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Results of an Initial search carried out at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland,
with regard to the possible origins in Londonderry of Samuel Lowther(s)

Research commissioned by:

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Search requested by Virginia Bergmann Monday 28th March 2005-04-05

Information supplied by client:

Ancestor's Name: Samuel Lowther(s)
Religion: Protestant
Place of Birth: "Londonderry"
Date of Birth: 1821

The purpose of this search is to narrow the search area from "Londonderry" which could refer to either the City or the County by identifying all the Lowther families recorded in both the Tithe Books of 1824-1824 and the census return for 1831 which is the nearest available year.

Explanations:

As a result of the Composition Act of 1824 all holders of arable land (almost the entire rural population) were obliged to pay a tax or "tithe" in support of the Church of Ireland, the Established Church. This free soccer tips from experts tax applied to all irrespective of whether the person was a member of that Church or not.

The names of these tax payers are recorded for us by townland and Parish in what are termed The Tithe Applotment Books.

All pre 1901 census returns for Ireland have been destroyed either by fire (1922) or by Government order (1916) with only fragments remaining. Among these fragments is the

1831 return for Londonderry City and its immediate environs as far out as Dungiven and Limavady.

Results of the search:

In 19th century Irish records Lowther can be found as Lowther/Lowthers and Loucher.

An index search was made for Londonderry County with the following result.

James Lowther
Lisdillon
Clondermott
Londonderry

Samuel Lowther
Lisdillon
Clondermott
Londonderry

Joseph Loucher
Lisdillon
Clondermott
Londonderry

At the Public Record Office the original book for Clondermott was looked up:
Ref Fin/5A/76/A

Lisdillon

James Lowther renting
2 acres 1 rood 9 perches arable land
9 acres and 7 roods arable land

Lisdillon

Samuel Lowther and partners renting:
15 acres and three perches
9 acres 1 rood 5 perches
2 acres 1 rood 9 perches all arable ground

Lisdillon

Joseph Lowther renting:
1 acre 1 rood arable
4 acres 3 roods 10 perches meadow
The 1831 census was searched: (Only the name of head of house is given)
Ref Mic/5A/9A

All families found in the townland of Lisdillon in the Parish of Clondermott

Ref 56 Joseph Louthier, 1 family, 1 male 2 females all Church of Ireland
Ref 63 Samuel Louthier, 1 family, 2 males 4 females all Church of Ireland
Ref 67 Henry Louthier, 1 family, 2 males 1 female all Church of Ireland
Ref 75 Sarah Louthier, 1 family, 2 males 1 female all Church of Ireland
Ref 76 Edward Louthier, 1 family 2 males 1 female all Church of Ireland

Lisaughmore

Ref 2 Walter Louthiers, 1 family 1 male 1 female all Presbyterian

Parish of Lower Cumber

Elizabeth Lowthers, 1 family 1 male 1 female Church of Ireland
Ervey
Lower Cumber

Patrick Lowthers, 1 family 1 male 2 females All Catholic
Ballygrote
Lower Cumber

The above are recorded in 1831 when Samuel would have been 10 years old.
Samuel Lowther/Louthier in no. 63 Lisdillon has a household of 2 males and 4 females.
From this we see that there is 1 son, a wife, and 3 daughters
The client indicates that Samuel had three brothers born pre 1831.
No Lowther/Louthier family found showed this family breakdown.

To my mind Lisdillon looks like a likely place of origin for the client's family.
It is a townland on a hill about 2-3 miles outside Londonderry City in an area known
locally as Ardmore. The civil parish is known as "Clondermott" and there are 2 local
Churches, Glendermott Church of Ireland and Glendermott Presbyterian.

I trust you will find this short piece of research to be of value.

Best regards
Ulster Ancestry
5th April 2005