated April 27th
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 201
- Photo 49 Cousin Louie mother and father (?)
Date:
Size: <4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 203
- Photo 50 Cousin Louie (?)
Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 203
- Photo 51 A boy Cousin Louie wants to bring to Canada
Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 203
- Photo 52 Charles Torville
Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Additional Information: instant pictures - two
Location: 75-4 Box 1, 301
- Photo 53 Charles Torville
Date:
Size: <5 x 7
Black and white
Type: portrait
Photographer: West's Studio, 2070 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan
Additional information: Used for his book Song of My Soul
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 301
- Photo 54 Charles Torville
Date:
Size: <5 x 7
Black and white
Type: portrait
Photographer: West's Studio, 2070 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan

Location: 75-4, Box 1, 301

- Photo 55 Two babies
Date:
Size: >4 x 5
Black and white
Type: post-card
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
- Photo 56 Man and child
Date:
Size: >4 x 5
Black and white
Type: post-card
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
- Photo 57 Young man
Date:
Size: <4 x 5
Sepia
Type: portrait
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
- Photo 58 Wedding couple - Mr. and Mrs. W. Baker
Date:
Size: >4 x 5
Black and white
Type: post-card, British
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
- Photo 59 Two ladies
Date:
Size: >4 x 5
Black and white
Type: post-card - Canadian
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
- Photo 60 Two couples at Christmas tree
Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
- Photo 61 Man in military dress
Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Type: post-card, Canadian
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302

- Photo 62 Military with horse and wagon - Regina
Date: 1914 - 1918
Size: >4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
[Addition information: The church in the Background is the present location of Lorne Street and 12th Avenue, SaskTel, but it was then Knox Church.]
- Photo 63 Two gentleman in military dress
Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Type: post-card
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
[Additional Information: this photo has been touched-up]
- Photo 64 Man with dog
Date:
Size: 4x5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
- Photo 65 Three gentleman
Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
- Photo 66 Three, gentleman
Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
- Photo 67 People with trees and Saskatchewan legislative buildings
Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
[Additional information: double-exposure]
- Photo 68 Men cutting wood on farm
Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black a white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302
- Photo 69 E. Martin in front of house

Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302

Photo 70 Village Scene, England (?)
Date:
Size: <4 x 5
Sepia
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302

Photo 71 Country Scene
Date:
Size: 4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302

Photo 72 Farm scene - Canada
Date:
Size: >4 x 5
Black and white
Type: post-card - Canadian
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302

Photo73 Steam boat "City of Nauvog (?)"
Date:
Size: >4 x 5
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 302

Photo 74 An airplane (possibly an Avro)
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303

Photo 75 An airplane (possibly a Blackburn "Dart")
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303

Photo 76 An airplane – "The Gadfly"
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303

- Photo 77 The Henderson Glenny "Gadfly"
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Type: post-card, Series: S.F.S. series G561, Printed in Britain
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303
[Additional information: All the "vital statistics" on the airplane are on the back of the post-card.]
- Photo 78 The Henderson - Glenny "Gadfly I"
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Type: post-card, Series: S.F.S. series G565, Printed in Britain
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303
[Additional information: All the. "vital statistics" on the airplane are on the back of the post-card.]
- Photo 79 An airplane
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Photographer:
Location; 75-4, Box 1, 303
- Photo 80 An airplane
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75 - 4, Box 1, 303
- Photo 81 An airplane
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75 - 4, Box 1, 303
- Photo 82 An airplane
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303
- Photo 83 Lady in wheelchair (?)
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Type: Velox photo #1322
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303

- Photo 84 Portrait of Lady (possibly Charles Torville's mother)
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Type: "instaneous photography"
Photographer: S. C. Witcomb, 9 Triangle, Bournemouth, England
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303
[Additional information: photo is mounted]
- Photo 85 Portrait of Man (Possibly Charles Torville father)
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Type: "instaneous photography"
Photographer: S. G. Witcomb, 9 Triangle, Bournemouth, England
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303
[Additional information: photo is mounted]
- Photo 86 Man sitting on a blanket (possibly Charles Torville) and a dog
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303
[Additional information: #24 written on back]
- Photo 87 Three girls
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303
- Photo 88 A farm
Date:
Size: 5 x 7
Black and white
Type: velox photo #790
Photographer:
Location: 75-4, Box 1, 303

Illustrations

1914 Types of World War 1

Airplanes of the World 1940 – 1969

Revised and Enlarged Edition Simon and Schuster, New York, 1969.

