Irish Genealogical Society International

The Septs

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The Septs

EANÁIR (JANUARY) 2020 $10.00



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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Irish Days at the Minnesota Genealogy Center in Mendota Heights

Second Saturday of the Month

FEBRUARY 8, 2020
MARCH 14, 2020
APRIL 11, 2020
MAY 9, 2020
JUNE 13, 2020
JULY 11, 2020
AUGUST 8, 2020
SEPTEMBER 12, 2020
OCTOBER 10, 2020
NOVEMBER 14, 2020
DECEMBER 12, 2020
JANUARY 9, 2021

(These dates are subject to change so check before you come.)

Irish research volunteers are available from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm to assist with using the library and Irish resources. If you have questions, email Librarian@IrishGenealogical.org.

Classes are offered throughout the year. Information can be found on our website <irishgenealogical.org>, in our e-newsletter *Ginealas*, or in this journal.

Minnesota Genealogy Center Library Hours

Wednesday	10 - 4
Thursday	10 - 8
Saturday	10 - 4

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Printed in the US.

The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the first of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editor at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc.

2020
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Write for *The Septs*

Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 — 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2020 | April | Presenting Your Family History

Suggestions for articles: Writing, publishing, posting trees online, creating a website, electronic vs print publishing.
Deadline for articles: February 1, 2020.

2020 | July | DNA – Deep Dive

Suggestions for articles: How DNA determines the origins of early Irish peoples, who were these early Irish peoples, new knowledge vs myths.
Deadline for articles: May 1, 2020.

2020 | October | Military

Irish constabulary, Irish in British armed forces — WWI and WWII; Irish in other countries' armies; Irish regiments in the U. S. Civil War; discussion of various types of military records.
Deadline for articles: August 1, 2020.

2021 | January | FAN (Family, Associates, Neighbors)

Using information from an ancestor's social circle for genealogical clues: family, associates, neighbors, organizations, and comrades in arms.
Deadline for articles: November 1, 2020.

Cover Photo: Tablet use 2. © ebayink @ Flickr.com.

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Leaping into 2020

By Ann Eccles

2020! It's a leap year, a presidential election year, a year for the Summer Olympics in Japan and a final deadline for Brexit. We'll celebrate 400 years since the voyage of the *Mayflower* from Plymouth, England, and 100 years since the ratification of the 18th amendment (women's suffrage). There's many more commemorations and events on various calendars. And there are many more personal or local events and memories to be recalled, planned or celebrated in the coming year.

At IGSI, we are expanding our horizons some with new activities. The 2019 survey results mentioned webinars for members. Kathleen Foley, our Education Chair, is exploring IGSI-created webinars to be offered sometime in 2020. As a start she recommends a free webinar (see the information on our website's homepage). Keep an eye on the Activities page of the website for other classes and webinars.

In January we are trying a new program — a brick wall event with advice from a panel of experienced IGSI researchers. It's a trial program so participation is limited. If successful, we may have a repeat or similar event later in the year. [Note: from the feedback, the January 29 session was highly successful.]

March, of course, is a popular month for the Irish. And it's an especially busy month for IGSI this year. We will have a display in the Mississippi Room display case at the MGC during the month of March. Stop by and check it out. Special thanks to Randi Mary Helgesen for her talent and time in designing the display and to members who donated items for inclusion in the display.

Irish Tea and Social — March 14

IGSI's annual Irish Tea and Social is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, from 1-4 PM at the Minnesota Genealogy Center. We'll have a special guest speaker, Rita Davern, who is a local filmmaker and creative artist who has spent time researching her County Clare ancestors and bringing them to life on film. There will be food, a silent auction, and more. And since it's on Irish Saturday, there will be research assistance in the library for Irish researchers that day. Check out full information on the website and come along to see old friends and meet new friends.

Webinar — March 17

A special free webinar opportunity is planned for Wednesday evening, March 18 at 7 PM. Canadian genealogist Tammy Priolo will talk on the topic of "Following the Irish Trail to Canada and Beyond". Many Irish came into the U.S. after a stop in Canada. This is an opportunity to learn about Canadian ports of entry and resources for tracing Irish ancestors through that country. This webinar is offered in partnership with the Canadian Interest Group of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. You can read more about this on page 25 or check the website for more information and to register.

Open House — March 28-29

At the end of the month — March 28 and 29 — is the annual MGS Open House at the Minnesota Genealogy Center. IGSI will participate with more than a dozen different genealogy societies, hosting an informational table, and offering a short talk on Irish resources in the library at the center. Stop by between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday or 1- 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon to visit with us and check out the resources to help with your family history research.

Other classes and programs are scheduled throughout the year. Check the Activities page of the IGSI website for information. And be sure to check back later in the year as we'll be adding a webinar or two. Don't forget to login before registering for an event so that you get the discounted member price.

Celtic Connections Conference

The big event for IGSI this year, of course, is the Celtic Connections Conference. Gigi Hickey, one of the conference coordinators, provides more information on page 21. You can also check the conference website <celtic-connections.org> for lots more information and to register for the conference. We look forward to seeing you in Chicago at the end of July!

It's shaping up to be an exciting year for IGSI in 2020. Come join us and be an active part of a genealogical effort. You'll have fun, meet interesting people, and perhaps learn something new.

Finding the Key — Looking for Answers

By Ann Eccles

It's January 2020 — a new year — and a new decade.

It's time for New Year's resolutions. We'll make the promise to improve our health and other aspects of our lives — to get more exercise, eat heathier, lose weight, to generally become a better person. And we all know how that will go. Experts say that the changes we vow make now will last a few days to a few months.

But have you considered making some genealogy-centered resolutions? It's a good time to sit down and consider where we need to go to answer our genealogy questions.

Is this the year that you dig further into the ancestral line you have ignored? Will you plan or make a trip to Ireland to visit an ancestor's townland? Will you investigate your DNA? Make contact with close DNA matches to explore the connections? Learn more about Irish research by attending a conference or other educational opportunities?

Looking back at the last decade makes one realize just how much has changed in Irish family history research. It's been a time of rapid growth for genealogical resources on the internet, particularly for records located in Ireland. So what better time than now to take an in-depth look at some websites to get your Irish research started or restarted in the coming year. Whether just starting on your family history research or coming back to it after a time away — you can and should revisit the basic genealogical websites. They regularly add new data.

In this issue, we look at a handful of websites popularly used for Irish research. Two of them are free: FamilySearch and Ireland Reaching Out. While the others have a fee to use, you can check to see the cost for a one month vs a full year's subscription. (Just remember to cancel your short-term subscription before the end of a month — should you choose that option.)

IGSI member Mary Wickersham reviews the use of *Ancestry* for Irish research and offers some great hints and tips. David Rencher, Director of the Family History Library and Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch, offers an overview of Irish research using *FamilySearch*. Fiona Fitzsimons and Maura Flood, two Irish genealogists, each look at *Findmypast* databases and offer opinions on best using that website filled with Irish data. John Grenham explains the history and purpose of his website, *IrishAncestors*. Brendan Scott, of the Irish Family History Foundation, details the family history data on *Roots Ireland*. And another IGSI member, Kathleen Foley, describes her successful use of *Ireland Reaching Out* in her search for her Irish great-grandmother. That's a lot of information in one issue — but there are even more wonderful resources on the web for you to explore.

As an aside, four articles in this issue are authored by genealogists who will appear at the Celtic Connections Conference this summer: Fiona Fitzsimons, John Grenham, Lois Abromitis Mackin and David Rencher.

In addition to these articles there's information on Society activities and the upcoming Celtic Connections Conference in Chicago. Take a few moments to pause and catch up on IGSI happenings and take a fresh look at the websites you have used for Irish research — or may want to try. Enjoy your day!

Yes, this issue of *The Septs* is arriving quite late. The fault lies entirely with the editor. My apologies to all of our loyal IGSI members — and I hope that it never happens again. Many thanks for your patience.



Ann Eccles is a retired librarian who has re-focused her research skills to family history and Irish genealogy. She has several Irish ancestral lines to trace as both of her parents descended from Irish families. Ann currently serves as IGSI President and continues to serve as the editor of The Septs.

Irish Ancestors at johngrenham.com

by John Grenham

Much of the day-to-day work of a professional genealogist in Ireland in the 1980s and early 1990s consisted of deadly drudgery, repeated consultation of the same reference works in the same order over and over. Find a townland, identify its civil parish, work out the Catholic parish, check the diocese, check the dates, order the microfilm, settle in for an eye-watering microfilm session. My first meeting with a database — Microsoft Works 2, in 1992 — was a revelation. Put all the reference works together just once and the drudgery is gone. The reference you needed would be permanently available at the simple click of a button.

Putting them all together just once was a tall order and involved an awful lot of bleary typing. For most of that initial period, I was unhappily employed as a project manager with the late unlamented Irish Genealogical Project, the forerunner of Rootsireland.ie. I motivated myself by thinking that I was tunneling my way to freedom.

Inevitably, the possibilities multiplied: with the *Townlands Index* digitised and connected to the listing of Catholic registers, why not Church of Ireland Records? And Presbyterian records? And local histories, and gravestone inscriptions, and census substitutes, and estate records.

So I ended up creating an expert system, a fully-fledged stand-alone installable program, "Grenham's Irish Recordfinder", capable of taking whatever a user knew about an Irish ancestor and producing a formatted report detailing all the relevant sources, with advice, reference numbers, and locations. It was distributed on no fewer than 21 floppy disks.

The Irish Times

In 1995, thanks to the legendary Paddy Waldron (pwaldron.info), I did a demo for Itronics, *The Irish Times*' fledgling web division. They had just started irish-times.com, and my system looked like a potential money-maker. So they bought 50% of the online rights and got me to add in two books I'd recently published, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* and *Clans and Families of Ireland*. My children got their Christmas dinner. It took almost three years and a lot of nagging but the sub-site, named 'Irish Ancestors' was launched in May 1998. It was the first Irish e-commerce site and was an immediate success — it turned over a princely IR£600 in the first week.

Because of that initial success, Itronics agreed to invest and expand the partnership. I came in a few days a week to do development and maintenance in return for a royalty on the income. Over the following fourteen years, a whole range of content was added: a surname dictionary, Lewis' *Topographical Dictionary*, parish-by-parish listings of numbers of households in Griffiths, a magazine section and more. But the site's fortunes waxed and waned as online genealogical competition grew and the newspaper grappled, like all newspapers, with the collapse of its business model. Still, I got a superb opportunity to teach myself database design and web coding.

By 2015, it was clear that the site needed a major overhaul and significant investment. In the end, *The Irish Times* decided it should be spending what little money it had on journalism, not on a niche genealogy service. We parted ways amicably. They sold me back the 50% they'd bought in 1995 for a nominal amount and I agreed to take on the legacy obligations to former users of the site.

Now answerable to no one but myself, I set about creating the site as I had wanted it to be, on Amazon Web Services, using Linux, MySQL and PHP. Terror of penury put a rocket under me. I reproduced 14 years coding and database design in six months.

Content Now

The main difference with the old Irish Times site is the visual presentation of information. Inspired by Edward Neafesy's *Surnames of Ireland* (2002), which comprises 200 surname distribution maps based on 1992 Irish telephone directory listings, I realised that my parish-by-parish Griffith's numbers could be used to create heat sink maps on the fly, showing detailed distributions of surnames across Ireland 1847-1864. After much banging of my head off the monitor, I figured out how to do it using Javascript and Google Geocharts. I danced around the room for an hour.

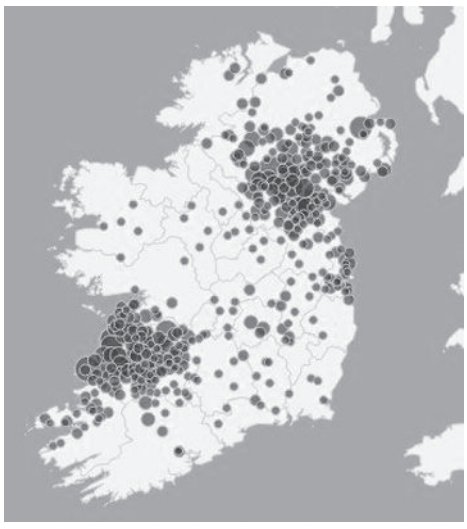


Figure 1 McMahon in Griffiths

With a visual representation, all sorts of insights begin to leap off the screen: the two origins of the McMahon surname, one in Dál gCais in Clare, the other in Monaghan; the surname Buggy confined exclusively to Kilkenny; above all just how rich and peculiar and local is the ecosystem of minor Irish surnames — Minnock, Scahill, Lavin, Parlon, Tarleton, Mattimo, Shreehane, Huggard, Kissane, McWha, Crumlish …

Having done it with one data-set, I really wanted to do it again. Luckily, by 2016 the 1864-1913 birth indexes were freely available on *IrishGenealogy.ie*. So I mapped the six million or so births against their Superintendent Registrar's District. Then a wonderful fellow-obsessive called Dermot Balson contacted me about collaborating on the 1901 and 1911 censuses. He had downloaded the entire National Archives online transcripts and very generously shared them with me. So I mapped the surnames of the heads of household against the District Electoral Divisions they appear in.



Figure 2 McMahon in 1901

And then in 2017, after *FindMyPast* and *Ancestry* had transcribed the National Library Catholic register microfilms, I approached Brian Donovan at FMP about doing similar maps for Catholic baptisms and he very kindly agreed. Those maps went live in early 2018. I now had visual representations of all four of the universally relevant sources, 1901 and 1911, GRO, parish registers and Griffith's.

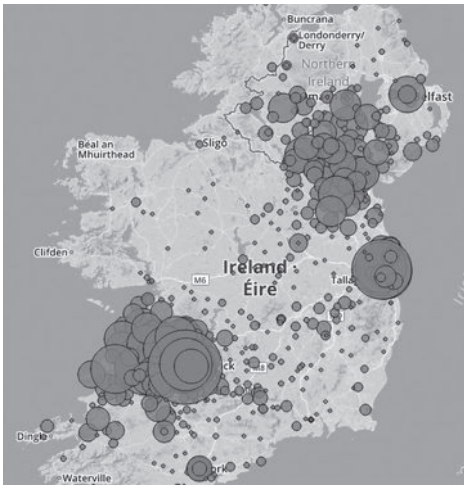


Figure 3 McMahon Catholic baptisms

There are some peculiarities all these maps share.

First, in order to create a point to represent a civil parish (or any other administrative area), it is necessary to designate an exact spot and supply its latitude and longitude in the map-making code. This means that the coloured disks on the map are centred on a townland that may not be at the exact centre of the parish (or other administrative area). Some geographical skewing is inevitable, with the result that the maps can't be taken as absolutely geographically precise. This much said, I've done my best to centre the points, or to pick common-sense locations for the centre points, in the case of GRO records, for example, the market town from which the Superintendent Registrar's District draws its name.

Second, all of the maps allow some form of click-through to the original data on which they're based, with some variations.

- For Griffith's, you have to drill down to county level to get a clickable list of civil parishes, which then takes you to a list of the parish townlands. Clicking the townland name here takes you to the relevant *AskAboutIreland.ie* Griffith's page.
- For 1901/1911, clicking directly on the DED on the map or on the accompanying list takes you directly to the National Archives of Ireland results page. You can also get there via the civil parish townlands listing.
- For the GRO, clicking directly on the SRD on the map or on the accompanying list takes you directly to the *IrishGenealogy.ie* listing for the surname and District.
- For the Catholic baptisms, clicking directly on the parish on the map or on the accompanying list takes you directly to the free *FindMyPast.ie* listing for the surname and parish. It's necessary to register, but not subscribe to see the results. Full disclosure: if you do decide to subscribe, I get an affiliate fee.

Third, all of the maps use the same surname variants system and provide links allowing research to go on to other variants of the initial name. The system has its origins (like a lot of the site) in the Griffith's heads of household listing. It was clear early on that a site that finds "Lonergan" but doesn't connect to "Londergan" isn't of much use to anyone.

So in 1996 I began knitting the surnames together. This wasn't as simple a task as it sounds — many variant relationships are not mutual. For example Loughlin is a variant of O'Loughlin and McLoughlin, but O'Loughlin and McLoughlin are not variants of each other.

It was also clear from very early that surname variants are not corrupt deviants from an uncorrupted original (*pace* Irish language purists) and that trying to treat them this way would lead to madness, death and civil war. In the 25 years since the original Griffith's variants list, some 26,000 strong, I've added names from every other heritage project I've been involved with, most notably the Dublin City Electoral Lists 1937-1964, which included more than 4.1 million records. My surname variants table got indigestion and I got even blearier-eyed. But collecting these variants has become a bit of an addiction. My preciousss, preciousss surnames.

As of now I list almost 104,000 individual surnames, linked to each other in about 1.1 million variant relationships.

Source References

Maps are also the starting point for most of the source references. Clickable maps of the entire island for civil parishes, Catholic parishes, counties and Poor Law Unions (aka Superintendent Registrars' Districts) allow users to zero in on the records relevant to particular areas, with the civil parish at the centre of most sources. The references aim to be as complete and useful as possible, showing (for example) all available copies or transcripts of parish registers, along with years covered, and links to any online versions. Like much of the site, such completism evolved out of the need of a professional researcher (me) to know that all available records had been searched. And (caveat) such completism is doomed to always fall short.

The Browse section of the site allows a text-based drill-down to lists of records covering each county, also including a potted history of the county, a list of local surnames and links to county-based historical and genealogical resources.

Text

This section is also where text guides and how-tos for the various record types can be found. In most cases, the text comes from the fourth edition of *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* (2011), with amendments where information is grossly out of date. I hope to update to the fifth edition (2019) over the next few months.

As well as overviews of the records, Browse also includes

- Bibliographies of the Irish abroad and Irish-related passenger lists;
- Contact details of Ireland-based research institutions and organisations;
- A links section;
- An 'Articles' section, including a complete archive of the nine years of the weekly 'Irish Roots' column I wrote for *The Irish Times*, some general articles on surnames and migration and articles from some other publications that may be of interest.

Wizard and Ancestor Search

The site incorporates two attempts to provide an AI-style consultation service. One, the 'Ancestor report', uses a fill-out form to produce a series of links to record sources that may be relevant. This was the heart of the original 'Irish Recordfinder' and the old *Irish Times* site. The logic at its heart has been updated, but it still feels a little old-fashioned. The other, the Wizard, has a more contemporary feel, gathering information step-by-step to produce a discursive report that includes information about the surname and links to relevant source-references.

It goes without saying that both services have limits. One of the joys of genealogy is that every family is unique and every family's research is unique. Automation can only take you so far.

Blog

When the 'Irish Roots' column in *The Irish Times* came to an end in 2016, I began a weekly blog, trying to follow the same publication schedule as the old print format, coming out with a new post every Monday. It worked for almost three years, but by late 2019 my self-discipline was flagging and posts are now less regular, around twice a month. As I get older, my opinions are shrinking and ossifying.

Subscribing

The site is my main source of income, and operates a soft pay wall. Most of the content is free (the entire Browse section, for example) and for pages that return specific information about records, places or surnames every user gets 5 free page-views per day. For more than that, users are asked to subscribe. Daily, monthly and annual subscriptions are available, with a discount annual rate for libraries and societies.

The old *Irish Times* site operated a simple pay wall, which caused a lot of misunderstanding. I'm not providing access to genealogical records like *Ancestry* or *FindMyPast* and the soft pay wall allows users to see exactly what the site does before paying.

Future Plans

I update content whenever I come across something new — some weeks every day, some weeks one day only. The major projects on the horizon are the incorporation of the fifth edition of *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* and the completion of the gravestone transcripts listings. People are transcribing the things faster than I can list them.

The one thing I'm sure of is that the site will go on as long as I do. It's too late to stop now.

John Grenham was Project Manager with the Irish Genealogical Project from 1991 to 1995 and later went on to develop and market his own genealogical software, 'Grenham's Irish Recordfinder'. In 2005, he was the first Genealogist-in-Residence at Dublin City Library. He was awarded a fellowship of The Irish Genealogical Research Society in 2007 and of the Genealogical Society of Ireland in 2010. He is the author of Tracing your Irish Ancestors *(5th ed. Dublin, Baltimore MD, 2019) the standard reference guide for Irish genealogy,* The Atlantic Coast of Ireland *(2014),* Clans and Families of Ireland *(1995), and* An Illustrated History of Ireland *(1997), among other works. He wrote the "Irish Roots" column in* The Irish Times *from 2009 to 2016, develops heritage databases, and ran the Irish Ancestors website in conjunction with* The Irish Times *until 2016. He now runs the successor website.*



2019 IGSI Member Survey

by Kim Scanlan, Treasurer

IGSI members provided excellent feedback to the IGSI Board of Directors. The 2019 survey conducted by the IGSI Board of Directors provided excellent feedback to allow the Board to move forward with concrete actions to support the members. While it is hard to highlight every question and response, here are some key takeaways from the survey.

Distance

The number of members living in the Twin Cities area is 46%, with another 10% living in the Upper Midwest; 40% of respondents live in other states and only 3% are international members. This becomes an issue relative to use of the library and/or ability to attend classes/seminars/workshops. There was a **strong** opinion that members would welcome the use of webinars to provide educational opportunities. Kathleen Foley, our Education Chair, is working to get the webinar technology available to provide this service in 2020.

Why Join?

Members overwhelming said their main reason to join IGSI was the research/resources that IGSI provides. *The Septs*, e-newsletter (*Ginealas*), classes and blog were the items of most value to IGSI members.

The SEPTS

There were many positive comments about *The Septs* and most members read it cover to cover each quarter. Not surprising, members did not want to see anything eliminated from the journal. While some members prefer the paper copy of *The Septs*, many indicated they would be willing to move to an electronic copy to reduce costs. (Remember, you can always print out the electronic copy to have a paper edition in your hands!)

Value

The majority of members indicated they are pleased with their membership with IGSI and appreciate the value they receive for their money. Recognizing the rising costs of providing services, the majority of respondents indicated a nominal increase ($5.00) for membership would be okay.

Comments

Members provided a lot of comments to our questions with many good ideas for classes, workshops and content for *The Septs*.

A big thank you to all the members who responded to the survey. The Board will be working to provide the resources and activities that members indicated were most useful to them for their research and networking!

Which Website Is Best?

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

This issue of *The Septs* focuses on key websites for Irish research, including *RootsIreland*, *Irishgenealogy.ie*, *Irish Ancestors*, *findmypast*, *Ancestry*, *FamilySearch*, *AskAboutIreland*, and others.

Which website is best? They all have strengths and weaknesses. Deciding which one to use first depends on the research task you are undertaking and on your preferences.

My recent nineteenth- and twentieth century research on the Catholic family of Michael Dineen and Catherine Jeffers of the parish of Castlelyons, County Cork, drew on multiple websites. Factors affecting research on this family were:

- The family lived in a parish with surviving parish registers that have been digitized and are available online.
- While the oldest children were born before the start of civil registration, the youngest appears in civil registration records as well as parish baptisms.
- Dineen children who married in Ireland appear in civil registration marriage records as well as parish marriage records. Their children also appear in civil registration records.
- Apparently, only one child had family members remaining in

Area of Research	Website/Database Used	Website/Database Used
Irish births (1840s-early 1860s)	"Catholic Parish Registers," *National Library of Ireland* TOP PICK for browsing Catholic parish registers!	Viewing images of parish registers. Easily navigate to parishes, record types, and years.
	"Ireland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911," *Ancestry*	Index entries, no images. Results are not sortable by name, date, or place. Limited filtering using keywords.
	"Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915," *Ancestry*	Index and images of Catholic parish registers from the National Library of Ireland. Specification of parish name either through place field or keyword is not dependable. Search results are not sortable by name, date, or place.
	"Ireland, Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881," *FamilySearch*	Partial index (see coverage table in wiki entry for this database). Searching (excellent fuzzy search). Search can be filtered by birth date, birthplace, parents' names, and more. Results are easily exported to a spreadsheet for sorting.
	Category Birth, Marriage & Death for Ireland, subcategory Parish Baptisms, *findmypast* TOP PICK for searching Catholic parish registers!	Searching (excellent fuzzy search). Very flexible search criteria. Results are sortable by any column header (last name, first name, year of birth, year of death, year, record set).
	"Civil Records," *IrishGenealogy.ie* TOP PICK for searching civil registration births and marriages!	Searching, viewing images of original records. Filterable by registration district. Results sortable by relevance or by date.
Irish places	"Irish Placenames," *Irish Ancestors* TOP PICK for locating places!	Great for searching placenames. Also browsable for places within jurisdictions (civil parishes, poor law unions). Great integration of place entries and surname, bibliography, and record information.
	"Ireland," *GENUKI*	Another good source for learning about places. Includes maps, gazetteer information, and resources for research.
	GeoHive, publicly available spatial data from Ordnance Survey Ireland TOP PICK for viewing historic maps!	Available map layers include Historic Map 6 inch Colour (1837-1842), Historic Map 6 inch B&W (1837-1842), and Historic Map 25 inch (1888-1913).
	Placenames Database of Ireland (*logainm.ie*)	Searchable for Irish and English placenames. Present-day and historical maps. Links to archival records and folklore material related to places.

Ireland when the 1901 and 1911 censuses were taken.

- Children who emigrated to the U.S. did so before 1890. This means that their passenger list records are relatively uninformative compared to later ones but do provide name, age, sex, occupation, country of origin, destination country, and accommodation on the ship. Likewise, children who were naturalized in the U.S. did so before the change to more detailed naturalization forms in 1906.

Because of these factors, the Irish records most important for my research were Catholic parish registers, and the next most important were civil registration births and marriages. As I found records, I also found place names that needed to be investigated. Which website was best? None! Except for the limited Irish civil registration research that I did, no one website fully met my needs.

For the parish register search, where I had a parish name, parents' names, birth dates of seven children from my American research. I started at *Ancestry*, searching first for the baptisms of individual children. This approach was quickly successful for several children, but the baptisms of others proved more elusive, either because the birth dates from the American records were not correct, or because of indexing problems. To find the baptisms of known children whose records I had not found, I switched to looking for all the baptisms of children of Michael and Catherine Dineen in my parish. As soon as I made that switch, the limitations of *Ancestry*'s search and results filtering became apparent. At that point I switched to *findmypast* and found that the differences in their name variant searching, the ability to easily specify a particular parish, and the ability to sort search results made my searches easier and more fruitful. Ultimately, I found baptisms for the seven children I already knew about, plus baptisms for four others and the marriage of the parents.

With solid baptism information I turned to Irish civil registration records, looking for the birth of the youngest child, who was born after the start of civil registration, and for marriages. For those searches I used *IrishGenealogy.ie*. Civil registration records (but no images) are also available on *FamilySearch*, but I did not use them because I found what I needed on *IrishGenealogy.ie*.

The table on page 10 summarizes the databases and websites I found useful for various areas of research on this family, along with my top picks.

Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*



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You, your family or business can sponsor a lecture for $250 - $500, and a sign with your name or honoree (e.g., "In Memory of Mary Smith") will be displayed at a lecture at the conference and a mention of your generosity will be made in the syllabus.

If you would like to provide an ad for the syllabus promoting your business, that also is possible. Prices for advertisements in the syllabus start at $25 for business card size ad, $50 for a quarter-page, $75 for a half-page, and $150 for a full-page ad. Forms and general information on sponsorships and advertising can be found on the conference website.

Using Ancestry.com to Research Irish Ancestors

by Mary Wickersham

Due to sheer numbers of family tree and historical records, Ancestry.com has positioned itself as the go-to place for DNA and family history records. This article is intended as an overview of how to find the Irish databases in *Ancestry*'s collection, using two methods: searching the Card Catalog, and using the clickable map on the Search page to find the database listing for a region.

Ancestry is a Subscription Service

While *Ancestry*'s World Explorer membership costs $298 per year, or $35 per month, some of its databases are available to use for free. If you are not a member, you can still use *Ancestry* to search, and the search results lists will indicate which are by fee. Many U.S. public libraries provide *Ancestry* to their users while they are on-site in their local library. IGSI members have access to the library edition of *Ancestry* while at our library in Mendota Heights, MN.

Many of the Irish records on *Ancestry* are available through other services. If you are a frequent user of *Ancestry*, you may find you are efficient searching on *Ancestry*. Take note of records you want to look up later, then take the list to other online resources or your local library.

Finding Irish Databases in *Ancestry*'s Card Catalog

Of the over 32,000 databases in the Ancestry Card Catalog, a search for "Ireland" shows 160 database titles. Using "Ireland" as a keyword results in over 1,400 entries.

After using either a Title or Keyword(s) search, you can sort the list by record count, date added or updated, and title. Sorting by record count will give you a feel for how promising each database can be. You can also "Filter By Category" to display titles for different types of records, or "Filter By Location" to display records by region.

Figure A shows the Filter options at lower left. You may notice Locations include Canada, Mexico, North America and USA in addition to Europe. Many of the non-Europe entries are stories and histories with Ireland in the title; e.g., *Our William Thompson of Ireland and Pennsylvania and some descendants*, which indicates 174 records. Most of those records will be index entries to pages within that family history.

To find counties within Ireland, Filter by Location [Europe], then [Ireland]. A list of counties in Ireland will appear, with the count of databases for each. Databases that cover more than one county will appear in the database count for each of the counties covered.

Below the "Filter By Location" section is "Filter by Dates." Centuries 1600s, 1700s, 1800s, 1900s are listed, along with individual Decades from 1600 to 1990. Selecting the 1800s dropped the database count from 160 to 137, so it had little impact on the databases listed. I have not found this feature to be very useful while seeking Irish records, as I usually do not have enough information about my Irish ancestors to tighten the search to a narrow range.

Using the Map on the Search Page

My favorite method of finding Irish databases on *Ancestry* is to click the map provided on the Search page. Click "Search" on the top menu. A drop-down menu appears. Ignore it! Click the Search link again. A search form appears. **Ignore the search form**, for a change. Scroll down the page to the "Explore by Location" section

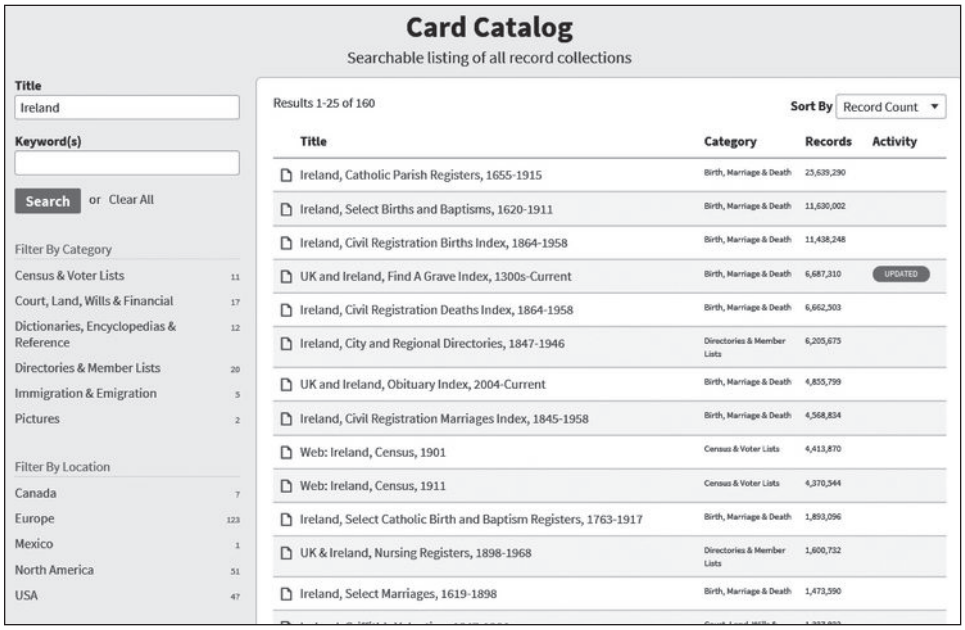


Figure A. Card catalog

[Figure B]. Under the title you should see a map of the United States displayed. (You can use that map to click individual states to find databases unique to those states.)

Using the file card-type tab to the right of USA, click the words "UK & Ireland" to bring up the clickable map for that region. Click on a region to see the database for that area.

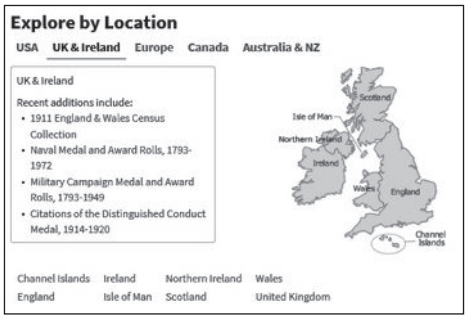


Figure B. Explore by location

After clicking Ireland, you will see the Ireland Data Collections listing [Figure C]. From this page, you can use the Search button to bring up a form to search just these databases (*Ancestry* pre-fills "Ireland, Europe" in the location field).

Caution: Note the "Narrow By Region" section at lower left and how few databases are included in the count. That is because many of the databases for Ireland cover more than one county. The "Narrow By Region" entries are for databases **restricted** to one county. If you limit your search within a given county, you will greatly limit your search results.

Searching and Viewing Records

Once you identify a database you want to search in detail, click on the database title. A database-specific form will appear, laying out the fields which are searchable. "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915" has more than 25 million records. Figure D on page 14 shows a portion of the search form. Scroll further down to find information about the database. For this database, there is an explanation that includes useful information. Here is an excerpt:

About Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915

The Ireland Catholic Parish Registers is the single most important collection needed to trace your Roman Catholic ancestors in Ireland in the 1800's. According to the 1861 census, almost 78 percent of the population was Catholic; by 1891, this had risen to 89 percent.



Figure C. Data Collection page

This collection is made up of baptism, marriage and death records from over 1,000 Catholic parishes across the whole of the island of Ireland — both in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, as it is known as today. While baptism and marriage records make up the majority of the collection, death records can be found primarily for parishes in the northern regions.

Approximately 94 percent of Catholic parishes are included in this collection, though not all registers from these parishes are available. For more information, visit the National Library of Ireland website <registers.nli.ie>.[1]

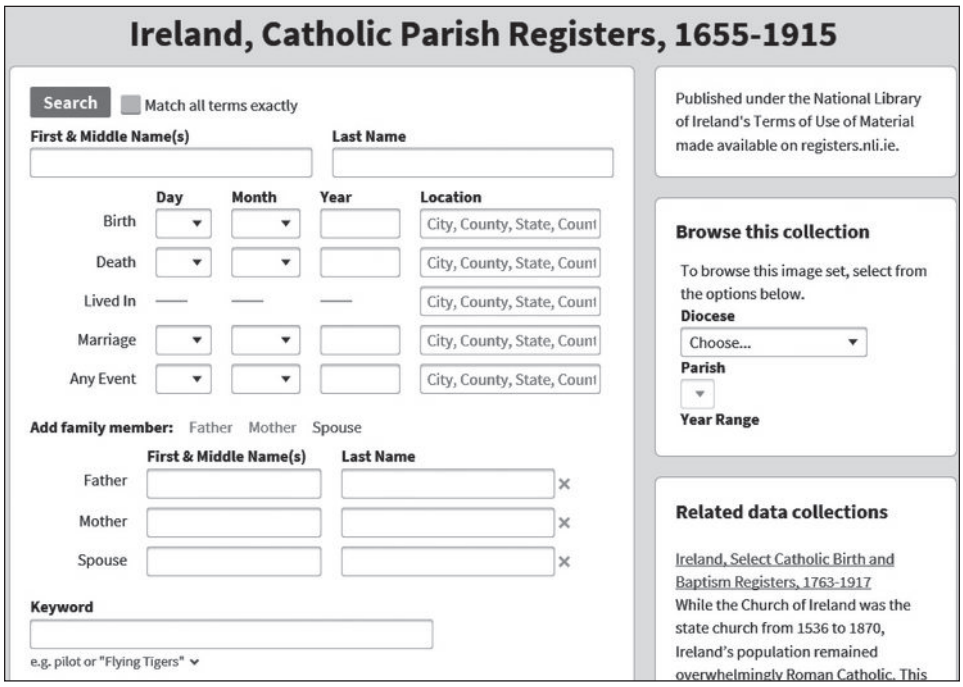


Figure D. Catholic Parish Registers search page

Once I search for a family member (in this case, *Tobias Barry*), search results will indicate whether an online image is available. *Ancestry* has suggested several variations on his name.

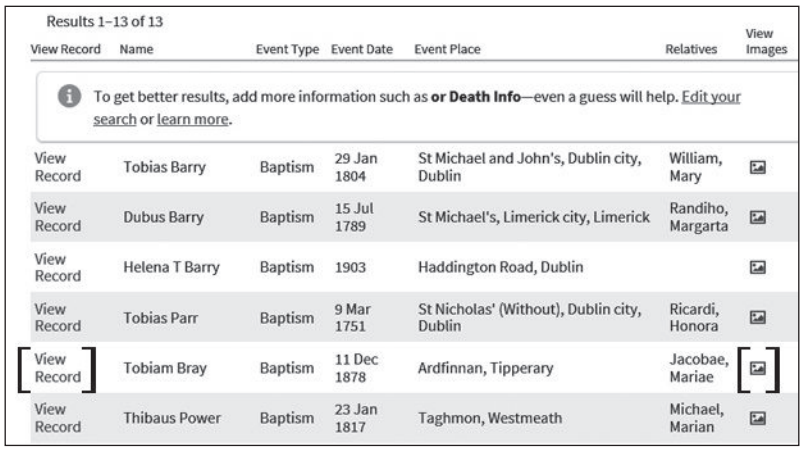


Figure E. Tobias Barry search results

There are digital images to view of the microfilm of the original record. Many databases do not link to images. If the image is available, an icon will appear next to the result.

If I click on "View Record" I will see a transcription of the indexed data (below):

Name:	Tobiam Bray
Baptism Age:	0
Event Type	Baptism
Birth Date:	1878
Baptism Date:	11 Dec 1878
Baptism Place:	Ardfinnan, Tipperary , Ireland
Diocese:	Waterford and Lismore
Father:	Jacobae Bray
Mother:	Mariae Fennessy

Figure F. Transcription of the indexed data

After clicking on the icon under "View Images," I see the digital image from microfilm:

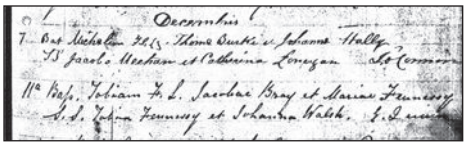


Figure G. Microfilm image

Database Title	Paid or…	Records (million)	Category
Web: Ireland, Census, 1901	Free	4.41	Ireland Census & Voter Lists
Web: Ireland, Census, 1911	Free	4.37	Ireland Census & Voter Lists
Web: Ireland, Census Search Forms 1841, 1851	Free	0.15	Ireland Census & Voter Lists
Web: Ireland, National Army Census, 1922	Free	0.03	Ireland Census & Voter Lists
Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915		25.64	Ireland Birth, Marriage & Death
Ireland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911		11.63	Ireland Birth, Marriage & Death
Ireland, Civil Registration Births Index, 1864-1958		11.44	Ireland Birth, Marriage & Death
UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index, 1300s-Current	Free	6.69	Ireland Birth, Marriage & Death
Ireland, Civil Registration Deaths Index, 1864-1958		6.66	Ireland Birth, Marriage & Death
Ireland, Royal Irish Constabulary Pensions, 1873-1925		0.13	Ireland Military
Ireland, Royal Hospital Kilmainham Pensioner Discharge Documents, 1724-1924		0.10	Ireland Military
Ireland, Casualties of World War I, 1914-1922		0.05	Ireland Military
UK and Ireland, Masters and Mates Certificates, 1850-1927		.28	Ireland Immigration & Travel
Ireland, Griffith's Valuation, 1847-1864		1.34	Ireland Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal
Ireland, Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-1837		0.61	Ireland Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal
Web: Ireland, Calendar of Wills and Administrations, 1858-1920	Free	0.52	Ireland Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal
Ireland, Police Gazettes, 1861-1893	Free	0.15	Ireland Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal
Ireland, Indexes to Wills, 1384-1858		0.03	Ireland Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal
Ireland, City and Regional Directories, 1847-1946		6.21	Ireland Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal
Ireland, Select Catholic Birth and Baptism Registers, 1763-1917		1.89	Ireland Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal
UK & Ireland, Nursing Registers, 1898-1968		1.60	Ireland Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal
UK & Ireland, Medical Directories, 1845-1942		0.74	Ireland Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal
Ireland, Select Catholic Marriage Registers, 1775-1942		0.40	Ireland Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal

Irish Databases on Ancestry.com

The 23 largest databases (see table at left) contain a combined total of over 85 million records.

Conclusion

Ancestry has millions of Irish records for you to check out. Don't miss the opportunity to do so — for free — and take your list to your local library, check for the same database on another online resource.

Endnotes

[1] Ancestry.com. *Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.

Original data: Catholic Parish Registers, National Library of Ireland, Ireland. Published under the National Library of Ireland's Terms of Use of Material made available on registers.nli.ie.

Mary Wickersham has been researching her Irish roots for over 20 years. She is a professional genealogist, past President and board member of IGSI, past board member of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. She is currently busy co-chairing the 2020 Celtic Connections Conference.

Finding Irish Records on *FamilySearch*

by David E. Rencher, AG®, CG®, FUGA, FIGRS ***| © All rights reserved.***

Dozens of websites now offer substantial support for Irish family history research. Most of these websites fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Web portals for Irish family history
- Irish archives, libraries, and record offices
- Government programs promoting family history
- Genealogy companies with Irish content
- Genealogical and historical societies
- County websites with local records

This article will focus on the Irish record collections available on *FamilySearch*. Between *FamilySearch*, *Ancestry* and *FindmyPast*, the bulk of the online Irish materials are available.

FamilySearch Wiki: Ireland

(www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ireland)

The FamilySearch Wiki's Ireland homepage provides guidance for Irish family history research. With dozens of support articles on various topics of Irish research and hundreds of links to content on *FamilySearch* and other websites, the Wiki offers an excellent introduction to Irish genealogy and online research.

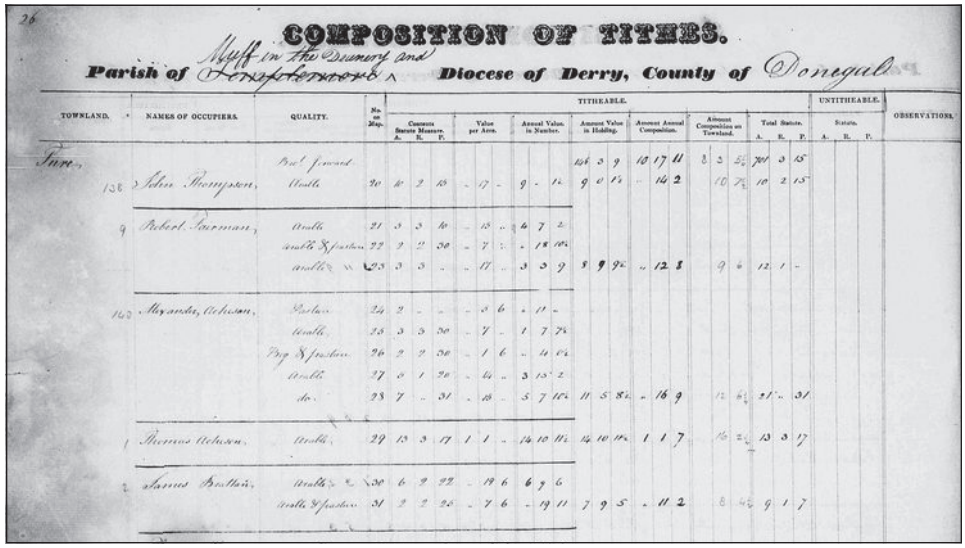
FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org)

Many Irish records are now available on *FamilySearch* in the "Historical Record Collections" including three searchable name indexes of vital records from Ireland:

- Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881 (5.3M names)
- Ireland Calendar of Wills and Administrations, 1858-1920 (518.5K names)
- Ireland Census Search Forms, 1841 and 1851 (136K names)
- Ireland 1821-1851 Census Fragments (566K names)
- Ireland Census 1901 (4.3M names with partner images)
- Ireland Census 1911 (4.3M names with partner images)
- Ireland Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958 (23M index names)
- Ireland Civil Registration, 1845-1913 (3.6M names)
- Ireland Deaths, 1864-1870 (51K names)
- Ireland Marriages, 1619-1881 (431K names)
- Ireland Tithe Applotment Books 1814-1855 (754K names and images)
- Ireland Diocesan and Prerogative Marriage License Bonds Index, 1623-1866 (218K names with partner images)
- Ireland Diocesan and Prerogative Wills & Administrations Indexes, 1595-1858 (364K names with partner images)
- Ireland Petty Sessions Court Registers, 1828-1912 (21.8M names with partner images)
- Ireland Treble Almanac & Dublin Directory 1783 (Browse Images)
- Ireland Valuation Office Books, 1831-1856 (1.8M names)
- Ireland W.P.W. Phillimore & Gertrude Thrift, Indexes to Irish Wills 1536-1858, 5 vols. (Browse Images)

The total searchable indexed names in the *FamilySearch* Irish historical records collection as of 10 November 2019 is 45,461,230.

In each of these searchable collections, you may search by name and then select the entries to look at the original record. In this example, you see the image for the Tithe Applotment record for Robert Crawford.



COMPOSITION OF TITHES.

Parish of Muff in the Deanery and Diocese of Derry, County of Donegal

Tithe Applotment record. Image courtesy of the National Archives of Ireland

FamilySearch has recently digitized records at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast and at the National Archives of Ireland in Dublin. *FamilySearch* is jointly publishing digitized images and indexes of many more records of the National Archives of Ireland in collaboration with *FindMyPast* Ireland.

In addition to the record sets listed above, the Family History Library has the most comprehensive collection of Irish genealogy outside of Ireland in the world, including these major record sets on microfilm and some on digital images:

- Civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths, 1845–1958 (with gaps)
- Catholic parish registers (35% of all pre-1880 registers)
- 1901 and 1911 censuses
- Tithe Applotment books, 1823–1838
- Griffith's Valuation, 1847–1864
- Cancelled land books, 1850s–1920s
- Townland and tenement valuation manuscripts, 1830–1864
- Registry of deeds, 1708–1929 (digital)
- National school registers for hundreds of schools, mostly in Northern Ireland
- Genealogical collections of many noted Irish antiquarians, i.e. Betham, Burke, Crosslé, Thrift, etc.

Many of these microfilm and digital collections will continue to become available online as digital images and/or indexes.

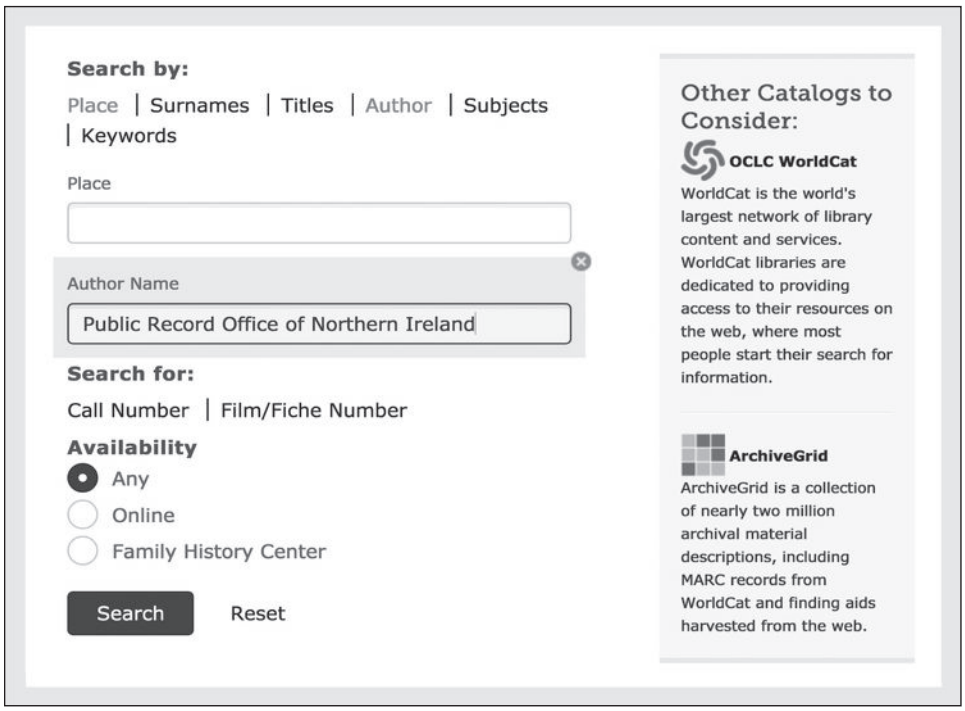


Figure A. Author search page on FamilySearch

Family History Library Catalog (FHLC)

The Family History Library Catalog is the key to finding collections in the Family History Library and *FamilySearch*. The online catalog lists Irish records by country, county, or civil parish, depending on the specific record collection.

To determine if collections in a specific archive, such as the National Archives, the National Library, or the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland have been imaged by *FamilySearch*, use the Author search in the catalog and enter the name of the archive as the corporate author. For example, a search in the Author field for "Public Record Office of Northern Ireland" will show that there are 435 collections listed in the Family History Library Catalog for that archive.

The results will appear alphabetically in the listing for the archive giving the user the ability to browse the collections by title and surname. A Surname search would also produce the results with the surname returned in the result set (Figure B, page 18).

Many of these records have digital image collections that are not in the Historical Records Collection; the way to access them is through the Family History Library Catalog. In some instances, the images need to be viewed in a Family History Center or a FamilySearch Affiliate Library (Figure C, page 18).

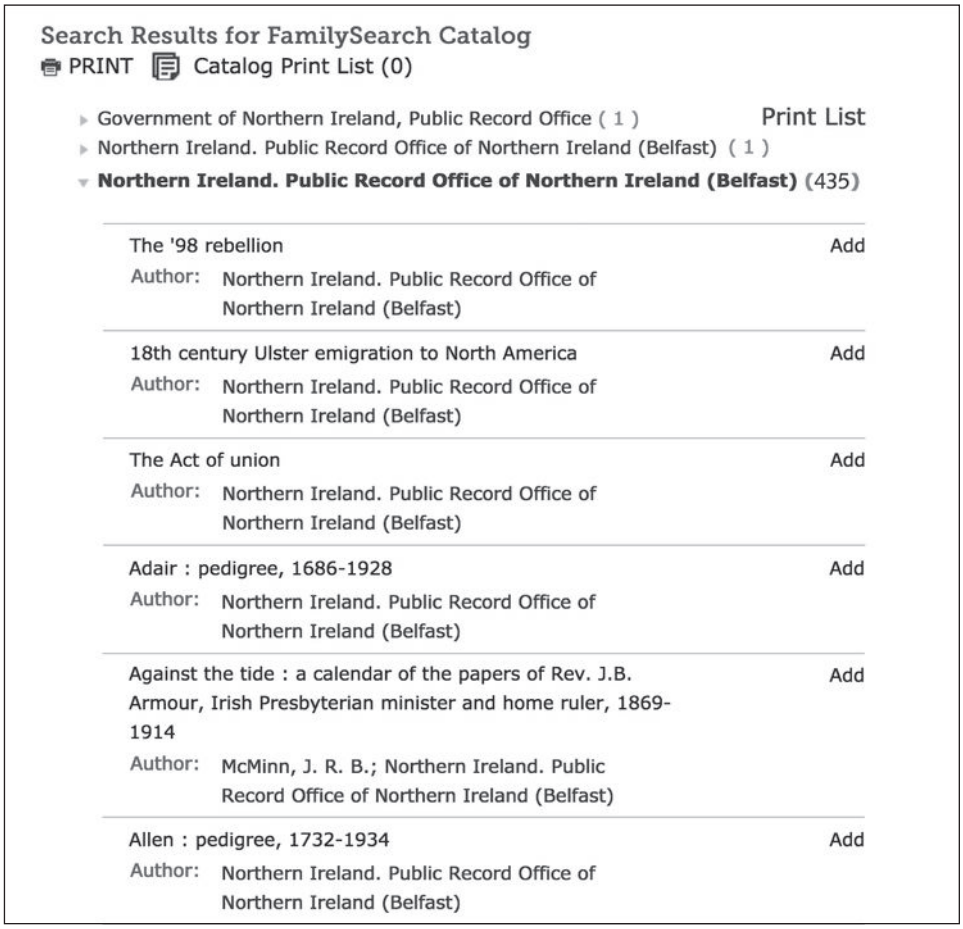


Figure B. Catalog Search Results page

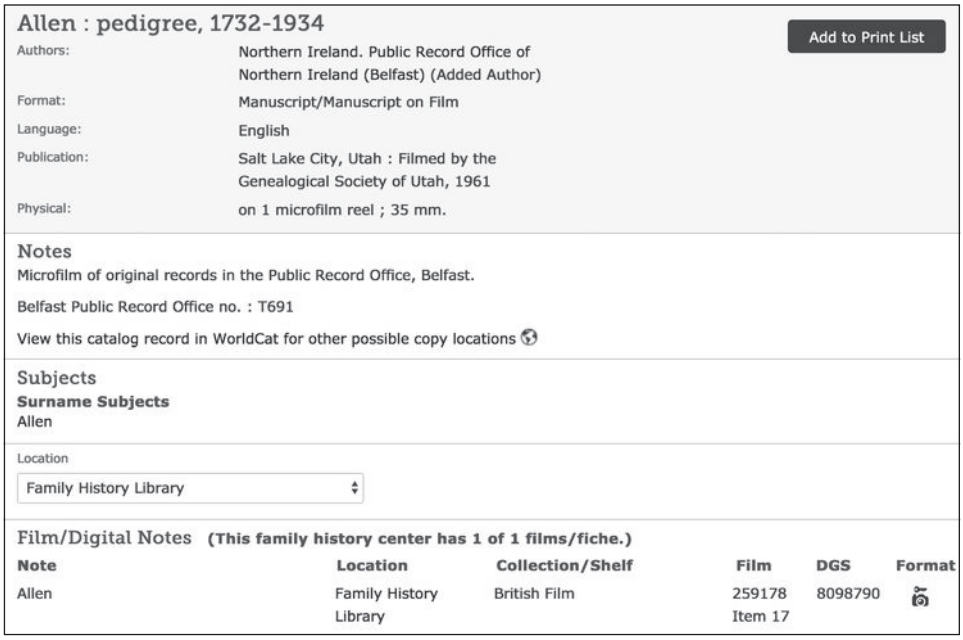


Figure C. Notes information on specific title from Search Results list

Conclusion

FamilySearch contains a huge volume of the available online Irish genealogical materials for a variety of records and research problems. Use both the *Historical Records Collection* of Irish records as well as the digital images accessible through the Family History Library Catalog. Using all of these databases and the Irish portals into the other materials online will open a host of online images for Irish research.

The FamilySearch Research Wiki will also provide valuable information, online links, and information to assist your research. Always begin with a quick search of the Wiki to see what information may be there to jumpstart your online research.

David E. Rencher, AG®, CG®, FUGA, FIGRS, is employed as the Director, Family History Library and Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch. *A professional genealogist since 1977, he is one of the rare few who have earned both credentials: Accredited Genealogist® with ICAPGen in Ireland research and Certified Genealogist® with the Board for Certification of Genealogists. He is a past-president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.*



Roots Ireland

by Brendan Scott

The website of the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF), <www.rootsireland.ie>, was launched on 30 November 2007 by the leaders of the four main Christian denominations in Ireland in Armagh.



The four church leaders launch Roots Ireland *online research service in 2007*

The site contains the most comprehensive set of Roman Catholic parish registers online anywhere in the world. It also holds many records of other religious denominations, including Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, Methodist, Quaker and more. But *Roots Ireland* also holds numerous other records: census records, civil records, gravestones and many different types of sources which we group under the catch all heading of 'census substitutes'. You can even search Griffiths' Valuations via *Roots Ireland*. The census substitutes are a wide and varied group of various record types which range from 17th-century muster rolls up to 20th-century business almanacs and directories. You will find lists of subscribers to Crimean War Relief funds and Poor Relief funds, lists of deaths and marriages in local newspapers, lists of those paying tithes, receiving Confirmation in the Church of Ireland, and much more.

The records held by *Roots Ireland* originate from the 34 centres affiliated with the IFHF. These centres are located in almost every county (bar Kerry and Wexford), and the records transcribed are the result of agreements put in place with each Church denomination at a local level. As these agreements were made sometimes over twenty years ago, many of our Church records end at 1900. These end dates are being revisited to bring us up another twenty years or so, and many of our centres are beginning to update accordingly. Although the IFHF do not have a centre in Wexford, we do hold the Roman Catholic and some Church of Ireland records for that county. We are working on having them all digitised and uploaded to *Roots Ireland* — indeed, five Wexford parishes have been completed and uploaded since 2017 — and we are very close to completion for the Roman Catholic parishes there.



Roots Ireland *homepage*

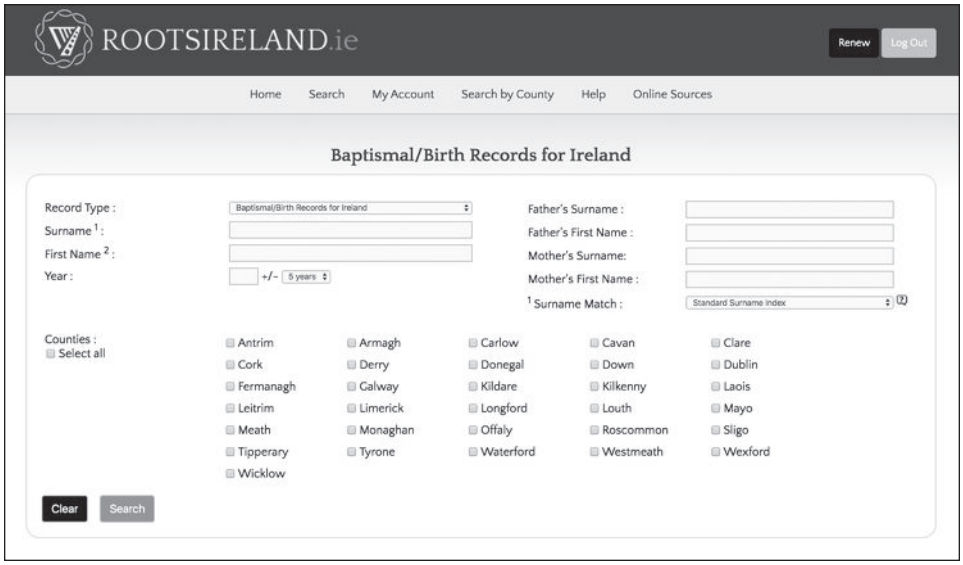
The website contains over 23 million records, which are being added to constantly by our member centres. In 2019 alone, we have uploaded roughly 220,000 records from Offaly, Laois, Wexford, Cork, Derry, Armagh, Galway, Dublin, Clare and Waterford. It is easy to check what records we have for each county — simply select the county that you are interested in and then click 'online sources' which will bring up that county's list of records which are available for perusal.

As the appreciation and interest in genealogy and the tracing of one's ancestors has become more accessible to the general public, visitors to the website have

increased year on year. Since its inception in 2007, *Roots Ireland* has continued to grow and develop its scope and breadth. Genealogist John Grenham has recommended *Roots Ireland* as 'the one essential [Irish] commercial genealogy site for research'.

The site has continued to develop and grow to become a popular and indispensable Irish genealogy website on the international stage. In 2018, roughly 45% of our clients were from the USA; 20% from the UK; 17% from Ireland; 8% from Australia and 6% from Canada. The Brexit situation has resulted in many holders of British passports to seek their Irish ancestors in order to qualify for an EU passport, which has led to an increase in interest in *Roots Ireland* from British citizens.

We regularly add new records to our database and make constant improvements and adjustments in line with the needs and preferences of our users. *Roots Ireland* boasts such features as standardised surname and forename searches, which make searches much easier and extremely useful and popular with our clients. This feature means that names which are in Latin or Irish or are not spelled using modern conventions will all appear in searches. So, for example, if you use the standard surname search for 'O'Reilly', other variants which will appear include 'O'Raghallaigh', 'Reilly', 'Relly', and so on. If, however, you only wish to search for O'Raghallaigh and nothing else, you can do so by selecting 'Exact Match' and that particular spelling is all that will show up. The same applies to first names — you can either select a variant or exact match. So again, if you search for 'Margaret' and choose the standard forename facility, then variants such as 'Maggie', 'Maggy', 'Peggy' and so on will appear. This also works with Latin names — a variant search for 'William' will also bring up 'Guilielmus'.



Roots Ireland *baptismal search page*

The uniqueness of the IFHF and *Roots Ireland* lies in the combination of the online database, which supports family research, and the local centres, which, with their local knowledge, can guide and assist clients, both from a distance and in person. The insight and knowledge which the IFHF local genealogy centres possess about their localities and its people sets the IFHF apart from other genealogical organisations. Those making enquiries regarding local placenames or people can be directed to the relevant centre, best placed to answer such questions and follow-up queries. We pride ourselves on a speedy response to clients; the contact details of all of our centres are found on the website.

Our future plans are varied and very exciting. In 2018, we introduced our new online newsletter, 'Irish Genealogy Matters', which is published 3-4 times a year and which keeps our clients abreast of our activities, both online and in our centres. In 2020, we intend to introduce a new podcast series which will provide listeners with an in-depth view of all of our centres.

Next year we intend to upload more records. So far in 2020, we have uploaded 30,000 Kilkenny records and we are expecting records from Cavan, Limerick, Laois, Wexford and Offaly. But further records than those expected often come in during the year. The best way to keep abreast with additions to our database is by signing up to our mailing list. We are also hopeful of uploading a significant batch of records from an area which has previously been a blackspot for us, so watch this space! Finally, we all in the Irish Family History Foundation and *Roots Ireland* wish to thank our many friends and clients around the world for their support and encouragement. We look forward to continuing these relationships and making new friends in 2020.

Brendan Scott is manager of the Irish Family History Foundation and its website, www.rootsireland.ie. He holds a PhD in early modern Irish history and has written and edited a number of books and articles dealing with various aspects of early modern Irish society.

Celtic Connections Conference 2020 Comes to Chicago

by Gigi Hickey, Conference Co-Chair

The Celtic Connections Conference 2020 is just five months away!



Would you like to be present when genealogy rock stars like John Grenham speak about doing Irish research? Or hear Fiona Fitzsimons and Chris Paton give advice about Irish/Scottish family history? If you have Welsh ancestry, you'd love to be in the room when Beryl Evans shares her knowledge! Or deepen your DNA knowledge with leading genetic genealogists, Angie Bush and Karen Stanbary. The 2020 Celtic Connections Conference offers these opportunities—and more--to attendees.

Celtic Connections Conference (CCC) planners always draw presenters from among the best international and U.S. genealogists and DNA experts. In 2020, thirty presentations of specific interest to Irish, Scottish and Welsh researchers will attract Celtic family historians.

Consider scheduling an additional day to take advantage of one of these conference "extras" in the pre-conference activities for Thursday, July 30.

- Two basic-level DNA classes
- A round-trip bus trip to the Newberry Library for those who might like to research or tour other popular Chicago sites
- An evening welcome reception

Attendees at prior Celtic Connections Conferences offered such comments as

> "The conference was the best-organized and most interesting I have ever attended."

> "Your speakers were wonderrrful!"

> "Good selection of talks with such knowledgeable & expert presenters!"

Registration for the Celtic Connections Conference 2020 is now open! Check the Celtic Connections Conference website <http://celtic-connections.org/> for conference registration information, for hotel accommodation information, for pre-conference details, as well as other updates and details.

All indicators point to an outstanding CCC 2020 experience: excellent speakers, centrally-located and well-priced venue. Come and enjoy a conference planned specifically for Irish and Scottish family historians.

The bi-annual conferences, co-sponsored by the Irish Genealogical Society (IGSI) and The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA), have been held in Boston (2014 and 2018) and Minneapolis (2016). In 2020 the conference will be held at the Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel in Wheeling, IL, on July 31-August 1.

We are pleased to have the generous support of several sponsors: American Ancestors, Irish Ancestors, Eneclann, Celtic Journeys, The Family of Catherine Reardon Steele, and an anonymous Friend of the Conference.

We are also thankful for the assistance of two cairde organizations, the Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) and the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin (IGSW).

Using *Findmypast* to Trace Irish Emigrants

by Maura Flood

As a genealogist working in the Irish Family History Centre, one of the most common mistakes I see is that descendants of emigrants that settled overseas don't research in their own countries before they start their Irish research.

The evidence you need to know before you can start research in Irish records includes the emigrant's parents' names, approximate dates of birth, marriage or death, and where in Ireland a family originated. As surviving state records start relatively late (civil records in 1864 start in Ireland, and non-Catholic marriages in 1845), it is also useful to know what religious denomination your ancestors were, to trace relevant church records.

I have considered the main collections on <www.findmypast.com> to trace evidence of Irish emigrants, set out by country.

I particularly like to use Census records in the country of settlement, as this gives a clear picture of the emigrant, whether an individual or family, in the adopted country.

Workhouse Records

Before emigrating, many families spent some time in an Irish workhouse, especially at the time of the Famine. We found such an Irish ancestry for actor Mandy Moore and VP Biden using the records on this website. Workhouses served the destitute; but the county hospital shared a campus, so you will find evidence of most of the local community documented here.

The site is building up a special collection of Workhouse Records online. At present the site has published admission and discharge registers; births, baptisms, burials and deaths; and PLU Minutes for Clare, Donegal, Dublin City and County, Sligo, and Waterford. More records are in preparation and will soon be available on the website.

United Kingdom

Until 1922 Ireland was in the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom. Because of this, we have no passenger lists, arrivals, or immigration records for Irish immigrants to England, Scotland or Wales. For the same reason, when Irish immigrants are recorded in English or U.K. records, their exact place of origin in Ireland is rarely set down.

On the positive side, there is a complete survival of the English Census from 1841 to 1911 on *Findmypast* — and soon we will have the 1921 Census. This is especially exciting, as in the aftermath of WWI and the Irish War of Independence, Irish emigration to the U.K. was especially intense.

The 1939 Register, an emergency census taken at the outbreak of WWII to facilitate planning and rationing, is useful for tracing more recent Irish immigrants as it records the individual's date of birth.

Civil Marriages in England began in 1837. *Findmypast* has the index to marriages in England and Wales. When you find an Irish immigrant's marriage record, you will find the name of the bride's / groom's father, their occupation, place of residence, and whether they were still alive at the time of the adult child's marriage. I also like to look at witnesses to a marriage, as people emigrated in family and community groups. Likewise, civil death records from 1837 are indexed here.

Other records which may give an exact location in Ireland include workhouse records, prison registers, and obituaries in the British Newspaper archives.

This website has begun to develop databases of church registers in the UK for different denominations, including Church of England (Episcopalian) and Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) records as well as records in the Catholic Heritage Archive. At the time of writing, the Archdioceses of Birmingham and Liverpool are completed while Westminster, Southwark and Middlesbrough are all in progress. Records of Scottish Archdioceses and Dioceses are still in progress, but will soon be available.

United States

Findmypast has the U.S. Census from 1790 to 1940, excluding, of course, the 1890 Census, which was destroyed in a warehouse fire. Census records have excellent information for Irish immigrants.

Another useful U.S. collection is the marriage database. By checking the 1900 to 1930 censuses for a year of immigration and the number of years married one can ascertain if the couple married in the U.S. Some of the marriage records name the parents, which is helpful for researching in Irish records.

In the last few years, the Catholic Heritage Archive was set up and covers the U.S. Archdioceses of Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, and Toledo, Ohio. Philadelphia is completed and New York will be completed in another year. Again, the marriages can be checked to see if the parents are named.

There are naturalisation databases for some states. Some are indexes but have naturalisation petitions which can give location of birth.

Death records of the 20th century usually give parents' names. Again, some are just death indexes, but for some states more details are given, including parents' names. Where there is only an index, it would be useful to order the death record from the references in the indexes to help your research in Ireland.

Findmypast has the indexes to the Billion Graves collection for the U.S. and other countries of settlement outside of Ireland. Many Irish immigrant families recorded the county of origin on their headstones, so these can provide useful evidence.

Passenger Lists found on this site can include birth place, names of other passengers travelling with your ancestors (people often emigrated in family or community groups), and help to identify where or to whom your ancestors were travelling. By the 1880s there were significant Irish communities across the U.S. and Canada; many Irish immigrants were met on arrival by family and friends who provided a support network to the new arrivals.

Findmypast has U.S. Draft Registration cards for WWI and WWII which can also give location of birth. Always look to see the next of kin in such a record, as this may include an Irish address or name a close Irish relative.

In an earlier generation, an estimated 200,000 Irish enlisted on both sides of the American Civil War. To receive a civil war pension, the old soldier or a surviving dependent had to give detailed information on their service and on their family background. Working with clients in the Centre, the type of information we have found in these files includes place of birth and details of marriage – even a marriage record, when the widow is applying.

In the 19th century, Irish emigrants who had lost touch with family and friends often placed advertisements in U.S. newspapers such as the *Boston Pilot*. These small ads often noted the county, parish or even townland of origin in Ireland. Again, the database can be found here.

The New York Emigrant Savings Bank Registers are a useful source to trace immigrants to the U.S. In my experience, the registers may provide identifying evidence, including the account holder's place of birth in Ireland, all of which is essential information, before starting to research in the Irish records.

Famine immigrants to America deserve a special mention. *Findmypast* has records of over half a million Irish immigrants that arrived in the Port of New York between 1846 and 1851.

Canada

Findmypast has a complete run of the Canadian Census online, 1851-1911, and for Prince Edward Island (1891 and 1901). The 1901 Census of Canada is particularly useful as it gives an exact date of birth and year of immigration for immigrants. They also have the earlier census for Lower Canada (1825, 1842). If your research interest is for Famine immigrants, check out the database on Irish Immigrants in the New Brunswick Censuses of 1851 and 1861.

As a professional genealogist, I use all the subscription websites, including *Ancestry*, which has the 1921 Canadian Census which gives the birthplace of parents. There are also birth, marriage and death indexes covering Canadian provinces and territories and also some burial records.

Australia

The amount of detail provided in Australian civil birth, marriage and death records differs between States. It's often very detailed, which makes up for the poor survival of census returns.

Birth records can contain parents' names and ages, as well as birthplace and marriage date. Marriage records can contain a couple's birthplace and their parents' names. Death records can contain parents' names, birthplace, when married, the names of all children of the marriage, where they were born, and if they are still alive on the death of their parent. The databases on *Findmypast* cover most of Australia. Although mainly indexes, they include information on ordering certificates from the government authority.

There are some surviving Australian census returns, including the New South Wales Census for 1828 (Householders Returns), 1841, 1891 and 1901; North Territory Census 1881-1921, inclusive; the South Australia Census, compiled from different sources; and the 1881 British Census, Crew and Passengers on ships arriving in New South Wales.

I have found the collections of passenger lists on this site, of particular use when tracing the origins of immigrant ancestors to Australia. The New South Wales Passenger

lists (1828-1900); Victoria Inward/ Outward/ and Coastal Passengers Lists (1839-1924); Queensland Customs House Shipping, Passengers and Crew (1852-85); and South Australia Passenger Lists (1847-86) contain millions of records. It's often possible to find an ancestor arriving and moving about using these collections; some of these even state where in Ireland the passenger was born.

This website has excellent coverage of convicts arriving in the years when Australia served as a Penal Colony for Ireland and the United Kingdom. These records are all the more important, because we have lost the Irish records of convicts being sent out, between ca. 1791 and 1836. The information for Irish, English, Welsh and Scottish convicts often include their year of birth, place and county of birth.

New Zealand

From the 1870s to the early 1900s, approximately 2000 Irish people left Ireland to settle in New Zealand. We find them in the index of Civil Births, Marriages and Deaths; Electoral Rolls; Armed Forces (WWI). New Zealand was the first country in which women won the right to vote in Parliamentary elections. *Findmypast* also has records of the NZ Women's Suffrage Petition online.

Other Countries

The Irish also immigrated to less familiar countries. They travelled to India and the Far East — including modern day Myanmar (Burma), Singapore, and China — as soldiers, on Honorable East India Company Service (H.E.I.C.S.) or as part of the colonial civil service. The website has excellent coverage from 1740s to Indian Independence in 1949. *Findmypast* has millions of records of ex-pat families online.

Latin America and the Caribbean saw Irish immigration as a result of trade, military operations and colonisation. *Findmypast* has extensive collections for Latin and South American countries. **Argentina** Baptisms (1659-1930) and Marriages (1722-1911); **Uruguay** Baptisms (1750-1900) and marriages (1790-1930). There are also records for the **Caribbean**: Birth & Baptismal Index (1590-1928), Marriage Index (1591-1905), and Death and Burial Index (1790-1906); for **Brazil**: Baptisms (1688-1935), Marriages (1730-1955) and Deaths (1750-1890); and for **Mexico**: Baptismal Index (1560-1950), Marriage Index (1570-1950), and Death Index (1680-1940).

The Irish are often not distinguished from English settlers in these records, but you can search by name. In 1865, we find Alfredo Luis Estanislado Lynch, son of Emilio and Concepcion, baptised in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

Newspapers

I want to close my review by looking at a source that is closer to home — that is, the newspapers on this site.

Newspapers are a great source of community news and can give insight into our ancestors that traditional records are unable to give. They are my favourite source for family history.

I particularly like to read news reports from the Workhouse Board of Guardians as my great-great-grandparents were employed by Rathdrum Poor Law Union, in county Wicklow.

Our family took in orphaned children from the workhouse in Rathdrum, Co Wicklow, known colloquially as 'nurse children' and raised them with their own children. This is a true story, which I learned from a newspaper. The inspector for Rathdrum Workhouse wanted to remove a child from my great-great-grandfather's house, on the basis the house was very small, and consisted of just two bedrooms and a kitchen. The newspaper gave an account of the discussion that ensued among the Board of Guardians. It was eventually decided that the child should remain with my great-great-grandmother, and a tear came to my eye when I read the local guardians opinion — that the child could not be under the care of a 'kinder foster mother'. The family-house in which they lived is now a ruin in the valley of Glenmalure, in the Wicklow mountains.

Other stories that I have found relevant to my own family history in the newspaper collection on this site include accounts of my mother's achievements in needlework and Irish dancing competitions and reports of hurling match finals my uncle and his cousins took part in.

Maura Flood has worked in the Irish Family History Centre since its inception in May 2016 helping the Irish Diaspora with their family history queries. She has worked as a genealogist for almost ten years. She started researching her own family history as a child and is fascinated with her ancestors and the diaspora in her own family. Maura enjoys meeting people from all parts of the globe, hearing their stories and helping them find their ancestors.

Annual IGSI Irish Tea – March 14

Saturday, March 14, is the date to celebrate your Irish heritage with other IGSI members at the Annual Irish Tea and Social at the Minnesota Genealogy Center. The time to gather is 1:00 PM in the Mississippi Room at the MGC.



Our guest speaker will be Rita Davern, a local filmmaker of *The Burren Girl*. Rita will talk about her Irish roots' journey and her film project. Over the past 40 years, Rita Davern (originally Davoren) has traveled the Burren, birthplace of her grandmother's people in County Clare, Ireland. She was most often found in the kitchen drinking tea with friends and distant relations. The conversation often turns to those who stayed and those who left, as the devastation of colonization, hunger and emigration took its toll. Rita knows first-hand that, for those of us with European heritage, reconnecting to our homeland and our cultural history adds huge richness to our lives. A community engagement artist in her work and in her life, Rita believes the greatest find of genealogy is the living relatives.



It wouldn't be a tea without refreshments! And we'll have something for all to sample. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with an Irish sweet. Check out and bid on the silent auction items at the tea.

Anytime that a group of Irish genealogists gather is the base for a fun event. The Irish Tea on March 14, 1-4 p.m., will be a great time and place to meet other IGSI members — greet and meet new or familiar friends. It's also an opportunity to get the latest news on the Celtic Connections Conference.

Following the Irish Trail to Canada & Beyond – A Webinar

Wednesday, March 18 | 7:00-8:15 p.m. | Minnesota Genealogy Center

Professional Genealogist, Tammy Priolo

The Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI) and the Canadian Interest Group (CIG) of the Minnesota Genealogical Society are partnering to offer an exciting learning opportunity. This FREE webinar is available to all CIG and IGSI members. A recording of the webinar will be available for later viewing to IGSI members on the website.

The Irish have been coming to Canada since the 1500s and now form the 4th largest ethnic group in Canada according to census records. Follow the migration trails the Irish took to Canada and learn where they settled, becoming part of the fabric of that nation and what information is available on these hardy folk. A timeline of historical migration will be discussed along with available records that created a permanent stamp on their Irish existence in Canada.

You will learn:

- Historical migration to Canada and its provinces like Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario and the western provinces
- 1820s Irish to Upper Canada (Ontario)
- Famine Migration (1846-1850)
- What information is available on these specific groups of Irish migrants to Canada including The McCabe List, early Irish in the Ottawa Valley, Peter Robinson Settlers from 1825 (Cork to Ottawa Valley), Grosse Ile, Quebec (1832-1837)
- Irish Canadians to the U.S.

Professional genealogist Tammy Priolo (BASc Honours, PLCGS) has 28 years' experience in the genealogy world. She has run her own business, The Ancestor Investigator, since 2000 and has consulted, researched, written, and given workshops and lectures nationally and internationally since 1997. She published 1000 genealogical articles online, over 100 biographies and two books, *The Ancestor Whisperer* and *The Ancestor Whisperer Attic Treasures*. She has had her DNA tested and manages several other family members' DNA tests. Her personal experience in researching her own Canadian Irish ancestors (Fitzgeralds from Kilkenny, Brennans from Carlow, Scarfes, Higgins and Cains) will make this a learning opportunity you won't want to miss!

IrelandXO – Help from Irish Friends

by Kathleen Foley

Ireland Reaching Out <IrelandXO.com> helped me find my maternal great-grandmother's place of origin and connected me with relatives in Ireland. How cool is that! Perhaps the IrelandXO volunteers could help you, too.

IrelandXO was started in 2009 by tech entrepreneur Mike Feerick. A volunteer non-profit, it was started to bring links between the global Irish Diaspora and places of origin. It aims to help the estimated 70 million people with Irish origins discover the story of their family history and reconnect them with the Ireland of today. It is basically reverse genealogy.

Ireland xo
reaching out

Local groups run the various message boards and queries are answered by people living in the locality. In 2015, these volunteers helped me discover that my great-grandmother Bridget Neville Geary came from Askeaton, Rathkeale, County Limerick.

- Mother: Adeline Shea (spouse: Jerome Clarkin) – born Minnesota
- Grandmother: Mary Geary (spouse: John Shea) – born Ottawa, Canada
- Great-Grandmother: Bridget Neville (spouse: James Geary) – born Ireland; died in Minnesota
- 2X Great-Grandmother: Bridget Corbett (also seen as Conroy and Combet) (spouse: Thomas Neville)

A little background on my family: all my grandparents were born in Canada while all my great-grandparents were from Ireland before immigrating to Canada. My maternal grandparents, John Shea (1860-1944) and Mary Geary Shea (1860-1936), were born and married in Ottawa, Canada, before coming to Minnesota in 1889. Both John's and Mary's parents were said to be from somewhere in Ireland – but where? I had their parents' names from their marriage record.

I began researching the Geary line. In 2014, I had some information that Mary's mother, my great-grandmother Bridget Neville, was born in Ireland about 1839. In 1858, she married James Geary at the Parish of St. Joseph in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The marriage record appeared in the Ontario Catholic church records (Drouin Collection) and stated that Bridget "Navin" was the daughter of Thomas Navin and Bridget Conroy. By the late 1800s, Bridget and her husband James had moved to Minneapolis where they both died and are buried. But where in Ireland was Bridget Neville Geary, daughter of Thomas and Bridget, born?



James Geary & Bridget Neville Geary

After an exhaustive search of what was available in print and online in 2014, I turned to an Ottawa-based genealogist for some help. Perhaps he could find something in Ottawa records that would point me to my great-grandmother's birthplace in Ireland. While the hired genealogist found minimal information in the Ottawa records other than a birthplace of "Ireland", he did send me a photo from canadianheadstones.com that he thought may be of Bridget Neville's mother's grave, my 2X great-grandmother, Bridget Conroy. The headstone at Our Lady of Visitation cemetery in South Gloucester in Ottawa was for a Bridget Combet of Parish Recail in County Limerick, wife of Thomas Neville. This information about County Limerick did match up with family lore that Bridget Neville was from that area. I contacted the church in Ottawa for the burial record, but it contained no additional information, nor did they have a burial record for Bridget's husband, Thomas.

Now what? Undoubtedly, we all have reached such a point in our research – a brick wall. Where is Parish Recail in County Limerick? Was this my Bridget Neville's mother? With assistance from John Grenham's placename lookup <Johngrenham.com>, I was able to determine that Recail likely was Rathkeale, a civil parish in County Limerick.

To the Rescue Comes *Ireland Reaching Out*

In April 2014, I posted a question on the Rathkeale parish message board with a photo of the headstone from Ottawa, outlining what I had on my great-great grandparents Thomas Neville and his wife Bridget, and stating that I had several spellings of Bridget's last name including



Neville in "Recail"

I am trying to determine if a Bridget Comfet Neville who died in 1884 in Ottawa, Canada is my great-great-grandmother.

Family lore says Bridget Conroy married Thomas Neville somewhere in County Limerick. At least 2 of their children were born there (Andrew about 1841 and Bridget about 1842). We believe they emigrated to Ottawa and know their children lived there.

I located a photo of the attached headstone from a Catholic cemetery in Ottawa, very near where Andrew and Bridget were known to have married. I am trying to determine if this is the gravesite of Bridget Conroy.

Over the years, I have uncovered several spellings of Bridget's last name - however, Comfet was totally new. It appears that Parish Recail was a variation of Rathkeale. Since the Limerick location matches family lore, I am exploring this woman and her previously deceased husband, Thomas Neville. (Note: I was unable to locate any information about Thomas in Ottawa; this may indicate Bridget emigrated with her children after her husband died in Ireland or he may have died outside the Ottawa area.)

I will be in Ireland in June, traveling from Doolin to Dingle and thus near Rathkeale. Any suggestions as to a Catholic church/cemetery in the area that I should explore prior to and during my visit?

Thanks for any suggestions you can provide.

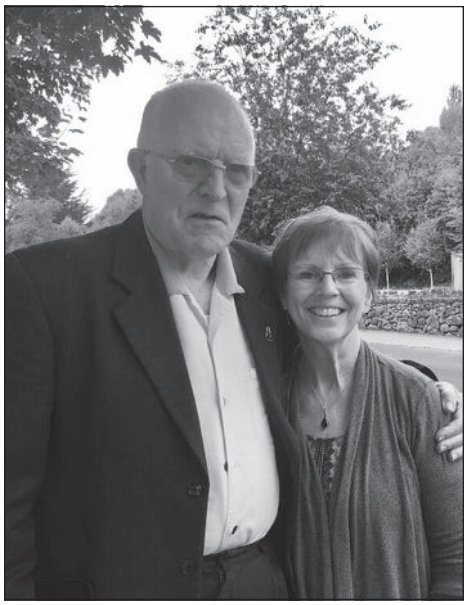
Kathleen Foley

IrelandXO *post on Bridget Corbett Neville*

Conroy, Combet, Caubeau, Comba, and Comback. The next day I received a reply from an IrelandXO volunteer. She had gone through rootsireland.ie and found 10 death, 53 births, and 4 marriages that possibly could be my mysterious great-great grandparents. Another volunteer also gave me the contact information for the local Catholic church in Rathkeale, and a third sent me a photo of a possible headstone for Thomas Neville. However, it was the fourth reply that put me on the path to eventually determining that my great-great grandparents were Thomas Neville and Bridget Corbett.

John O'Connell, an IrelandXO volunteer who lives outside Limerick, said his brother-in-law has Neville ancestry and citied *The Ranahans of Iverus*, a book that could contain hints to my family. He also helped me with hints on how to post to more than one IrelandXO parish message board. He continued to send me helpful bits of information he found in various subscription databases that he had access to and information he knew from neighbors familiar with the various Neville families in the area. John even located a copy of the Ranahan book and sent it to me.

Skip ahead to February 2015 when my Ancestry DNA results came back. One of my top matches was a Ranahan, the same name John had mentioned from the book he cited. I immediately contacted my DNA match. The test was managed by the woman's nephew, a man from Limerick who is a friend of John O'Connell. It is a small world after all.



John O'Connell and Kathleen Foley

With their help, I was able to determine that my Bridget Neville, widow of Thomas, was Bridget Corbett (not Combet, Conroy and a myriad of other spellings!) from the Askeaton area of Rathkeale parish, County Limerick. I have not (yet!) located the death record for Thomas but I know that *IrelandXO* will be a key tool in my genealogy toolbox to fill in the blanks for Thomas Neville.

Since my first connection with John O'Connell in April 2014, he and I have had several Skype calls and many e-mails. A very special event happened in the summer of 2018 when my two nieces and I met John and he took us around the areas where our Neville and Corbett ancestors came from.

How to Get Started with *Ireland Reaching Out*

All over the island of Ireland, people are looking to reconnect with descendants of Irish emigrants who are living around the world – us! The goal of *IrelandXO* is to



IrelandXO volunteers

help people of Irish descent discover their place of origin and become a part of its global community.

Ireland Reaching Out is free to join. You register with your e-mail at <IrelandXO.com> and they will keep you in the loop about their initiatives and show you how to connect with the people and places of your ancestors.

There are several features that could help with your research:

- Read and post on the message board: If you are looking for more information about your Irish family history, post a message on one of the many boards — they have a main board and one for every parish in Ireland. To find information about my great-great grandmother, I posted on the main board as well as the Parish Rathkeale board.
- Join a Parish or County Community: Connect directly with your community of origin by joining their group. You can read about the history of the area and the people connected with it plus engage directly with the local community and let them know your family story and connection.
- Check out and add to the XO Chronicles about a person (XOPeople), events (XOTimeline) and places (XOBuildings)
- Meet & Greet service: IrelandXO has a network of more than 300 volunteers who come from all walks of life, but all share a passion for local heritage. They are keen to reconnect descendants of their local area with the community living there today. Through the IrelandXO message board, the volunteer network is available to answer queries and give advice about family history, local heritage and general information about their locality. If someone descended from the area is visiting from abroad, *Ireland Reaching Out* will endeavor to have a local volunteer meet with them directly, to welcome them back to the area, and to share any local information that might be of interest to them. Often, returning descendants can walk in the footsteps of their ancestors, visit old homesteads and discover where previous generations were laid to rest in local cemeteries.

If you add *Ireland Reaching Out* to your genealogy toolbox you, too, may be able to put a crack in one of your brick walls and meet a relative living in Ireland today!

IrelandXO Links

Ireland Reaching Out
<https://irelandxo.com/>

IrelandXO Connections Stories
<https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/news?county=All&parish_name=&category_id=7889>

Guidance and tips about researching your Irish family history
<https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/news?county=All&parish_name=&category_id=8113>

Add your Irish Ancestor to the IrelandXO Chronicles
<https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/history-and-genealogy/ancestor-database>

IrelandXO Message Board
<https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/message-board>

IrelandXO Community - join your County and/or Civil Parish of Origin
<https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo>



Kathleen Foley, IGSI Education Chair, is a retired college administrator. Her love of everything Irish was nurtured by her mother. She has traveled to Ireland several times, including a summer-long sabbatical at the University of Limerick where she worked in the fundraising office. She lives in Northfield, Minnesota.

April IGSI Class

Sat., April 25 | 10:30 – Noon at the Minnesota Genealogy Center
Cost: $15 for members. $20 for non-members

In April, IGSI will offer a special class – not on Irish Saturday (April 11), but two weeks later, on April 25.

How to Get Ready to Search Irish Records, Kevin Cassidy

The purpose of this talk is to help those interested in their Irish roots with the research process. There are three crucial pieces of information needed for any success in researching Irish ancestors: the name of your Irish immigrant ancestor, his/her parents' names and his/her Irish place of origin.

This presentation details what researchers must do before they can expect to have success in Irish records. It cannot be stressed enough that researchers must turn every stone in their North American records set to discover three things: the names of their Irish immigrants, the names of the immigrants' parents and their place of origin in Ireland. It is extremely difficult if not impossible to have success in Irish records without these facts.

The talk takes researchers from starting with what they know to interviewing relations and then researching records. Strategies and records sets are discussed at length to develop a full set of immigrant relatives to look for answers to parents' names and places of origin in Ireland. Records to be discussed include: Death certificate, Obituary, Cemetery, Probate, Funeral Home, Marriage(s), Censuses, Naturalization, Passenger lists, Passport applications, Religious Order Biographies, Newspaper clippings, Military Enlistment, Military Pension, Church records, County Histories and Bank records.

Kevin Cassidy has searched his own family tree back to the 8 Irish townlands of origin for his great-grandparents since 1994. He has had several pieces published in newsletters and genealogy magazines, including *Family Chronicle*, *Internet Genealogy* and *Your Genealogy Today*. His talks are research and strategy centered. He has spoken across the United States and in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Canada through July 2020. He has history and law degrees and a diploma in family history.

Using *Findmypast* – How to Get the Best Use from the Site

by Fiona Fitzsimons

As a professional genealogist who also teaches the subject, I'm often asked to share my research-hacks for family-history. In truth, there are no short-cuts in research. A successful result is the outcome of planning, research-skills, diligence, and an expert knowledge of the sources and where to find them.

Since 2000, a huge amount of historical collections were digitised and published online. Nowadays, I split my research between what's available online and records only accessible in the archives. I use all the genealogy websites, free and subscription, but for Irish and British research, there's one website I use more than any other — probably 80% of the time — <www.findmypast.com>.

This website has the largest online collection of Irish and British sources. It has published more documents online for Ireland and the British Isles than any other website, including those of the Irish and U.K. cultural institutions. So, my first reason for using it is convenience — all the records are on one site; and it gives me more bang for my buck.

The math behind the website is a good indication of the depth of coverage: over 1.56 billion records for England and Wales, and 198 million for Ireland. The site presents the exact number of records published online and does not artificially inflate numbers.

Some websites may tell you that one Marriage record equates to seven distinct records because it has seven separate names: the names of the bride and groom, their respective fathers' names, their witnesses and the name of the priest.

Findmypast presents the evidence clearly and accurately, so you can navigate the huge volume of records to find evidence relevant to your research.

Searching on *Findmypast*

To use the website, start on the Homepage and click on **Search** to open the drop-down menu. Click on the A-Z of record sets to bring you to the next page where you can choose to search the World collections, or to focus on records from Ireland or the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Overseas).

In the **Search** text-box, type in a key-word or the start date of the records-set you want to search, e.g.: 'Valuation', 'Court', '1798', '1845'. All corresponding collections will appear on-screen. Click through to search a specific collection. The search inter-face allows you to search across more than one field, by a person's name, occupation, place (townland, parish, county), year, or by a keyword.

Wearing my professional hat: I've consistently found that the quality of the indexes on *Findmypast* is better than on any other subscription website. All variant spellings of personal names, including diminutives and Latin versions of names, are included in the index so search results are comprehensive. This is particularly important given that Irish men and women used a sometimes bewildering variety of names, in more than one language, depending on the context. A formal English version of their name in official records, such as civil birth or marriage; a diminutive and/or Irish version of the same name for everyday use, in a court record or if their name appears in a newspaper, for example; and occasionally a Latin version of their name in Catholic parish registers. So Edward Kelly may appear as Ned, Eddie, Eamonn or even Edwardus in different records.

Although family names don't change to the same extent, Irish surnames were only standardized as late as the 1890s. Researchers engaged in Irish research must search across all potential phonetic variants of a name when they search. In my experience, *Findmypast* has built this into their filters.

Here's an example of a recent case-study where the Christian name and the surname were recorded in different language and phonetic versions, obscuring the record.

In the 1860s (exact date unknown) our client knew that Denis Breen of Tipperary married Kate Hanly. Searching on *Findmypast* we found the marriage on 7th February 1866, in Solloghead, Tipperary. It was immediately clear why the record had not been found previously. The groom was identified as **Dionysius Breen** in the church record; whereas in the civil record he was **Dennis Brien**.

By cross-referencing the church and civil records we found enough corroborative evidence — the date and place of marriage, the name of the bride, the priest, and the witnesses — to prove that Dionysius Breen and Denis Brien were one and the same person.

The search interface on this website allows the use of wildcards, which is particularly useful when a modern-day indexer has made a hames of the index. What this boils down to is that the *Findmypast* search engine won't be misdirected by typos and clerical errors, and is more likely to deliver exactly what you're looking for.

Since 2011 they have published Irish sources that provide colour and narrative for family history, including records of the Petty Sessions Courts, Jail records, Dog Licenses, and Newspapers. Many records are available exclusively on this website — including the Landed Estate Court Rentals 1849-85; Irish Quaker Records c. 1650 to 1940; and the only definitive version of Griffith's Valuation with relevant maps available on any of the subscription websites.

These are the sources mined by researchers working for *Who Do You Think You Are*, *Finding Your Roots*, and similar programmes.

Genealogists working from records on this site discovered that Tom Cruise, Keanu Reeves and Howie Dorough (Back Street Boys) are descended from early settlers in the American colonies; that Robert de Niro, Meryl Streep and Mark Hamill are descended from Famine immigrants who arrived in New York City; that ancestors of Rosie O'Donnell, Mandy Moore and Sharon Osbourne lived (or even died) in Irish Workhouses; that iconic Australian actor, Jack Thompson, and campaigning journalist, Ray Martin, are 'Australian royalty' – descended from convicts who were transported to Australia. We found Daniel Radcliffe's real-life 'Saving Private Ryan' story in WWI; and resolved the murder-mystery that had haunted comedian Brendan O'Carroll's (Mrs. Brown's Boys) family for almost a century.

So what records collections on *Findmypast* do I particularly favour?

The Petty Sessions Courts – the name came from the French *petit* – these were the 'little sessions', the lowest courts in the land that heard all civil and criminal cases. (More serious cases were referred to the Assize or Quarter Sessions). These records provide a real window into the past, with lots of local colour. Cases range from merchants who had not paid duty on goods; to publicans watering down liquor, or an after-hours lock-in; or workers suing for unpaid wages.

Farmers might be fined for letting their animals wander or for painting the Irish spelling of their name on the side of their cart. Political feelings were often volatile, with people being charged for handling 'seditious' literature – even as innocuous as posting notices of meetings, distributing leaflets about land-reform, or carrying sheet-music of 'rebel songs.'

We also see the underside of 19th and early 20th century Ireland in these records. Poverty was endemic; we find cases of children and adults before the courts for begging and vagrancy. These contemporary records document life at grass-roots level in every district, no matter how remote.

My favourite cases in the Petty Sessions Court records are the ones in which we find evidence of children and young people hanging out: in winter, throwing snowballs; in spring and summer, playing hurling in the street; mitching school on a hot summer-day to go swimming; in the Fall, raiding a neighbour's orchard and just generally making a nuisance of themselves.

The **Dog-licenses** are a sub-set of the **Petty Sessions** records. In mid-19th Century Ireland, one of the notable changes in agricultural practice was the switch from crops to beasts, from tillate to pastoral farming. Farmers required more dogs to herd their animals. The State recognised this opportunity, and from 1866 introduced a license. Comedy value aside, the dog-licenses are a useful census substitute to trace someone in a district.

Irish Prison Registers 1790 to 1924 are found exclusively on this website. We know from the State's own statistical records that Ireland in the 19th and 20th century was a police state with significantly higher rates of prosecution, conviction and imprisonment, even for minor crimes, than in any other part of the United Kingdom, of which Ireland was then a part.

While this was bad news for our ancestors, it's good news for us as family historians because it means they left a paper-trail to follow. Prison registers have good evidence, including a description of the person imprisoned, their offence, when tried and by whom, the sentence, date of bail or discharge, and any remarks or observations.

Newspapers

I'm a recent (in the last five years) convert to using newspapers. I have found that it's possible to bridge gaps in the historic records using newspapers. This is particularly important in an Irish context, where the destruction of the Public Records Office in 1922, effectively renders the entire country a 'burnt state.' News

reportage of court-cases or from inquests is especially useful, as almost all original 18th and 19th century Irish legal records were destroyed in archival disasters.

A 'World-subscription' to *Findmypast* includes access to the British Newspaper Archive. The 'British' in the title refers to the British Library, the largest, earliest and most continuous copyright library in Ireland or the U.K. The British Newspaper Archive has more complete runs of Irish newspapers, journals and magazines than any other repository. The strength of coverage is from 1800 to the 1960s. Again, the maths give some indication of coverage: there is a newspaper published for every Irish county, and over 175 Irish titles. It's possible to search across millions of Irish newspaper pages by county/ province/ title/ date/ or text search.

Newspaper editors publish stories relevant to their community of interest, and newspapers are a marvellous source to find good coverage of local events. You can also find some speciality titles, including *Hue & Cry* – the Police Gazette; *Lloyd's List and The Dublin Shipping & Mercantile Gazette*, for shipping intelligence; T*he Army & Navy Gazette* – to trace commissions, promotions, dispatches, medals, transfers and the movement of regiments or of sailors between ships/ fleets, in the Armed Services; and the self-explanatory *Poor Law Union Gazette*, which although an English title, has evidence of the Irish in England.

Newspapers capture a greater sweep of the Irish population than other sources and start before official records like the civil Births, Marriages and Deaths, or the surviving Census of Ireland.

The downside of using newspapers is that to search them researchers must use Optical Character Recognition (OCR). Blurred print can make it difficult for the computer to translate the words from image to text.

Conclusion

In genealogy there are very few smoking guns, a single document that tells the entire story. Instead, we gather the sources and piece together the evidence to create our family history narrative. It says something very positive about *Findmypast* that they have focused on building online, a library of sources with an unparalleled range, depth and coverage of the Irish people. The company employs records specialists led by Brian Donovan, who consult with expert genealogists. The decisions about what records are published on this site are not made by accountants or algorithms but are based on researchers' experience and results.

The records specialists deliver other dividends to researchers on the site, such as the detailed source descriptions written by historians, genealogists and records specialists who use the records themselves. This is particularly useful for researchers who want to use niche sources, like the *Catholic Qualification and Convert Rolls 1701-1845*, or the *Irish Tontines Annuitants 1766-89*.

Working as a professional researcher is both a privilege and a test of character. We have to get results with supporting evidence, working to tight budgets and deadlines. For me and my research team this is our website of choice.

The desired result is what you get.[1]

Endnotes

[1] Clinton, G. (1975), *P-Funk*, on *The Mothership Connection*. [Vinyl] New York City: Casablanca Records.

Fiona Fitzsimons teaches a two-year course in Irish Family & Social History in Trinity College Dublin. She is a founder of Eneclann and of the Irish Family History Centre at EPIC. She writes for History Ireland *magazine, and* Irish Lives Remembered, *and has contributed to national newspapers and radio in Ireland and Britain. She lives in Dublin with her husband and three sons.*



100 Years Ago and More

Compiled by Sheila Northrop

250 Years Ago

[HELP WANTED]

WANTED immediately, for one of his Majesty's New Colonies abroad, several hundreds of all sorts of tradesmen, and those of no trade. Likewise, a number of farmers, who understand the country business. Those who are willing to engage, are desired to apply to his Majesty's British Plantation-Office, at No. 7, in St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, where they will meet with great encouragement. Merchants and Commanders may be treated with every day, at the above Office, Sundays excepted. No apprentices need apply. The Ship will sail in a few days. Those whose inclinations suit them to try their fortunes abroad, will meet with every thing agreeable to their desire. Two Surgeons and two School-Masters are wanted; apply as above. Some young lads are wanted for the sea. Men, and their wives and families, and single women, are also wanted.

The Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser
London, England — 3 February 1770

200 Years Ago

RUFUS KING.

Heretofore, we had occasion to allude to this gentleman, as being somewhat connected with Irish history, during the disturbances of that country. We this day present his letter to Henry Jackson, one of the state prisoners. In the year 1798, after the attempts of the Irish people to effect emancipation from the oppressive yoke of British tyranny had been defeated, and at a time when all the horrid scenes of devastation were exercised by the government party, some of the prisoners in confinement negotiated with the ministers in Ireland for a general amnesty, and offered to emigrate to such country as might be agreed upon. On the 29th of July, the agreement was entered into, and the United States fixed upon as an assylum for the proposed emigrants. Mr. King, the resident American minister at London, objected at the court of St. James to the arrangement — and on the 16th of September, 1798, his prohibitory remonstrance was notified to the prisoners by Mr. Marsden, then under secretary, who, as a reason, remarked that *"perhaps Mr. King did not wish republicans in America."* The letter published, is the only document at present within our reach. For the facts stated, there is ample historic authority. In the transaction of this business, Mr. King called to his aid the celebrated Alien law of President Adams.

Kentucky Gazette
Lexington, Kentucky — 24 March 1820

[no title]

A gentleman was complaining that he had three fine daughters, to whom he should give 10,000 dollars each, and yet he could find no body to marry them. "With your lave, sir, said an Irishman present, making a very respectful bow, "I will take two of them."

Vincennes Indiana Centinel
Vincennes, Indiana
19 February 1820

150 Years Ago

MISCELLANY.

THERE have been several large hauls of pilchards on the coast of Kerry — one of 70,000, one of 80,000, and another of 90,000.

… No IRISHWOMAN A MORMON. — The *American Churchman*, of Chicago, Ill., says that the knaves of Utah are nearly all Yankees, including the "apostles," "bishops," and "elders," and all who get the tithes; while the dupes are mainly very degraded European peasants, many of them from England and Wales, and members, by baptism, of the English Church. It says: *"There never existed but one Mormon Irishman, and a Mormon Irishwoman is something totally unknown to naturalists."*

THE IRISH NATION BEYOND THE ATLANTIC. — The numerical strength, the political influence, the wealth, and the patriotic devotion of the transatlantic Irish are elements in the "Irish question" of to-day which England cannot prudently overlook, or affect to despise, and which are rapidly increasing in magnitude. It is a common complaint in some quarters that America is rapidly becoming Irish, both in population and politics. The hardy Celt is overgrowing the more delicate native American, and rapidly occupying all the positions in the country which belong to a master in the land. — *Irish Landlorism*.

ONE EVIL OF ENGLISH RULE IN IRELAND. - Among the melancholy and mischievous consequences which English rule entails upon Ireland, it is by no means the least that Irishmen of genius — the artist and literary men of Ireland — live and die in England. Tom Moore is buried in the foreign land; Sheridan and Burke, and many more, have been laid by alien hands in foreign graves. To this list we have to add

the name of Samuel Lover, the gifted author of "Rory O'Moore," "Handy Andy," &c. He died in July, 1868, and was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery. Would to God we were a free people, if it were only for the purpose of claiming and committing to Irish graves the ashes of our dead! — *Dublin Irish people*.

Burnie Advocate
Burnie, Tasmania, Australia
29 January 1870

100 Years Ago

AMERICA AND IRELAND

Congressman Isaac R. Sherwood, of Ohio, aged 84 years, and the only Civil war veteran in Congress, a few days ago on the floor of the House made the most enlightening speech on what the Irish people have done in the building of America that has yet been heard in that chamber, the oldest members agreed.

… "As an American citizen, with no single drop of Irish blood in my veins, I can make a plea for Ireland without being accused of being pro-Irish. If being born of English and Scotch ancestry is a test of Americanism, then I can pass the acid test, for my ancestors came over in 1632, not in the Mayflower, because the board was full, but on the next boat.

Seeking Freedom 700 Years.

… The Irish are a homogeneous people, and no other people in either Europe, Asia or the Western continent has ever made such a constant and enduring struggle for autonomy and independence as the Irish race. They hold the undisputed world record for long-continued constancy and courage. Let us not forget that Irish patriots bore an important part in all the struggles of the thirteen American colonies for independence. Irish blood was shed on every battlefield of the Seven Years war. The first bold utterance, "Give me liberty or give me death" was the Irish voice of Patrick Henry, the most inspiring, all-pervading, and potent of all patriotic voices of the epoch.

"The first general officer killed in the war of the Revolution was Major General Richarde Montgomery, born in Donegal, Ireland. The first commander of the American navy was John Barry, born in Couth, Wexford, Ireland. Let us not forget that it was Maurice O'Brien, born in Cork, Ireland, whose five sons, hearing of the Battle of Lexington, struck the first blow on water for independence — May 11, 1775 — by capturing a British armed schooner. John Hancock, the first signer off the Declaration of Independence and twice President of the Continental Congress, was the descendent of an Irish emigrant from Ulster. …

Uniontown Morning Herald
Uniontown, Pennsylvania
20 January 1920

The Irish in Newfoundland

THERE have been several large hauls of pilchards on the coast of Kerry — one of 70,000, one of 80,000, and another of 90,000.

… Their Influence in Religions, Government, Trade and Commerce.

BISHOP MULLOCK — PATRIOT.

To me there is something more than passing significance in the fact that, notwithstanding Divine Providence divided the two islands on either side of the Atlantic — those two islands so closely connected by the ties of race and tradition — by the waters of the great Atlantic ocean, science, under the inspiration of the illustrious prelate, Rt. Rev. Dr. Mullock, overcame the great billows and the mighty deep, and, as it were, the Irish race at home clasped hands with the Exiles in Newfoundland, and thus established that connecting link between the Old World and the New, which exists, and shall continue to exist for all time to come.

… very few of us are aware of the important part the great prelate played in the procuring Responsible Government for the Island of Newfoundland. Previous to the granting of this great measure to the people of the Colony, the country was ruled by a clique, who manipulated trade and commerce, the Courts, and every other institution to their own advantage. Dare any man assert his rights! It was only about 1820 that an Irishman or a dissenter (whether Scotch or otherwise) was permitted to build a chimney in his house. There were also many unjust and tyrannical laws passed and enforced which deprived the people, principally Irishmen, of every freedom, whether it was in his civil or religious rights. But Bishop Mullock stamped his foot, and all fair-minded people rallied to his support, and the boon of Responsible Government was granted to our Island in 1854. …

Saint Johns Evening Telegram
Saint Johns, Newfoundland, Canada
15 March 1920

Sheila O'Rourke Northrop is a professional genealogist and President of FamilyTracer.net. She is a long-time member of many genealogical organizations. She specializes in Irish research and genealogical Data Analysis. Sheila's family hails from Counties Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford and Clare.



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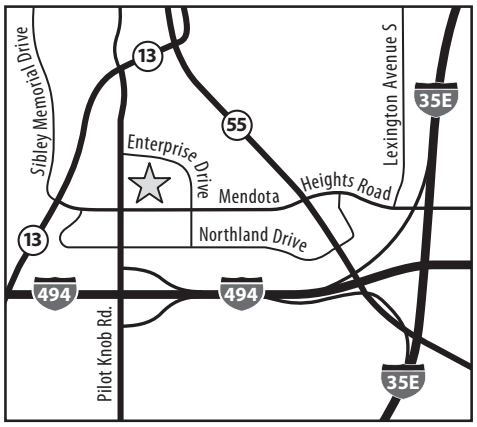
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The library is a self-supporting research library staffed by volunteers. If you are a member of the IGSI and are coming from out of town, contact Librarian@IrishGenealogical.org so we can have an Irish researcher available to meet you.

Volume 41, Number 2

The Septs

APRIL (AIBREÁN) 2020 $10.00



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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Irish Saturdays at the Minnesota Genealogy Center Closed for Now

Your health and safety is our highest priority, so both the Minnesota Genealogy Center and the Hoffman Research Library will remain closed until public health officials advise that it is safe to gather again.

Unfortunately, that means there can be no onsite Irish Saturday research until we reopen.

When that time comes, there may well be changes in layout, policies and practices to ensure your safety and that of our volunteers. We will keep you informed.

In the meantime, check the IGSI website to keep informed. You'll find current information about library and research services as well as eduction programming.

Keep up your research using information from the website and from back issues of *The Septs*.

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Printed in the US.

The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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Layout/Design	Megan McLean	

The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the first of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editor at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

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2020
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Write for *The Septs*

Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 — 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2020 | July | DNA – Deep Dive

Suggestions for articles: How DNA determines the origins of early Irish peoples, who were these early Irish peoples, new knowledge vs myths.
Deadline for articles: May 1, 2020.

2020 | October | Military

Irish constabulary, Irish in British armed forces — WWI and WWII; Irish in other countries' armies; Irish regiments in the U. S. Civil War; discussion of various types of military records.
Deadline for articles: August 1, 2020.

2021 | January | FAN (Family, Associates, Neighbors)

Using information from an ancestor's social circle for genealogical clues: family, associates, neighbors, organizations, and comrades in arms.
Deadline for articles: November 1, 2020.

2021 | April | Setting Family History

Finding material to flesh out a family history: *YouTube*, *Ebay*, letters, local histories, newspapers.
Deadline for articles: February 1, 2021.

Cover Photo: *A Mother's Letters.* © Suzy Hazelwood @ flickr.com.

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We all have been experiencing a time of lockdown and quarantine these past weeks. Each of our experiences shares commonalities, but there are differences. I recently talked with an out-going friend who said she was climbing her apartment walls and appreciated the warmer weather for her daily walks. Mary lives alone and knew that I did as well. She asked how I was doing. Since I have a cat, there is another being in the house — but the conversation is pretty one-sided. My sister-in-law is staying at home, ordering her groceries online, and having them delivered.

It has been a time for reflection and refocusing on priorities. Family becomes more important — whether they are in the same house, in another state, or across the country. We have established new routines for our days.

As IGSI president, I have had some "unusual distractions" during this period. It actually has been a busy few weeks. Many have been the phone calls and emails as the future of the Celtic Connections Conference was debated, discussed, and decided. There were communications with the hotel, with the presenters, and with concerned attendees. After cancelling the event with the hotel, the planning committee forged ahead to learn how to re-create the event virtually. At this writing, the plans for a virtual conference are coming together and more information should be available in May. Check either the IGSI or the conference website for latest updates.

The Minnesota Genealogy Center closed in mid-March in accordance with the Minnesota governor's directive and will remain closed until at least mid-May. This has necessitated cancelling Irish Saturday research days, genealogy classes, and our Irish Tea event. Kathleen Foley is working to provide two webinar classes in late May and June. Check the IGSI website for complete information and registration. Other classes have been rescheduled for September or later.

In the last couple of weeks I have been introduced to Zoom meetings, Google Hangout, and GoToMeeting. These communication options are now among the best-known for virtual connections across the country and the world. We will be exploring how we can use these with IGSI for our members. Please share your ideas and any expertise you may be able to offer.

I wish you all well — health and safe spaces — until we travel more freely.

In Memoriam – Diane Lovrencevic

Those of you who have been members of IGSI for 10 years or more will remember Diane Lovrencevic.

Although short in stature, Diane was a dynamo in action and influential in the development and success of the Society from just after 2004 until 2013 when she and her husband relocated to Wisconsin. Through her involvement and commitment she left her mark on IGSI.

- From early 2005 to mid-2013, Diane served as Layout Editor for *The Septs*. Her work to improve the layout and appearance of the journal contributed to national recognition of our journal by the National Genealogical Society in 2008 and in 2011. We were — and still are — an award-winning journal.
- As Volunteer Coordinator for the Society from 2006-2008, Diane planned large recognition events to honor members' contributions in those years. She instituted the Beth Mullinax Award with Beth as the first recipient.
- Diane served as Membership Chair in 2008 and 2009.
- From 2008 to 2012 Diane served as IGSI's Website Editor and instituted changes and improvements to the website during those four years.
- Diane launched the e-newsletter *Ginealas* in 2008, serving as its first editor for two years.
- She organized IGSI's September 2010 Research Trip to Ireland as well as a research trip to Salt Lake City.

While she has been gone from the area for a number of years, IGSI leaders recall her achievements and influence. Let us do so one more time.

Lovrencevic, Diane 8/24/1952 - 4/28/2020 Fond Du Lac Preceded in death by her son, Joel. She is survived by her husband Joe and her son Jeff (Gina). She is also survived by her grandchildren, Jennifer, Kyra and Ashley. She was the kindest and most loving person we knew.

What is Your Family Story?

By Ann Eccles

As the Midwest winter came to an end this year, the coronavirus of 2020 arrived to extend the stay-at-home activity of many Minnesotans. It wasn't the cold temperatures outside that made us seek refuge in our homes and apartments. It was medical precautions to safeguard against a highly contagious disease. And it's not just Minnesota. Our medically influenced hibernation extends across the country and around the world.

We are living history as we persist through this time of quarantine and self-hibernation. We are the frontline witnesses. Have we taken the time to record some of our experiences, thoughts, and reactions for our family story? Whether fact-filled stories, impressions about personal, local or national events, or reactions to the world situation — all are the elements of family history for 2020.

Some of us may have found opportunities to catch up on genealogical 'good intentions' — organizing files or old photos, digitizing materials to reduce office clutter, updating a family tree, making connections with DNA cousins, or working on some other project. Some may have considered writing a part or all of their family story or look for publication hints to share their writing.

There are many options for publishing family history and genealogy. A printed book format is no longer the only option. Other possibilities are to use web-based publishing, either creating a website and posting the family information there, creating an e-book, or looking at other options. Self-publishing now provides for an "on-demand" situation so the cost of printing large numbers of books is no longer a worry.

In this issue, Lois Mackin encourages us to keep our audience in mind as we write. Do we want to introduce our grandchildren to their immigrant ancestors? Or to publish a genealogy lineage for our family? Do we want to share a particular story about an ancestor with extended family or the community where the ancestor lived? Or do we want to share our research trail that uncovered new discoveries? We need to set our story details according to our audience.

In another article, Elizabeth Gomoll discusses publishing her grandfather's letters from World War I and how she decided to share them. Working with a local historical society or even self-publishing are options that one can consider. Harold Hinds reviews different focuses to use when writing a family history in the reprinted chapter from his book on his family ancestors.

We can take inspiration from these articles and delve into a spate of writing — or at least outlining the story/stories we want to write about our families.

For those wishing to make a trip to Ireland for research or for pleasure, Randi Mary Helgesen shares her travel experience to Ireland with friends last fall. There's also some Society updates and news. So take a few moments to focus on something other than the latest facts and figures on the news. Enjoy this break.



Family, © RebeccaVC1@flickr.com



Ann Eccles is a retired librarian who has re-focused her research skills to family history and Irish genealogy. She has several Irish ancestral lines to trace as both of her parents descended from Irish families. Ann currently serves as IGSI President and continues to serve as the editor of The Septs.

Writing for Your Audience

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

The most important thing a writer needs is to know who they are writing for! In other words, who is their audience? The logical follow-on is, what does the audience want? Audience dictates not only the content of a written work, but also the manner in which it is presented, and the medium for its delivery.

Before you write, always identify your audience. Jot down some thoughts about them and their needs, wants, and desires. One way to bring some consistency to this is using the five-W approach many of us learned in elementary school.

Here are some five-W questions for defining the audience for your family history writing – who are they, what do they want to see, where are they likely to look for information, when do they want access, why would they be interested in your information. This information about your audience can help you decide how to craft your work for maximum readership.

These examples highlight differences among audiences:

- When your audience is your genealogical society
  - Who are they – other family historians.
  - What do they want to see – information about family history research. They are more interested in the sources and methods you used to solve your family history problems than in what you discovered about your family. They care about sources and source citations.
  - Where are they likely to use information – they look for information in your society journals or newsletters, possibly linked to society blog and other social media posts.
  - When do they want access – they like access on demand, but typically read publications when they are published.
  - Why are they interested – they want to learn about resources and techniques they can apply to their own research, and they want to see examples of well-written family history.
- When your audience is your relatives
  - Who are they – people related to you.
  - What do they want to see – information about your/their family, presented in a straightforward, easy-to-understand format. (It might be best to avoid giving them numbered genealogy reports and articles full of footnotes.)
  - Where are they likely to use information – they want information delivered to their own space. Depending on their age and technological skills, they may prefer paper/printed media, or they may prefer information online/via social media. Younger relatives may use smartphones but not computers.
  - When do they want access – at their convenience.
  - Why are they interested – They will be most interested when information you provide hooks onto their interests and is presented in an appealing way.

I recently started experimenting with writing family histories for my children's eight great-grandparents. So far I've achieved second-draft versions of two and circulated them to my kids, who are thirty-something, to get their reaction and ask if they would like me to write a complete set of eight. One has a computer and smartphone, and one just has a smartphone.

I decided to create the family histories as Word documents and printed them as 8 ½ x 11 spiral-bound documents with covers. Here are my decisions about the project:

- Goal: an approximately 50-page history of each great-grandparent's family
- Scope: from the great-grandparent to either the immigrant or the earliest known ancestor in the family
- Organization: generation-by-generation, starting with the great-grandparent as generation 1. Each generational chapter was organized in four sections, starting with a biography of the great-grandparent, then a brief description of his/her siblings, a list of surviving photos and heirlooms, and last a section on sources and information
- Documentation: while my children are not at all interested in the sources of information, I found myself unable to eliminate source citations, so I fell back on using endnotes in each chapter.

Presentation style: I tried for a fairly informal expository style, using the first-person pronoun for my own recollections/personal knowledge.

- "Hooks": I tried to include

- Descriptive references to places my children have visited/heard about, including specifics about churches and houses they have seen
- Photos of people, places, and objects connected with the family, along with explanatory text
- Family stories that include humor or show insight into the character of family members.

The following figures are samples of the reports. The children's verdict on the drafts was that they were worth producing more of.

If I were writing for grandchildren in elementary school I would choose a much more informal presentation and a more pictorial format, perhaps styled after an illustrated children's book. I might recast the biographical chapters in the form of stories with the ancestor as the protagonist. If I were artistically talented I could create illustrations; instead of showing photos of the quilts my grandfather pieced, I could draw a little blond boy in a bed piecing a quilt square. I would include information about family pets and farm animals (maybe even inventing some). Photos and illustrations could be made into a video, with voiceover narration.

High schoolers might also like video presentation and might even be persuaded to help create it. Whether the final product was a video, a VLOG[1], or a written format modeled on a coffee-table book, keeping chapters short, choosing illustrations of interest to teens, and highlighting aspects of their ancestors' lives that somehow connect with theirs would be important features.

If I were to convert the reports I've already written to a form intended for a broader, adult family audience, here are things I would change:

- Goal: instead of limiting page count to a number my children



LOIS ABROMITIS MACKIN, PH.D.

From stories Emerson told later, life on the farm sounds very pleasant (although everyone worked hard). In one story, some turkey pults were being raised. He and Emily decided to help by feeding the pults some young, tender grass. Apparently grass has a sedative effect on baby turkeys, and they all collapsed into unconsciousness, to the consternation of the adults.

Emerson's grandfather used to take the spring wagon, shown in the photo above, into Tamaqua to sell vegetables raised on the farm. Little Emerson was allowed to come with him, sell watercress he picked in the streams near the farm, and keep the money he received—the first of many jobs.

When he was four years old Emerson fell on an icy pond and developed "blood poisoning." While he was sick, on bed rest, his mother gave him quilt tops to piece. She later added batting and backing and quilted them. When I was a child there were three or four of these quilts in use at the lake. These photos show the last surviving quilt, which became too moldy and musty to preserve.

In 1910 Absalom sold the farm[12] and went to live with his older daughter Luella (Whetstone) Stewart in Quakake,[13] where he died in 1915.[14]

Eva and the two children moved into Tamaqua, where Eva worked as a tailor and furrier for Scheid's department store.[15] In 1910 the little family lived on Spruce Street in a rented house.[16] As children, Emerson and Emily worked in Tamaqua's silk mill to help make ends meet. At a very early age, Emerson began his association with the railroad as a runner who woke the engineers and train crews to make sure they made their work schedules.[17] From September 1915 to August 1918, he worked as a messenger for the Reading Company, first in the Tamaqua telegraph department, then in the transport department of the Shamokin division. From



In this winter view of the chimney side of the house, with Lois Neifert (on sled) and Byron Woodbridge in front of the chimney, you can see the lakeside porch of Uncle Bob's cottage, sited in what is now the side yard, in the foreground, and the side wall of the White Beauty View icehouse behind the back porch. Notice that the house stops at the lakeside wall of the living room, the back porch is unenclosed, and there is no cellar, just lattice extending from the floor level to the ground.

Lois and Byron were part of a gang of area kids who waterskied, snow-skied, ice-boated, boated, fished, and generally enjoyed the lake and its environs year-round. The list of guests in the EILIN scrapbook shows visits from Neifert and Weaver family members and friends. Emerson's mother Eva, along with Emily and Earl Woodbridge and Byron Woodbridge, were regulars. Before the sunporch was built (and perhaps after, since the sunporch was originally furnished as a living room) Lois and her grandmother slept on a bed in the living room. The Woodbridge family had the roadside bedroom, and Emerson and Irene had the chimney-side bedroom.

L.-r.: Lois and friends; Earl Woodbridge, Irene Neifert, Eva Neifert, Emerson Neifert on the picnic platform; Lois and friends on the beach; Lois and friends on the stairs from the back porch.

In 1943 Lois graduated from Tamaqua High School. Because of Emerson's saving and investment she was able to attend the college of her choice, the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, intending to become an aeronautical engineer. When she found that she liked neither Ann Arbor nor engineering, Emerson paid for her transfer to Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where her cousin Byron Woodbridge was already a student.

[photo] Lois graduated from Duke in 1947, with her parents attending. After a brief stint teaching junior high in Falls Church, Virginia, she returned to Tamaqua and lived with her parents and grandmother until her marriage.

Emerson's mother-in-law Mary (Trewren) Weaver died in 1948. Irene and her brother Daniel sold the East Broad Street house. Emerson and Irene moved into the Elwood Apartments on Schuylkill Avenue, built by Irene's father in the early 1900s. They lived in a first-floor two-bedroom apartment facing Schuylkill Avenue and March Chunk Street until 1968.

Sample pages from Lois Mackin's family stories

might possibly read, I would create however many pages are needed.

- Scope and organization: While the scope would be the same as the adult children's version, I would change the organization to provide equal exposure to all the siblings in a generation, not just my direct line. It would be useful to reach out to the descendants of the other siblings, especially in the chapters about the more recent generations. For more distant generations, a decision would need to be made whether to bring descendants forward.
- Documentation: I would consider switching from chapter endnotes to chapter footnotes.
- Presentation style: I would make the presentation style more formal, probably using "the author" instead of the first person for personal knowledge or recollections.
- "Hooks": With a broader audience, I wouldn't know what places readers might be familiar with. Instead of descriptions, I might include maps. I would still include photos but would likely eliminate most of the family stories.

For a genealogical audience I'd move even more toward formality, choosing footnotes over endnotes. It might become preferable to change the organization and come forward in time from an ancestor, say an immigrant ancestor, rather than going backward in time from one or a group of siblings. Alternatively, I could change the focus of a generational chapter from biography to a genealogical problem or problems encountered in creating the biography.

Endnote

[1] Video blog

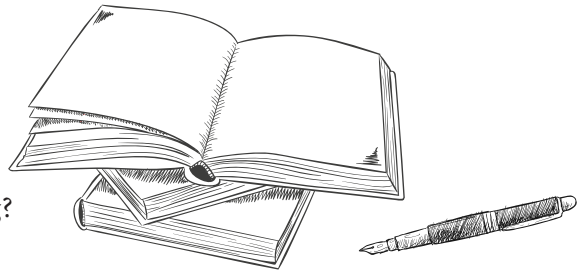
Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*



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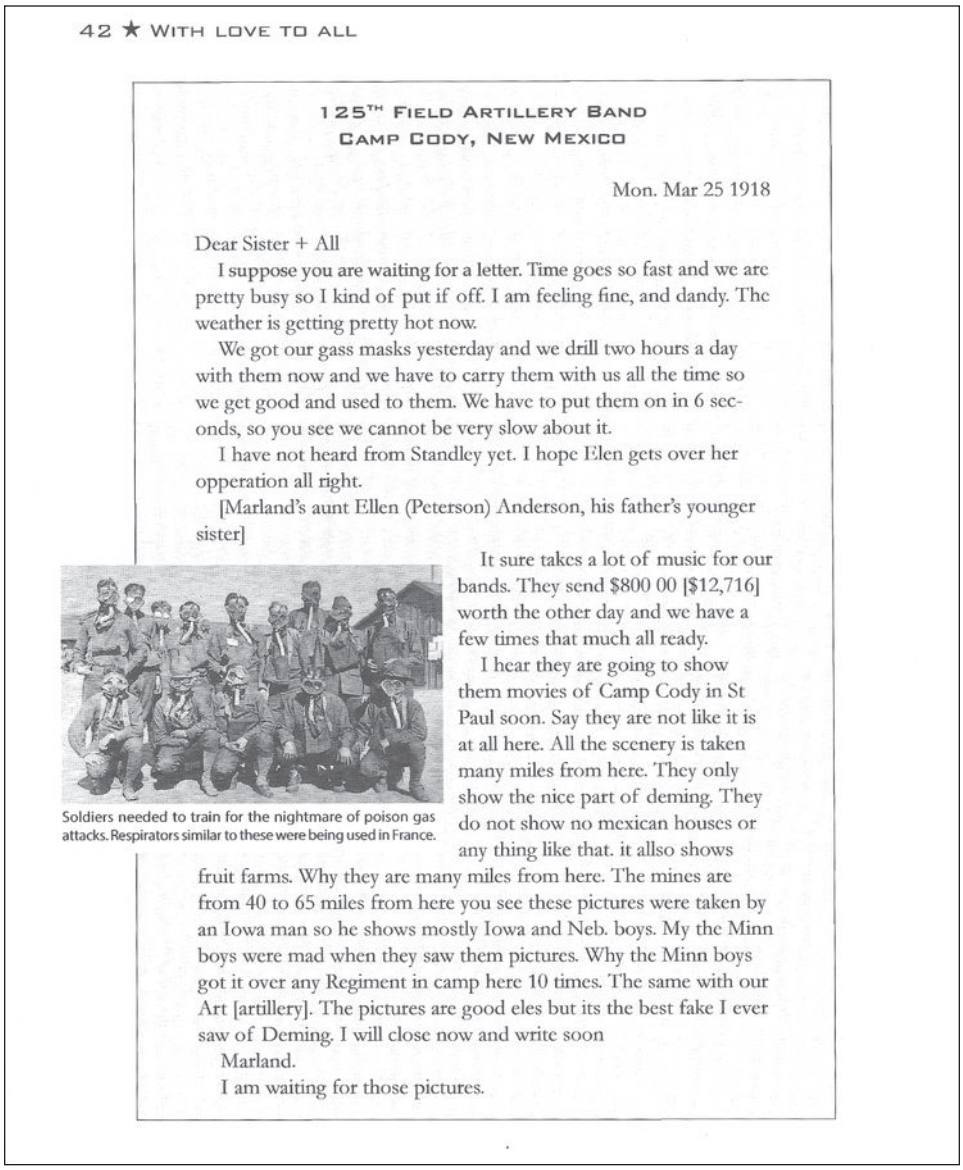
Publishing Grampa's Letters

by Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, CG®

Intentionally or not, a genealogist is often bestowed with the title Family Archivist. Relatives are only too glad to hand off all sorts of things. "Here, you should have this." Sometimes those things are genealogy gold. Other times, after inspection and a polite "thank you," they go straight into the recycling bin.

One such handoff was a pile of letters dated 1917 to 1919 written by my grandfather and his brother while serving in the U.S. Army during the Great War. There were 89 of them, many still in their original envelopes. Genealogy gold! The letters written by my grandfather, eighteen years old at the time, were scrawled in pencil on Red Cross and USO stationery. His older brother was a supply sergeant, so most of his letters were neatly typed.

After reading about their mundane/dramatic war experiences in boot camp and later in France, I knew other family members would find these tales as fascinating as I had. The question: pass them around in plastic protector sleeves (sure to get held up by some too-busy relative), scan and photocopy the letters (big job, mediocre result), or transcribe them?



42 ★ WITH LOVE TO ALL

125TH FIELD ARTILLERY BAND
CAMP CODY, NEW MEXICO

Mon. Mar 25 1918

Dear Sister + All

I suppose you are waiting for a letter. Time goes so fast and we are pretty busy so I kind of put if off. I am feeling fine, and dandy. The weather is getting pretty hot now.

We got our gass masks yesterday and we drill two hours a day with them now and we have to carry them with us all the time so we get good and used to them. We have to put them on in 6 seconds, so you see we cannot be very slow about it.

I have not heard from Standley yet. I hope Elen gets over her opperation all right.

[Marland's aunt Ellen (Peterson) Anderson, his father's younger sister]

Soldiers needed to train for the nightmare of poison gas attacks. Respirators similar to these were being used in France.

It sure takes a lot of music for our bands. They send $800 00 [$12,716] worth the other day and we have a few times that much all ready.

I hear they are going to show them movies of Camp Cody in St Paul soon. Say they are not like it is at all here. All the scenery is taken many miles from here. They only show the nice part of deming. They do not show no mexican houses or any thing like that. it allso shows fruit farms. Why they are many miles from here. The mines are from 40 to 65 miles from here you see these pictures were taken by an Iowa man so he shows mostly Iowa and Neb. boys. My the Minn boys were mad when they saw them pictures. Why the Minn boys got it over any Regiment in camp here 10 times. The same with our Art [artillery]. The pictures are good eles but its the best fake I ever saw of Deming. I will close now and write soon

Marland.

I am waiting for those pictures.

Sample letter from the book

The hundred-year-old paper was fragile and the handwriting sometimes faded and difficult to decipher, so transcription was the logical choice – every word and dot, exactly as written, spelling errors and all. Karma smiled upon this labor of love. A couple weeks after all the letters had been transcribed, a large cardboard box arrived unexpectedly from an estranged relative. The family archive suddenly expanded to accommodate more gold.

One of the items in the box was an old album with a soft black leather cover. Foreshadowing: embossed *in gold* in the top left corner was the word "Photographs." Inside were more than 300 small snapshots carefully adhered with corner seals to black paper pages. It was soon obvious the album had belonged to my grandfather, and these photographs captured the very events and men described in his letters. The photos had to be included with the transcriptions. The question escalated: how to best share the now visually enriched material with the family.

Karma smiled again. Because the brothers had a strong connection to Red Wing, Minnesota, the photograph album, letters, and transcriptions were laid out in front of the executive director of the Goodhue County Historical Society with the enthusiastic suggestion the society should publish the collection as a book. After the GCHS Board of Directors endorsed the project, the executive director put me in touch with a historian, a graphic artist, and

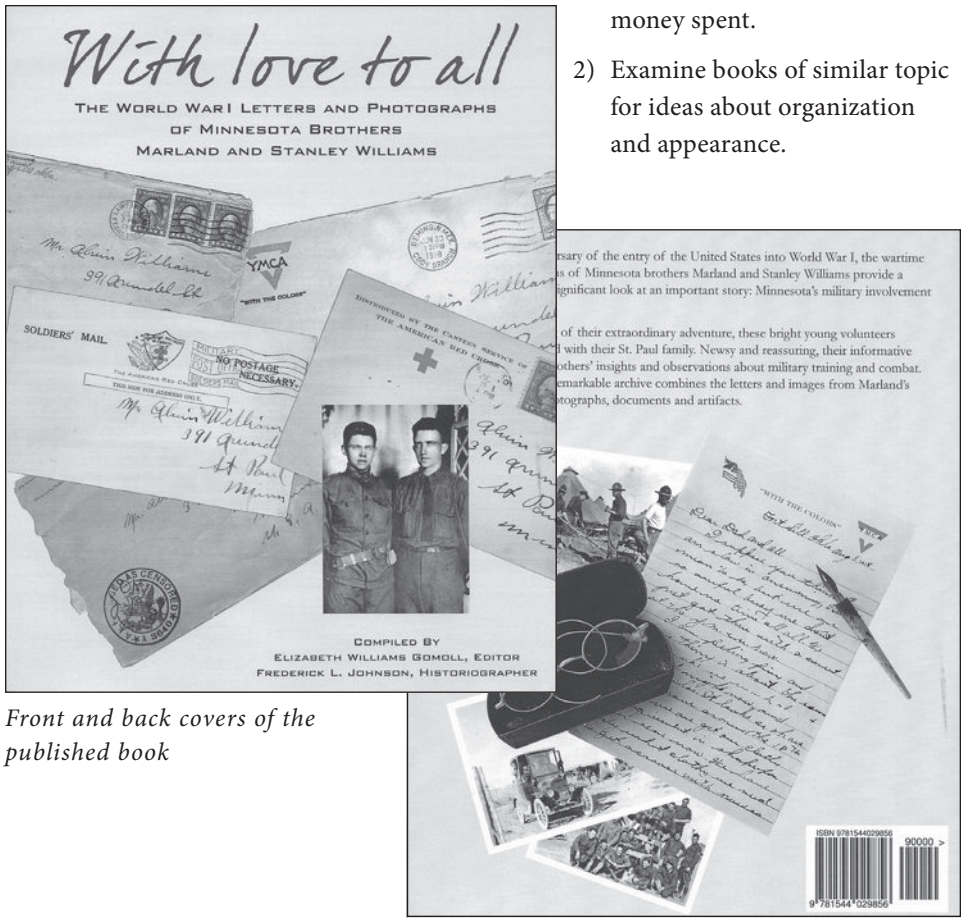
a layout editor, all of whom had worked on other books for the society. GCHS even paid for a professional indexer.

This team and I collaborated on the many decisions involved with the book: font types and sizes (recommend not more than three different fonts), how to arrange the letters (we chose chronological), where to insert photographs and how to caption them, and how the front and back covers would look. The historian wrote sidebars to explain events mentioned in the letters. The graphic artist and layout person designed a "scrapbook" section to contain additional photos and documents not included in the chapters. The most tedious job was proofreading the layout several times.

Several months of teamwork resulted in a finished digital manuscript which was uploaded for printing to an *Amazon* company called *CreateSpace*. This company prints on demand, so a person orders only the number of copies desired. *Amazon* also posts the book for sale on its website. Because the Goodhue County society assumed all of the responsibility for publication, I was content with a modest stipend in exchange for seeing the letters and photos preserved and available in print as *With Love to All, the World War I Letters and Photographs of Minnesota Brothers Marland and Stanley Williams.*

Seven takeaways:

1) If you have letters, photographs, documents, or stories that merit preservation and an audience, find a way to publish, whether as photocopies or as a book. When it is finished, you won't regret the time, energy, and money spent.
2) Examine books of similar topic for ideas about organization and appearance.
3) Self-publish a book through one of the many businesses catering to private authors. (Google "self publish.")
4) Look for an organization with a connection to your project as a potential partner. Your chances of that organization publishing your book will be greatly improved if it has previously produced similar books. (If you don't ask, they can't say yes.)
5) Don't publish to get rich. You probably won't. Publish to preserve the material.
6) Offer to donate a copy of your published material to any repositories associated with your subject.
7) Short of printing an actual book, digitized images and scanned documents are an effective way to preserve and share your materials with others.



Front and back covers of the published book

Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, CG, is president of the Association for Professional Genealogists Northland Chapter, and co-editor of the Minnesota Genealogist journal. Liz serves on the Minnesota Genealogical Society Board of Directors and is a member of several national and ethnic genealogical societies. She researches professionally as Red Bird Genealogy Services (www.RedBirdGen.com).



Pre-Tested Models for Presenting a Personal Family History

by Harold G Hinds, Jr.

This chapter is a reprint from the author's book, with permission.

Crafting a Personal Family History – A Guide Plus a Case Study: Three Generations of the Hinds Family in New York's Adirondack Mountains by Harold E. Hinds, Jr. Elizabethtown, New York: Essex County Historical Society, 2011.

Here are a baker's dozen of alternative models for presenting a personal family history. All of these models have been market tested: all were publishing successes. But do not feel constrained to choose just one model. You may wish to combine several models for your own personal family history.

An outstanding example of each model will be briefly presented, followed by a few additional recommended book-length titles using the same approach. In highlighting one example of each model, only those aspects of that volume which illustrate the essential qualities of the model will be singled out. But keep in mind that all the volumes listed are fine family histories and good reads cover-to-cover. Finally, note that the choice of one approach over another depends on the story to be told and on the relevant evidence that has survived.

Chronological Organization

John Egerton, *Generations: An American Family* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1983).

Egerton, an author of popular histories, sought out an American family whose collective memory spanned the American experience from the years before the American Revolution until the 1970s. The recollections of Burnam Ledford (101) and his wife Addie King (93) of Garrard, Kentucky, and the memories of their living kin, together provided a largely oral history of a family spanning some 250 years and nine generations. This is basically the approach that I used in *Crafting a Personal Family History – A Guide Plus a Case Study: Three Generations of the Hinds Family in New York's Adirondack Mountains* (2011).

Other recommended examples of this type:

Alan MacFarlane, *The Family Life of Ralf Josselin: A Seventeenth-Century Clergyman.* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1970).

Ian Frazier, *Family* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1994).

An Emphasis on a Geographical Setting: Either a Particular Place or a Region

John McPhee, *The Crofter and the Laird* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1970).

There was a collective memory among the McPhees in the U.S. that they were descended from the McPhees of Colonsay Island in the Hebrides. But no records survived which would allow a line of descent to be established, because the McDonalds had conquered the island and destroyed "all records". John McPhee and his family "returned" for a year to the ancestral island. He could not connect himself to anyone living on the island. And he recognized that his connection, and that of the McPhees, to the island might be only "a sentimental myth". So in place of a family lineage and history, he provided a family setting, by lyrically describing the island's terrain, people, myths, and "history". When one hits a brick wall and only a location is known, this at least places a family in its geographical setting. I combined a geographical and chronological approach in my own case study, *Crafting a Personal Family History*…

Other recommended examples, all of which illustrate cases in which there is an abundance of family information and primarily just one geographical setting:

Willard R. Espy, *Oysterville: Roads to Grandpa's Village* (New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., Publishers, 1977).

Shannon Applegate, *Skookum: An Oregon Pioneer Family's History and Lore* (New York: William Morrow, 1988).

A Series of Biographical Portraits

Lynn A. Bonfield and Mary C. Morrison, *Roxana's Children: The Biography of a Nineteenth-Century Vermont Family* (Amherst, MA: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1995).

Roxana's Children relates the story of Roxana Brown Walbridge Watts (1802-1862) a farm wife in Peacham, Vermont, and of the twelve children she raised: nine of her own, two step-children and

one grandchild. Drawing on a rich lode of primary materials (letters, diaries, photographs) the authors tell life stories of the mother and children in considerable detail, devoting a separate chapter to the mother and each of the children. Since the materials from which family histories can be reconstructed often cluster respectively around parents and their children's families, serial biography is a very effective organizational tool for presenting a personal family history. I combined chronological, geographical, and a limited serial biography approach to my own case study.

Other recommended examples:

Willard R. Espy, *Oysterville: Roads to Grandpa's Village* (New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., Publishers, 1977).

John Egerton, *Generations: An American Family* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1983).

Oral History

Richard White, *Remembering Ahanagran: Storytelling in a Family's Past* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1998).

White, a well-known American historian, tells his mother's life story, from a peasant childhood in Kerry, Ireland, to immigration to Chicago, to her marriage during World War II to Harry White, himself the son of Russian Jewish immigrants and a graduate of Harvard. The book is overwhelmingly based on oral history, and especially on his mother's stories. But they are retold by the author, who was only able to test his mother's version of the past on the few occasions for which surviving historical documentation allows it. Oral history often is all that we have for at least a portion of our family's past, so do not ignore it. My grandfather's stories are one key source for my case study.

Other recommended examples:

Bridget Connolly, *Forgetting Ireland* (St. Paul, MN: Borealis Books, 2003).

John Egerton, *Generations: An American Family* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1983).

A Split between a Narrative Family History and a Genealogy

Nancy Wagoner Dixon, *Palatine Roots: The 1710 German Settlement in New York as Experienced by Johann Peter Wagner* (Camden, ME: Picton Press, 1994).

Dixon traced the life and migration of Wagner, with his family, from 1709 in the German Palatinate to England, on to New York City, and then to the Schoharie River Valley, and finally up the Mohawk River to Fort Wagner and Wagner's death sometime after 1750. This book is an excellent example of reconstructing a life when only a few traces survive in official documents, when there is no oral history, and when traces can be embedded in what is generally known about a larger population. Her family history is followed by a detailed, although only partially documented, genealogy. Since more fully-conceived personal family histories, at least from the viewpoint of a genealogist, tend to grow out of genealogies, this dual approach is an excellent model for genealogists. I adopted Dixon's model in principle in *Crafting a Personal Family History*, although I do not redocument facts in the genealogy already fully documented in the family history.

Other recommended examples:

Peter Haring Judd, *The Hatch and Brood of Time: Five Phelps Families in the Atlantic World, 1720-1880* (Boston, MA: Newbury Street Press, 1999). Judd's genealogy is fully documented, even though it essentially duplicates the family history text.

Surviving "Texts" Largely Tell the Story

Carol Blesser (ed), *The Hammonds of Redcliffe* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1981).

The Hammonds of Redcliffe is the story of a South Carolina plantation family and their descendants who had a strong attachment to their plantation home, Redcliffe. The editor selected nearly 200 "candid and compelling" letters from a trove of over 7,000 "to tell a continuous [family] story from the decade prior to the Civil War through that of the New Deal". The letters basically tell the Hammonds' family story, although the editor lightly edits them, adds explanatory footnotes, and adds a short introduction for each generation. If your family kept an extensive file of correspondence or kept diaries; and if these documents depict the family's everyday life and illuminate ties between husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, parents and children, mothers and daughters, and fathers and sons; then this model may be ideally suited to you, assuming that you are willing to properly introduce, edit, and annotate the collection. In *Crafting a Personal Family History*, although I had only a few letters, and no diaries, to draw upon, I did reproduce one key surviving document in its entirety, the unfinished biography of Sarah (Galusha) Hinds' father, Rev. William Galusha.

Other recommended examples:

Catherine Hanf Noren, *The Camera of My Family* (New York: Knopf, 1976).

Alan MacFarlane, *The Family Life of Ralf Josselin: A Seventeenth-Century Clergyman.* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1970).

History with a Moral Point

Edward Ball, *Slaves in the Family* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998).

Slaves in the Family seeks to tell the story of the Ball family, who owned rice plantations on the Cooper River in South Carolina, 1764 and after. It also tries to tell the story of the black slaves who worked these plantations and made several generations of Balls wealthy. Edward Ball is a descendant of these slave owners and has traced his Ball family history down over the years. He also attempted to trace the descendants of Ball slaves, hopefully down to the present, including mulatto Ball descendants. Ball, however, is not just interested in tracing lines of descent, but also in making it clear that slavery was "an evil business". And he seeks to somehow atone for his ancestors' ownership of slaves. This is a particularly difficult approach, for often one person's morality may be another's bigotry. However, if your personal family history could be organized around a moral theme – say, Crime Doesn't Pay – it might be worth considering.

Other recommended examples:

Boynton Merrill, Jr., *Jefferson's Nephews: A Frontier Tragedy* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1976).

A Visual Family History

Catherine Hanf Noren, *The Camera of My Family* (New York: Knopf, 1976).

The Camera of My Family relates the history of a wealthy Jewish family from around the 1840s in Germany to the early 1970s when, because of the Holocaust, the family has been scattered all over the world, including the U.S. This is overwhelmingly a visual history: it features photos plus captions and occasional texts, often excerpts from family or personal histories. Visuals are not restricted to photos of all sorts of people and places. They also include photographs of key family documents, newspaper clippings, school assignments, menus, letters, etc. Literally, the photos tell the story. Of course, the author as editor has selected only a few photos for inclusion, has artistically arranged and displayed these photos, and has framed them with identifying captions. If you have a cache of old family photos and at least a representative sample of them are identified, this may be an attractive model.

Even if you settle on a different model, adding appropriate visuals always enhances the text. And by all means incorporate key visuals, such as the three-generation photo that years ago elicited my grandfather's story and ignited my interest, which would eventually lead to *Crafting a Personal Family History*.

Other recommended examples:

Colin Gordon, *A Rich Life: Echoes from and Edwardian Album* (London: Elm Tree Books, 1978).

Marjorie L. McLellan, *Six Generations Here: A Farm Family Remembers* (Madison, WI: Wisconsin State Historical Society, 1997).

History Woven around Family Heirlooms and Material Culture

William Towner Morgan, *Salt Lantern: Traces of an American Family* (Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa, 1997).

Morgan traced his family back to Scotland and Ireland, and then across the U.S. from Vermont to North Dakota. He drew on a wide range of traditional sources. But because "most of our family's diaries, letters, and heirlooms, including the family Bible, have been lost or given away" he, of necessity, had to rely heavily on material culture. A salt lantern's image of a house turned out to be a key source. Indeed, prized possessions, handed down and often quarreled over, can tell or frame a personal family story.

Other recommended examples:

Jane W. Fickling, comp and ed., *Recipes from Old Charleston: Catherine Lee Banks Edwards (1793-1863) Charleston, South Carolina* (Birmingham, AL: Banner Press, 1989).

A House or Farm as a Focal Point

Multigenerational houses or farms are ideal candidates for this genre. But I have yet to discover a truly outstanding book in this category.

Susan Applegate's *Skookum* (1988) has already been mentioned as a recommended example of "An Emphasis on a Geographical Setting". It contains a chapter entitled "A House Divided" which focuses on the house which Charles Applegate built in 1851 in Yoncalla, Oregon.

But Susan Applegate's television interview in Part 2, "Looking Home", of the made-for-TV series "Ancestors" (1997), is by far the best example, since the house is *the* focal point. The house is not just a backdrop or setting for her story; rather the house and its contents, which have been accumulating since the 1850s, are essential to telling the family story.

Other recommended examples, both of farms:

John Hildebrand, *Mapping the Farm: The Chronology of a Family* (New York: Knopf, 1995).

Marjorie L. McLellan, *Six Generations Here: A Farm Family Remembers* (Madison, WI: Wisconsin State Historical Society, 1997).

Family History as a Process of Discovery

Nan Weber, *Mattie: A Woman's Journey West* (Moose, WY: Homestead Publishing, 1997).

Nan Weber discovered a solitary tombstone in Yellowstone National Park that read "Mattie S, wife of E.C. Culver, died March 2, 1899, aged 30 years." She was so intrigued that she set out to reconstruct Mattie's story. Her detective work was outstanding in its use of traditional genealogical sources, in its use of some unusual sources, and in its discovery of a life that stretched from New England textile mills, to western homesteading, and finally living in Yellowstone National Park. However, the author does not just give the reader a distillation of her sources' information into a life story. In addition, she shares the hunt, the unraveling of the mystery of Mattie. This approach is a favorite of mine, but it is not easy to employ. It demands incredible finesse as a "who-done-it" author, and a talent for keeping good track of the process of discovery and not just the results of those discoveries.

Other recommended examples:

Roger Mitchell, *Clear Pond: The Reconstruction of a Life* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1991).

Alan Weisman, *An Echo in My Blood: The Search for a Family's Past* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1999).

Family Histories with an Ethnic Focus

H. Arnold Barton, *The Search for Ancestors: A Swedish-American Saga* (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1979).

Barton traced his family back from the heart of Swedish America in Gowrie, Iowa, to their ancestral home in Sweden. He was interested in not just reconstructing the family over four centuries, but also in discovering the family's Swedish roots and in the reasons for their immigration to the U.S. He also analyzed the lives of Svensson's American-born descendants to reveal the extent to which they had preserved their Swedish heritage.

Heritage, then, is not just a quaint backdrop to the Svensson family history, but a living presence. This model will probably have a special appeal for those whose ancestors arrived in the U.S. mid-nineteenth century and after, for those whose families have only partially melted into the American way of life, and for those who can trace their ancestors back across the Atlantic or Pacific oceans. This model could also appeal to those whose Native American origins have been well preserved.

Other recommended examples for various ethnic groups:

Duong Van Mai Elliott, *The Sacred Willow: Four Generations in the Life of a Vietnamese Family* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).

Anita M. Mallinckrodt, *From Knights to Pioneers: One German Family in Westphalia and Missouri* (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1994).

Dorothy Spruell Redford, *Somerset Homecoming: Recovering a Lost Heritage* (New York: Doubleday, 1988).

Richard White, *Remembering Ahanagran: Storytelling in a Family's Past* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1998).

Lauren Kessler, *Stubborn Twig: Three Generations of a Japanese American Family* (New York: Random House, 1993).

Notoriety: Fame, Crime, Illness, etc.

John Sedgewick, *In My Blood: Six Generations of Madness and Desire in an American Family* (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2007).

Sedgewick documents a family history of frequent suicides, depression, and bipolar tendencies. He traced the family mental history back to Ephraim William's delusional buying spree in 1752. Ephraim probably suffered from hypomania, a low-grade version of full-blown mania. This trait has passed down to the author himself, who suffers from hypomania.

Other recommended examples:

Paul Nagel, *Descent from Glory: Four Generations of the John Adams Family* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1983).

Gay Talese, *Honor Thy Father* (New York: World Publishing, 1971).

Harold E Hinds, Jr., Distinguished Professor of History (Emeritus), University of Minnesota-Morris, currently resides in Portland, Oregon, where he serves in a variety of capacities with the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. He currently is researching a book-length family history of his wife's Wood ancestors.



Traveling in Ireland with Friends

by Randi Mary Helgesen

My prior trips to Ireland were with family, my husband and my sister. Last September I returned to Ireland for a two week vacation with three friends (Martha, Louise, and Barb), none of whom had previously been to Ireland. In the itinerary I tried to include as many "must-see" places as possible. We flew in and out of Dublin and I pre-booked hotels in Dublin for four nights and in Belfast for three nights. The middle six nights of our trip we pre-booked bed-and-breakfasts: two rooms, two people to a room to reduce costs.

At one of our two pre-trip meetings Louise was the only person with a wish list: Dublin's Phoenix Park and a tour of the Waterford Crystal factory. We also discussed and agreed the best way to overcome jet-lag was to leave home well rested, drink no alcohol on the plane, stay hydrated with water; on arrival take a good walk in fresh air and stay awake until an early local bedtime.

Our grand adventure began Sunday, September 1st when Aer Lingus landed at 7 AM. None of us managed to sleep on the plane, but that was OK – WE WERE IN DUBLIN.



Louise, Martha, Randi Mary and Barb in Dublin

Our pre-arranged driver picked us up and delivered us to our hotel across from St. Stephen's Green. The weather was perfect, sunny with a light breeze, so we dropped off our luggage and took a stroll through St. Stephen's Green. We wandered around Merrion Square and the Trinity College area, up Grafton Street to the Liffey and eventually to the Temple Bar area. Dublin was crazy busy with bundles of balloons hanging on buildings and great crowds of people everywhere. A friendly fellow told us, "This very afternoon is the football (soccer) Super Bowl between Dublin and Kerry!" The game ended in a tie so a rematch was scheduled two weeks later on September 14th.[1] We had dinner that night in a charming family-owned restaurant, Dunne & Crescenzi's; all four of us highly recommend it for lunch or dinner. After walking back to our hotel we had walked 6,750 steps, according to a Fitbit. I think we were probably all sound asleep by 9 PM.

The next morning (Monday, Sept. 2) after a restful sleep and "full Irish" breakfast (eggs, bacon, sausage, black pudding, baked beans, tomatoes, mushrooms and tea or coffee), we took a leisurely walk before we taxied to Connelly Station for the train to Belfast. We had pre-booked a coach tour of the Antrim Coast and Giant's Causeway for the next morning. After we settled into our rooms, we looked for someplace wonderful to eat dinner; Howard Street restaurant was that place! My dinner was only 16 Pound sterling ($19.49 US).

We were up early and out of the door Tuesday morning for the 9½ hour coach tour along the Irish Sea and North Channel. It was a beautiful drive and an interesting walk at Giant's Causeway. We went to Bushmill's for lunch and spent

1½ hours at Carrick-A-Rede rope bridge. Dinner was at the Crown Liquor Saloon in Belfast. This day was my Irish Auntie Mimi's birthday; she would have been 105, and sadly she never had the opportunity to visit Ireland.

Martha later told me that our tour of the beautiful Belfast City Hall was one of several highpoints for her. The tours are interesting and free. From the City Hall we walked to Queen's University, the Botanical Gardens, and the Ulster Museum; we gave up worrying about getting wet and just enjoyed the "pop-up rain and pop-up sunshine" which alternated every 5 – 10 minutes. It was our last full day in Belfast; we enjoyed an excellent sea bass dinner at Acton and Sons.

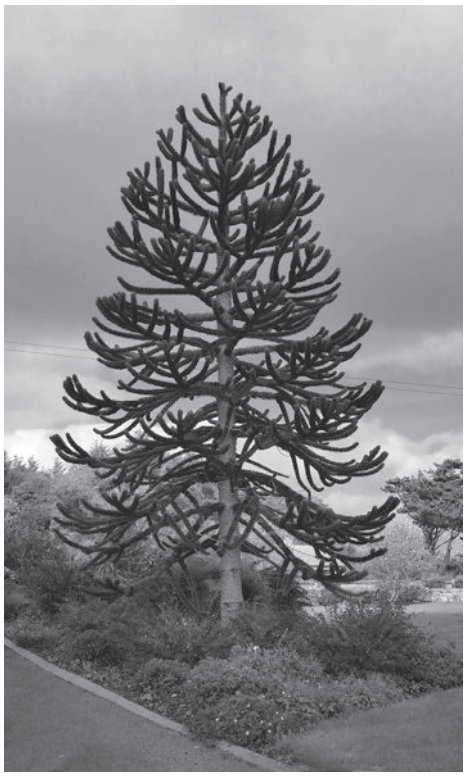
The next day we took the train back to Dublin and then a taxi to pick-up our rental car. We left Dublin about 15:00 in what appeared to be "rush hour" traffic. Hours later we stopped for a dinner of pre-packaged sandwiches. Our first B&B, *Teach Eamainn*, was a beautiful home in Sligo with views of Benbulben and Knocknarac. We appreciated the guest lounge where we met an interesting couple from Australia who had been traveling for seven weeks; they were eager to return home the following Tuesday. *Teach Eamainn* had the most comfortable bed and pillow the entire trip, in my opinion. We all enjoyed an excellent breakfast the next morning (Friday) before saying good-bye and wishing our new friends "Journey Mercies". We were off to Galway area.

We drove through beautiful Connemara on the west side of the Irish Republic and pulled over when possible to take pictures of old cottages, sheep, heaths, bogs, grasslands, woodlands and mountains, including the Twelve Bens.

It was a long driving day so we were hungry and happy to arrive at Ardmor Country House B&B in Spiddal where we would spend two nights. The owners, Vera and Bartley, showed us around their beautiful gardens which included a Monkey Puzzle Tree,[2] "a tree that would puzzle a monkey to climb." That night we had a very tasty dinner at *Tigh Giblin Pub* about 1½ miles or a 20-minute walk. Needing a break from the car, we walked to dinner.

Per Vera's advice, on Saturday morning we parked along Galway's Salthill Promenade and took a bus the last 2 km into Galway for the Saturday morning Farmers & Artisan Market. We met many nice people that day, especially 85 year-old Rita who walked us from the bus stop to the Market area. Louise, Martha and I toured St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church (c. 1320) with a guide who answered our numerous questions about the history and physical upkeep of the ancient building. (On New Year's Day 2020 they celebrated the 700 year anniversary of this Anglican/Church of Ireland/Episcopalian church.)

After wandering through the markets and the harbor area, we stopped at Griffin's Tea Room on Shop Street for a lunch of tea and chocolate éclair. Then we crossed the street to Murphy's Ice Cream shop



Monkey Puzzle Tree

for dessert. We had dinner that night at Donnelly's in Barna, a healthy fish dinner that was excellent.

Sunday morning after Vera's "full Irish" breakfast including her Guinness fruitcake (fresh from the oven and still warm) we said good-by to the other guests, hugged Vera and Bartley and set off for Tralee with short-cut instructions.



Sheep on the narrow road



Dingle garden

The sky was grey and ominous as we drove along the coastal road toward the Cliffs of Moher. We pulled into the packed parking lot just as it started to sprinkle. We had raincoats and were used to walking in the rain. When we got about halfway up the cliffs it began to pour! We continued the climb. The view at the top was very poor due to low cloud cover; I was disappointed that my three companions could barely see the ocean. We had hot beverages and snacks before continuing to the Killimer ferry dock.

It was a long drive to Tralee, but taking the 20 minute ferry from Killimer to Tarbert cut 2½ hours off our trip - plus it was fun.

At the B&B in Tralee the hostess/owner told us she allowed a guest to stay an additional night so she only had one room for us. All four of us simply stared at her for a moment and then reminded her that we had booked and pre-paid for two rooms. When we showed her the printed booking receipt, our hostess decided she could make up another room on the second floor while we went into the city center for dinner. She recommended we walk to The Brogue Inn. It was a cool evening and a nice walk. Tralee appeared to be a very affluent city. After our fine meal and just as we were preparing to leave, the clouds opened up, so the bartender called a taxi for us. The rooms at this B&B were very nice, beautiful even, and the guest lounge/living room was exquisite. The host and hostess were apologetic about the room mix-up and very pleasant the next morning as we wished them well and left for the next adventure.

Although we wanted to get to Cashel before sundown, we decided to take a side trip to Dingle. We only spent an hour or two in Dingle but it was worth it.

Our B&B in Cashel was once a farm; now it is a house with maybe a couple of acres. Our hostess, Mary, showed us our rooms and then introduced us to her three donkeys (mom, dad & baby), her three chickens and her little dog. Mary loves her animals and they love her! Mary recommended two places for dinner. We walked to Bailey's Hotel. Tuesday morning brought a beautiful, sunny day. After a nice chat with Mary, we left to tour the Rock of Cashel on our way to Waterford.

While Louise took the crystal factory tour, Barb, Martha and I enjoyed a nice lunch in the attached Waterford Cafe and then took a walk. We had a good chat with two ladies from Toronto, Canada, while looking at the bronze statue of Strongbow and Aoife. We met Louise back at the car and continued to our final B&B in Wellingtonbridge. That night we ate at *Tír Na Nog* Public House in Wellingtonbridge. The pub was not impressive to look at but, once again, dinner was excellent.

Driving in Ireland was quite an experience: the left side on very narrow roads, oftentimes lined with thick hedges on both sides and huge tour coaches coming toward us at maximum speed limit. The last mile to one B&B was an exceptionally narrow one lane with two-way traffic! When we left the B&B the next morning, down the one-way, two-lane road – more than halfway along when we saw a SUV coming toward us. Thankfully, the driver backed up! Martha did all of the driving on this trip. She had prior left-side driving experience, but not on such narrow roads. We'll hire drivers for any future road trips to Ireland or Great Britain.

On our final three days we explored Dublin. Highpoints: lecture & tour of Oscar Wilde's home. Tour of General Post Office and the 1916 Easter Rising. Another dinner at Dunne & Crescenzi's. Phoenix Park.

Endnotes

[1] During our flight home on September 14th the Aer Lingus pilot announced that the "Superbowl" winner was Dublin GAA.

[2] A Monkey Puzzle Tree was mentioned several times in the old movie, "The Ghost & Mrs. Muir" an Academy Award Nominee 1947 starring a young, handsome Rex Harrison and Gene Tierney.

Randi Mary retired in 2013. She immediately plunged into boxes of letters and charts inherited from her Auntie who discovered several Irish ancestral lines in the 1930s while researching the family history. Randi Mary joined IGSI in 2013.



Celtic Connections Conference Cancelled

For the safety of our attendees, presenters and volunteers, we have cancelled the Celtic Connections Conference 2020 and its pre-conference activities, which were to have been held July 30-August 1, 2020, at the Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling, Illinois.

Registration: Full refunds have been issued to those who had already registered.



Lodging: All reservations made within the Celtic Connections Conference block at the Westin Chicago North Shore for 7/29/20 thru 8/3/20 will be cancelled by 5/1/20. If you are still interested in staying at the Westin Chicago North Shore, please go to westinnorthshore.com to make a new reservation. If you made reservations for dates outside this range, you should cancel them by calling the hotel at 847-777-6500 (or Marriott at 800-937-8461). There is no option to cancel online.

Donate: If you would like to make a contribution to help defray the costs we've incurred, you can do so at the CCC website: http://celtic-connections.org/

The IGSI and TIARA planning committee invested a great deal of time, effort and resources in preparing for this biennial in-person conference. While the decision to cancel was difficult, we believe it's the most prudent step given the current COVID-19 situation and likelihood of future risk.

But we're not giving up! We are in the process of planning a virtual conference.

Hello Friends!

Though we would much prefer to gather with our guests and entertainers on Harriet Island in August, given the situation presented by the pandemic, we are compelled to join the ranks of other large-scale summer events and are cancelling the 2020 Irish Fair of Minnesota. We are doing so for the health and security of our friends and the greater community.

Let's all plan for next year's Irish Fair, now scheduled for August 13-15, 2021.

IGSI Now Offers Webinars!

The Minnesota Genealogy Center has been closed since mid-March for the safety precautions related to COVID-19. We have had no classes scheduled nor on-site research opportunities during this time. To continue our objective of education, for this quarter, IGSI will offer two webinar opportunities for all members.

You can log in to hear the presentation on the date listed or access it later on the IGSI website. Though you must be logged in as a member for the latter access.

For details and registration links for these classes, please check the IGSI website under "Activities". While you can check out the webinar details without logging in, to register at the Member price ($15), you must be logged in as a member.

May 26 (Tuesday) | 7 – 8 PM
Work Your Way to Ireland Using American Records First

Presenter: Sheila Benedict

June 11 (Thursday) | 7 – 8 PM
Irish Church Records

Presenter: Tom Rice

Cost: $15 for IGSI members $20 for non-members

Virtual Journey Home

The cancellation of the fourth biennial Celtic Connections Conference, for health and safety reasons, presents a bit of a detour in our "Journey Home".

A small core of conference planning volunteers has been investigating and assembling the elements to provide this conference electronically. We are excited to see the results of this team's work to provide a great virtual conference experience.

What will this new Journey Home look like? At a minimum, there will be

On-demand presentations: Pre-recorded talks by many of the CCC '20 presenters will be available to view online between July 31 and August 31.

Live "chats": During August there will be moderated chats for presenters and participants to exchange information around various subject tracks or topics.

As you continue to practice social distancing, watch the Celtic Connections Conference website for updates on the virtual "Journey Home": http://celtic-connections.org/. Please direct your questions to conference@irishgenealogical.org.

100 Years Ago and More

Compiled by Sheila Northrop

300 Years Ago

[BAHAMAS ACQUISITION]

'Tis said that the Lord Londonderry, and the Lord Chetwynd have obtain'd from his Majesty a Grant of the Island of Providence in America, on Condition of fortifying it, and of settling Families there, in order to render is secure against Attacks, and as beneficial as other Colonies are.

Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer
London, England — 11 June 1720

250 Years Ago

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD

June 20, 1770

RAN away from the Subscriber, living near the Head of Wiccomoco River, on the Eastern Shore, the 4th Instant, an Indented Servant Man, named THOMAS KELLY, born in Ireland, and came from *Dublin* last August, is a strong lusty Fellow, about 5 feet 10 or 11 Inches high, with short black Hair and Eyebrows, has been scalded on the Instep of his right Foot by hot Water, the Mark of which is very plain to be seen; he pretends to be a great Ditcher, Mower, and Reaper: Had on, when he went away, an old Pea Jacket, a Check Shirt and Trousers, new Shoes with long Quarters, and old Hat, bound round with yellow Tape; but it is supposed he will change his Dress, as he has Money with him, which he stole the Night before he went off. Whoever takes up said Servant, and brings him to his Master, shall receive the above Reward, or if secured in any Jail, and Notice thereof given, so that he may be had again, shall have Five Pounds, paid by (4w) JAMES NEVIN.

Annapolis Maryland Gazette
Annapolis, Maryland — 28 June 1770

200 Years Ago

[Bank failure in Ireland]

The calamitous state of Ireland, owing to the stoppage and failure of the different banks, exceeds all description, and appears to be increasing rather than diminishing. Business is at an end in the province of Munster, and whole districts are ruined. Two other banks, those of Kilkenny and Waterford, have failed in the south of Ireland. The latter bank was held by Mr. W. Newport, the younger and only brother of Sir J. Newport. Mr. Newport died suddenly on the day before the failure was announced, and his death was stated as the reason for closing the bank.

FAILURE OF THE CLONMEL BANK. – From the *Dublin Evening Post* – Riall's bank, the oldest, perhaps, in Ireland, it having subsisted ninety-five years, has suspended its payments. Thus, in the space of one fortnight, has suspended its payments. This, in the space of one fortnight, eight banks have failed; and thus a circulating medium of more than a million sterling has been removed. This statement is sufficient to show the distress and dismay that must prevail in the province of Munster. It is also one of the terrible, perhaps necessary, effects resulting from the general limitation of the currency, which the late Acts of Parliament rendered it imperative on the Banks of England and Ireland to adopt. It is quite clear that this system cannot go on. But we feel no disposition to anticipate, yet we cannot help regarding the present crisis in our mercantile history as, perhaps, the most awful that ever occurred.

Champion and Review
London, England — 17 June 1820

150 Years Ago

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

TUESDAY, **JUNE** 14.

In the Council, …

Dr. MACARTNEY contended that those land reformers who opposed immigration were acting in the most inconsistent manner. It was admitted that we should almost immediately be producing more than we can consume, and yet objection was raised to the introduction of an addition number of consumers. Why during 1869, 240,000 people were added to the population of the United states. Some of the members of the House who now opposed immigration certainly paid their own passages, but many of them did not. He considered that the immigration regulations did not go far enough, and complained that the provision contained in the former regulations, abolishing, for the last three months of the year, all national distinctions, had been superseded. He contended that the unemployed consisted principally of loafing mendicants, who chose rather to hang about town than to go into the country and get work. It had mortified him to hear one of the hon. Members for Colllingwood, who was always bringing up the question of nationality, state that they must prevent an influx of Irish, because they were a people so very much disposed to crime. *The London Spectator*, in referring to Irish crime, stated that, in proportion to population, England had

40 per cent, more crime than Ireland; and Scotland only a fraction less crime than Ireland, although Ireland had nearly double the population. And it went on further to remark, in direct confutation of what the hon. Member said, that while in England minor offences formed 4 per cent, of the whole, in Ireland they amounted to 20 per cent., so that as far as crime crime (sic) and statistics were concerned, the people of Victoria need have no apprehensions as to the amount of Irish emigration they would have. …

The Advocate
Burnie, Tasmania, Australia
18 June 1870

AN IRISH STRIKE

The Hibernian mode of doing things is always peculiar, original and unique. Irish rebellions, for generations, have been the most extraordinary illustrations of the art of blundering. Irish enterprises for the liberation of Ireland, by getting up raids on a continent three thousand miles away from Ireland, have been as ridiculous in their execution as they have been in their conception. And now we hear of a strike in Cork, which seems to be thoroughly Irish as anything the patriots or the Fenians have ever done. First, it appears, the journeymen tailors struck for higher wages, and as in everything striking in Ireland there must be blows, there was serious rioting, which the police and the military had to suppress. Then the tailors were joined in the strike by the shoemakers, the glaziers, the carpenters, the masons, the locksmiths, and the craftsmen of every description. The workmen and laborers in the extensive Cork screw-steamship works have all stopped, and, from large establishments down to the very smallest, there was an expectation of a total suspension of labor of all kinds. Yesterday the women employed as seamstresses, charwomen and house-servants began to join in the movement, and, to crown it, the little newsboys struck too, and refused to sell the newspapers! Next we may expect to hear that the Cork donkeys will refuse to go, the Cork hens will refuse to lay, the Cork dogs will refuse to bark and bite, and the Cork soles will refuse to walk – all for the sake of joining in the strike and making it general. If from Cork such a strike should extend all over the island, and the men, women, children and animals of Ireland should all resolve to do nothing, there would be a spectacle of repose, if not exactly Rocotian, at least Milesian. To Americans the idea of an Irishman or Irishwoman refusing to work, or only half doing work, is not uncommon. But a whole community joining in a resolve to do nothing until everybody pays and everybody receives higher wages, is a sight heretofore unknown. But it seems likely to be realized soon in Cork.

Philadelphia Evening Bulletin
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
18 June 1870

100 Years Ago

SINN FEINER'S DRAMATIC ACT.

Sinn Feiners soaked in petrol and burnt a Union Jack, which was covering a war memorial at the Parish Church at Clunes, County Monaghan. Several workhouses and other buildings have been burnt to prevent military occupation.

A cavalry charge frustrated an attack by 200 armed raiders on a Kilkenny village. The troopers scattered and chased the raiders for a considerable distance.

REPUBLICAN FLAG ON PIER.

The Cork Harbor Board ordered the Republican Flag to be down at the Admiralty pier at Queenstown and other harbor buildings, but defeated a motion to include ships controlled by the hoard, on the grounds that the British forts at the mouth of the harbor would fire on and sink them.

IRISH EMIGRANTS

FIRST BATCH SINCE 1914.

The Celtic has embarked 600 emigrants at Queenstown from the west and south of Ireland for New York.

Their ages range from 16 to 23. This is the first emigrant ship to leave Ireland for the West since 1914.

The Advocate
Burnie, Tasmania, Australia
10 June 1920

IRELAND HAS A NEW OUTBREAK OF CRIME

Barracks Burned and Customs and Excise Offices Are Raided and Destroyed.

MORE TROOPS MAY GO

Every Concession Is Taken as Sign of Weakness – No Deportations, Says Greenwood.

LONDON, May 14 – Ireland witnessed another outbreak of organized crime yesterday and today. Barracks were burned down and income tax, customs

and excise offices were raided and destroyed.

It is understood that large military forces are being dispatched to Ireland.

The latest news from Ireland shows that every concession and every move bearing the semblance of a concession is interpreted by the assassins as a weakness, merely encouraging the whole army of criminals.

Sir Henry Greenwood, Chief Secretary for Ireland, interviewed in Dublin, said that since his arrival he had not signed a single order for deportation, and that he had released many who had been arrested on suspicion. There was, he said, perfect harmony in the Irish Executive.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law declared that no death had occurred among those who had been imprisoned on suspicion.

The Japan Advertisor
Tokyo, Japan – 18 May 1920

MARRIAGE INTENTIONS BOSTON

Denis P. Ryan, 35, auto washer, 111 Thorndike st., Cambridge, and Mary T. Hughes, 29, cook, 501 East Third st., South Boston.

George F. Healey, 23, plumber, 21 Chestnut st., Charlestown, and Ellen V. Donovan, 22, at home, 13 Kingston st., Charlestown.

John P. Butler, 18, chauffeur, 21 Everett st., East Boston, and Bridget Doherty, 18, factory worker, 55 Liverpool st., East Boston.

DEATHS

BARRY – in Arlington Heights, March 31, Richard, husband of Hannah Flynn Barry. Funeral from late residence, 72 Park ave., North, Friday, April 2, at 1:15 p.m. Services at St. James' Church at 2. Late member of Hugh O'Brien Court 134, M. C. O. F.

BRESLIN – In East Boston, March 31, accidentally, Daniel E., beloved husband of Flora Breslin (nee McLead). Funeral from residence, 265 Sumner st., Saturday at 2 p. m. Relatives and friends invited.

COFFEY – In Dorchester, April 1. Julia (nee Cashman), widow of Daniel Coffey, and mother of John J. Coffey of Station 9, Boston police dept. Notice of funeral later.

COLLINS – In Beachmont, March 31, Helena F., beloved daughter of Cornelius B. and Catherine A. Collins (nee Casey). Funeral from her late residence, 87 Endicott ave., Sunday, April 4, at 1:30 p. m. Requiem high mass at Out Lady of Lourdes' Church, Monday, April 5, at 9 a. m. Relatives friends invited.

DONOVAN – IN Roxbury, March 31, Jeremiah, beloved husband of Jessie Donovan. Funeral from his late residence, 60 Field st., Friday, April 2, at 2 p. m. Relatives and friends kindly invited to be present. Auto cortege.

HAGGERTY – In Charlestown, March 30, Johanna I., beloved wife of William J. Haggerty (nee Delanty). Funeral from her late residence, 2 Lexington st., Friday, April 2, at 1:30 p. m. Services at St. Catherine's Church at 2. Time of mass to be announced later.

LARKIN – In Waltham, March 31, John J. Larkin, 59 yrs. Funeral from his late home, 31 Common st., Saturday, April 3, at 2:15 p. m. Services at St. Mary's Church at 2:30. Interment at Calvary Cemetery, Waltham.

LEONARD – At Naval Hospital, Chelsea, April 1, Martin Leonard, beloved husband of the late Mary Leonard (nee Sullivan). Funeral from the residence of his son, John M. Leonard, Sunday, April 4, at 2 p. m. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. Motor funeral.

MAHONEY – IN Roxbury, March 31, Frank B., beloved son of Mary and the late John J. Mahoney. Funeral services at his late home, 8 Walt st., Saturday at 9:30 a. m. Relatives and friends kindly invited.

MAHONEY – In East Boston, March 31, Jeremiah, son of the late Patrick and Mary Mahoney. Funeral from the residence of his brother, William Mahoney, 26 Havre st., Saturday at 2 p. m. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

Boston Post
Boston, Massachusetts – 2 April 1920

Sheila O'Rourke Northrop is a professional genealogist and President of FamilyTracer.net. She is a long-time member of many genealogical organizations. She specializes in Irish research and genealogical Data Analysis. Sheila's family hails from Counties Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford and Clare.



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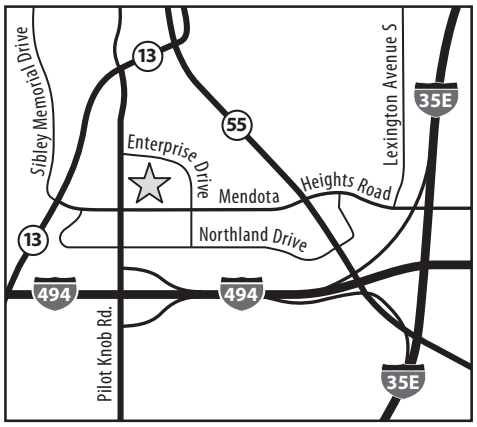
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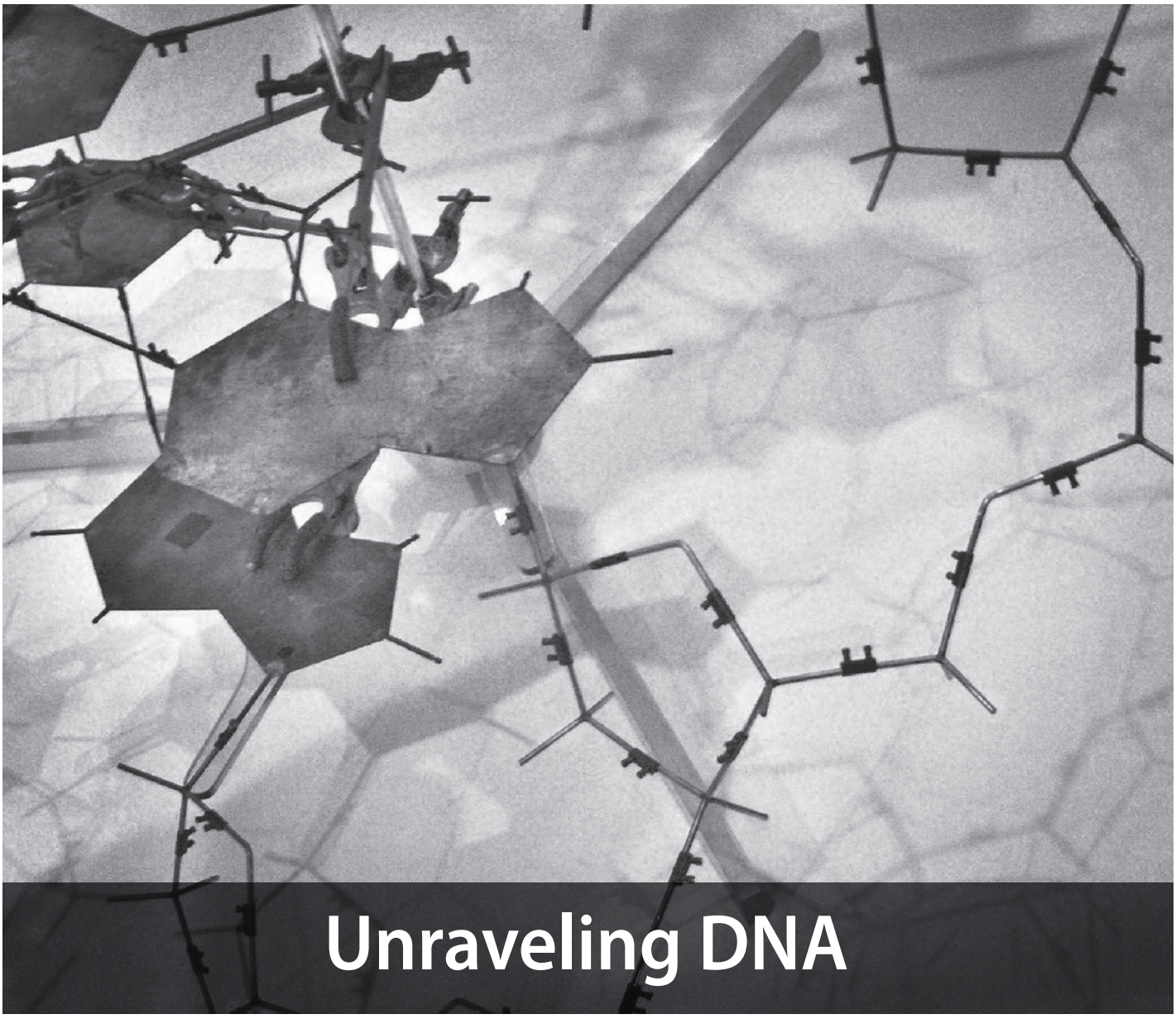
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The library is a self-supporting research library staffed by volunteers. If you are a member of the IGSI and are coming from out of town, contact Librarian@IrishGenealogical.org so we can have an Irish researcher available to meet you.

Volume 41, Number 3

The Septs

JULY (IÚIL) 2020 $10.00



Unraveling DNA

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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Limited Research Hours at the Hoffman Research Library

The Hoffman Research Library reopened in early July for limited library service on Saturdays, from 10 AM to 2 PM provided that two library volunteers are available for service in the building. Wearing masks, social distancing, and self-cleaning directions are other parts of the new rules for library use.

Admission is by advance reservation and, at this time, is limited to 8 patrons for two hours at a time: 10 AM - noon and noon - 2 PM. The library is available for use by members of IGSI and of all other genealogy societies located at the Minnesota Genealogy Center. Members of IGSI can make a reservation for a 2-hour slot (morning or afternoon) by using the Minnesota Genealogy Center's Sign Up Genius website. To make a reservation, visit the IGSI homepage for the link or go to https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044BAFAE2FA1FD0-hoffman.

Please contact research@irishgenealogical.org in advance if you plan to visit the library and anticipate needing advice or assistance with your Irish research.

Note: Occupancy limitations and hours of service may change as Minnesota State COVID guidelines and regulations change. To check if the library is open, call 651-330-9312.

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The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the first of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editor at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc.

2020
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Write for *The Septs*

Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 — 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2020 | October | Military

Irish constabulary, Irish in British armed forces — WWI and WWII; Irish in other countries' armies; Irish regiments in the U. S. Civil War; discussion of various types of military records.
Deadline for articles: August 1, 2020.

2021 | January | FAN (Family, Associates, Neighbors)

Using information from an ancestor's social circle for genealogical clues: family, associates, neighbors, organizations, and comrades in arms.
Deadline for articles: November 1, 2020.

2021 | April | Setting Family History

Finding material to flesh out a family history: *YouTube*, *Ebay*, letters, local histories, newspapers.
Deadline for articles: February 1, 2021.

2021 | July | Irish Jurisdictions

Place as a key to research. Definition and use of various geographical and record keeping divisions; Poor Law Unions in depth; Workhouses; Baronies; Parishes.
Deadline for articles: May 1, 2021.

Cover Photo: *DNA Chaos.* Close up of Crick and Watson's model of DNA. © Stew Dean @ Flickr.com. CC BY-NC 2.0. The photo was converted to grayscale and cropped.

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Adjusting and Adapting

by Ann Eccles

How the world has changed in the space of three months!

We have seen the statistics on coronavirus reported daily — infections, deaths, recuperations. Add to that the reactions and protests from the death of George Floyd of Minneapolis expanded to wider social issues, not only in Minnesota but across the nation and the world. The image of living in a global village is close to reality.

During this time our lives have been disrupted; what we have always done and planned may not be what we can do now. We face a need to adapt to changes today to improve our lives or learn to live with the disruption.

Genealogically speaking, we have had the disruptions of closed libraries and public offices, canceled conferences and research trips. We are learning to adapt to more online research and virtual genealogy contacts. We are slowly moving forward. In hope of bringing back and returning to activities we accepted as normal in 2019 and earlier, the Hoffman Research Library and the Minnesota Genealogy Center opened their doors for limited access in mid-July. The library is open for service only on Saturdays for four hours. Currently, only eight researchers are allowed in the library for a two-hour research period on the Saturdays: either 10 AM — noon or noon — 2 PM. Reservations are required. Check the IGSI website for the latest information and the link to making a reservation.

There are and will be other changes as we continue to move forward and adapt our programs.

Through the end of 2020, IGSI will offer its monthly classes online as webinars. Thanks to our presenters for their agreement to the new format. All four classes are listed on the IGSI website. Two are scheduled for September: Tom Rice's in-depth look at *FamilySearch* on September 12 and Kevin Cassidy's session on preparing to search Irish records on September 19. Registration information is on the Activities page of the IGSI website.

The Celtic Connections Conference will be a virtual event through the energy, expertise and enthusiasm of many IGSI members. This is the year that IGSI takes the lead in the organization and planning of the biennial conference. Members of both IGSI and TIARA worked together in planning and forming the event, which was to be held in Wheeling, Illinois, at the end of July.

But this was the time of disruption and adjustment. In the space of four months, Gigi Hickey and Mary Wickersham, the conference co-chairs, led the task of adapting the event to a virtual conference. They recruited and developed expertise — Kathleen Foley, Lois Mackin and Dave Miller — for the taping and editing of the webinars. Greg Winters, conference website editor, made the required changes and initiated other improvements for a virtual conference. Kim Scanlan capably managed as conference treasurer and registrar.

All in all, I think that in taking and turning the conference in a new (virtual) direction, we have created a quality product that enhances the educational goals of both IGSI and TIARA. The conference moved from a two-day in person event with 30+ sessions to a two month "watch at your pace" option with 11 speakers, 25 webinars, and live chats with speakers. The presenters include notable genealogists on Irish and Scottish research themes. One benefit for all: we don't have to choose among speakers; we can listen and view all of the presentations.

The last three months have slipped along the river of time and we have adapted our journey to reach new destinations and goals. As we travel this river, we may find new opportunities and ways to improve our services and member offerings.

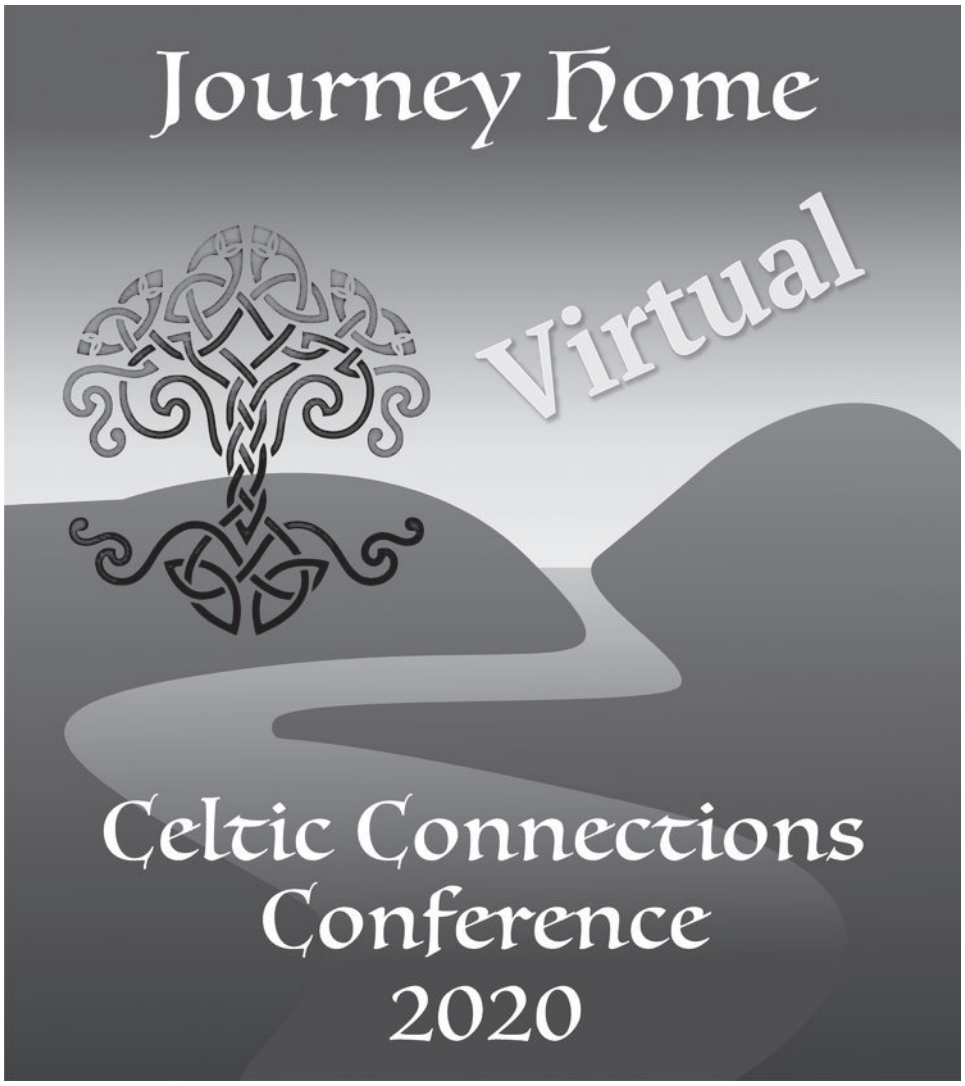


Ann Eccles is a retired librarian who has re-focused her research skills to family history and Irish genealogy. She has several Irish ancestral lines to trace as both of her parents descended from Irish families. Ann currently serves as IGSI President and continues to serve as the editor of The Septs.

Finding New Cousins

By Ann Eccles

Perhaps because I have been aware of the theme of this issue, but I seem to have been in contact recently with a number of new cousins, found through DNA. I manage my brother's account as well as mine, so occasionally there are a quite a few emails proclaiming "we've found a new DNA match for you". That often leads to a contact from an individual seeking to learn more about our relationship. Other times, a relationship seems to be quite close so I might investigate a bit before approaching a potential match. If you have done your DNA you know that there are numerous ways to follow up with DNA matches.



DNA remains one of the hottest topics surrounding the issues of genealogy. This is the third time in five years that we have taken DNA as a theme for an issue of *The Septs*. The amount of information on the topic continues to expand and readers come to the topic at all levels of interest and knowledge.

In this issue, you will find three new articles to help with learning more about genetics in genealogy. Lois Mackin describes using the tools available at the various DNA testing companies in working with your DNA. In a separate article, she explains how to create a DNA project plan for researching a potential ancestor or family relationship. Elizabeth Gomoll generously shares an outline form of what to do once you have received your DNA results.

Two members, Dave Miller and Kevin Cassidy, have provided articles for this issue. Dave shares an account of his search to identify an unknown ancestor – with the research trail leading to an astonishing story. Kevin shares the chronicle of his multi-year search to make that connection with his ancestor's homeplace in Ireland. In both cases, they note the importance of research in the U.S. before making the trip to Ireland. Both Dave and Kevin share methods of research to achieve their goals.

The conference coordinators, Gigi Hickey and Mary Wickersham, share some background on the decisions and work in adapting this event to a Virtual 2020 Celtic Connections Conference in their article. Education chair, Kathleen Foley, offers insight and assurance using webinars for members who may be unfamiliar with them. Brian Mitchell, chief genealogist of County Derry, Northern Ireland, has a new genealogy resource guide, which is reviewed in this issue. And, of course, our favorite summary of events from years gone by, 100 Years Ago and More.

So, take a few minutes to sit down with a cup of coffee or glass of iced tea and this issue of *The Septs*. Enjoy.

Writing a DNA Project Plan

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

Like all genealogical research, DNA research should begin with a plan! Defining a genetic genealogy research plan consists of five steps:

1. Define the genealogical problem. Include sufficient information on the research subjects to enable them to be identified — who were they, who were their parents, wives, children (if known), when and where did they live, and other identifiers, such as occupation.
2. Identify the kind(s) of DNA testing applicable to the problem.
3. Identify test subjects. Include those who have already completed tests as well as other possible testers.
4. Identify testing companies to be used for the testing and tests to be purchased. Include plans to transfer test results to additional company sites, if applicable.
5. Identify tools and techniques to be used in analyzing test results.

Then write up and execute the plan.

A Sample Plan

This is a sample DNA project plan for a case involving DNA.

1. Defining the genealogical problem.

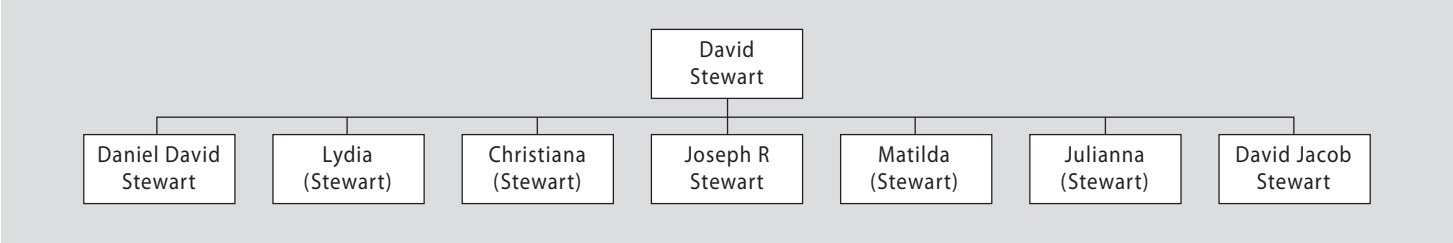
David Stewart (1778-1861) has long been a brick-wall ancestor. No one knows who his parents are, or where he spent the first thirty years of his life. (He first appears in records in southern Berks County in 1809,[1] when he was 31 and already married.[2])

According to transcriptions of his tombstone (of which there are no photographs, or at least none that have been published in print or on the Internet), he was born in Alsace township, Berks County in northeastern Pennsylvania. He is buried in a disused cemetery on private land in Carbon County.[3] He owned land in Berks, Schuylkill, and Carbon counties.[4] He married Juliana Zweyer/Swoyer (1785-1864) of Oley township;[5] he and Juliana had seven children who survived to adulthood.

The research question is, "Who are the parents of David Stewart (1778-1861) of Berks/Carbon Counties, Pennsylvania, who married Julianna Zweyer/Swoyer (1785-1864)?" Secondary questions are "Where did David's parents live?" and "Where did David live before appearing in Berks County in 1809?"

2. Identifying applicable DNA testing.

Two kinds of DNA testing could provide evidence useful for investigating this problem.



The first kind is **Y-DNA testing**, which examines the male-line ancestry of test subjects. Y-DNA testing examines the DNA of the Y-chromosome. Y-DNA is very stable and can be passed from generation to generation virtually unchanged for thousands of years.[6] Several kinds of Y-DNA testing can be performed:

- STR (short tandem repeat) testing. These tests are named according to the number of markers tested (37-marker, 67-marker, 111-marker)[7] and are available from Family Tree DNA (*FTDNA*).
- SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism)[8] testing. Tests can be ordered from *FTDNA* for single SNPs or groups of SNPs.
- *FTDNA*'s Big Y-700 test examines both STRs and SNPS, testing more than 200,000 Y-chromosome SNPs and 111 STRs.[9]

For the Stewart project, both STR testing at 37 markers (the minimum now available from *FTDNA*) and Big Y-700 testing could be used.

The second kind of applicable test is **autosomal testing**,[10] available from *FTDNA*, *Ancestry*, *23andMe*, and *MyHeritage*. Currently, *Ancestry* has the largest database of testers (thus offering the greatest opportunity for matching), followed by *23andMe*, *MyHeritage*, and *FTDNA*.[11]

3. Identifying test subjects.

For **Y-testing**, subjects should be descended from David Stewart by direct male line. It would be desirable to test one or more

descendants of each of David Stewart's sons, if possible, finding testers with the fewest possible number of generations to David Stewart.

For David Stewart's oldest son, Daniel David Stewart, no testers have been identified. For David Stewart's second son, Joseph R. Stewart (who used the spelling Steward), one tester, "RS," a great-great-great-great-grandson, has been identified. For David Stewart's youngest son, David Jacob Stewart, one tester, "AS," a great-great-grandson, has been identified. It would be desirable to recruit an additional Y-tester descended from Daniel David Stewart.

For **autosomal testing**, five testers descended from two of David Stewart's seven children have been identified. They are

1. Lois Neifert (deceased), whose line is David Stewart > Matilda (Stewart) Gerhard > Harriet Gerhard > Roland Neifert > Emerson Neifert > Lois Neifert
2. Myself, Lois Neifert's daughter[12]
3. "AS" (deceased), whose line is David Stewart > David Jacob Stewart > Allen N. Stewart > Harold V. Stewart > "AS"
4. "AS" 's daughter "WS"
5. "AS" 's nephew "DS."

It would be desirable to recruit testers descended from David Stewart's remaining children for participation in the project analysis.

A caveat. The areas of Schuylkill/Carbon counties where David Stewart lived were frontier areas populated by a small number of families. As a result, many of David Stewart's descendants share DNA/lines of descent from several of these families. For example, Lois Neifert and "AS" are descended from the Neifert, Whetstone, and Faust families, as well as from the Stewarts. Many Stewart descendants on all child lines also intermarried with the Gerhard. It will be challenging to separate out whether a specific DNA match or set of matches is based on DNA from the Stewart family. As a result, completeness of trees[13] for testers and DNA matches, along with segment analysis, will be important.

4. Identifying testing companies, tests, and transfer strategies.

For **Y-testing**, *FTDNA* is the company of choice. "RS" has tested at 37 markers; "AS" has tested at 111 markers/Big Y-700. Based on matches, it would be desirable to upgrade "RS" to Big Y-700.

For **autosomal testing**, two of the test subjects, Lois Neifert and "AS," are deceased but have taken *FTDNA*'s Family Finder test. Since they are deceased, they cannot provide additional samples for testing at *Ancestry* and *23andMe* (the largest databases), but their test results can be transferred to *MyHeritage* and also to the third-party site *GEDmatch*.[14] These transfers would expose their kits to additional matches.

The three remaining test subjects, myself, "WS," and "DS" have tested at *Ancestry*. The author has also tested at *FTDNA* and *23andMe* and uploaded her kit to *MyHeritage* and *GEDmatch*. The table below shows representation of testers on the various websites.

Tester	Ancestry	23andMe	MyHeritage	FTDNA	GEDmatch
Lois Neifert			X	X	X
Lois Mackin	X	X	X	X	X
"AS"			X	X	Planned
"WS"	X			Need permission to transfer kit	
"DS"	X			Need permission to transfer kit	

5. Identifying tools and techniques for analysis.

For **Y-DNA**, surname and haplogroup projects provide useful analysis of test results. *FTDNA* offers surname, geographical, and haplogroup projects. "AS" and "RS" have been enrolled in the Stewart surname project at *FTDNA*.

For **autosomal DNA**, several techniques and tools apply:

- Shared match/in common with analysis. All four testing companies offer ways to look at the matches shared by a tester and one or more people on the tester's match list. This tool is referred to by several names: Shared Matches (*Ancestry*), Relatives in Common (*23andMe*), In Common With (FTDNA), and Shared DNA Matches (*MyHeritage*).
- Clustering. Clustering is a next-level tool based on shared matches. Clusters are formed by identifying sets of matches sharing DNA with each other. Clustering can be done

manually (Leeds method[15]) or by using automated tools such as *Genetic Affairs*' AutoCluster, *MyHeritage*'s AutoClusters, or *GEDmatch*'s Clusters. Theoretically, the individuals in a cluster are expected to share a common ancestor or ancestral couple.

- User-designated groups. *Ancestry* offers kit owners and managers the ability to define groups and to assign individual matches to these groups. For the kits at *Ancestry*, this tool enables matches relevant to the Stewart project to be marked for analysis. Since *Ancestry* barred *Genetic Affairs* from accessing their DNA database in May 2020,[16] their user-designated groups will have to serve as a substitute for automated clustering tools.
- Chromosome browsing, mapping, and painting. Chromosome browsers are graphic depictions of the chromosome segments shared by one or more testers on a match list. All the testing companies except *Ancestry* provide chromosome browsers. Chromosome mapping and painting are techniques for copying and pasting chromosome segments that can be attributed to specific ancestors from the testing company sites to *DNAPainter*. This allows users to create a map of the chromosome segments a DNA tester inherited from specific ancestors.
- Segment analysis and triangulation.[17] While *Ancestry* does not make segment data available to testers, the other three testing companies do. *MyHeritage* identifies triangulated segments, and *GEDmatch* has triangulation and segment analysis tools. Once one or more segments can be confirmed to come from David Stewart (rather than a family with which David's children intermarried), these segments could be used to identify additional Stewart matches.
- Tree analysis tools. *MyHeritage* and *Ancestry* have tools based on DNA matching and family trees that create hypotheses for identifying the common ancestors of testers sharing DNA. *MyHeritage*'s tool is called Theories of Family Relativity, and *Ancestry*'s is called ThruLines. *Genetic Affairs*' AutoTree tool attempts to identify common ancestors and reconstruct genealogical trees based on the trees of DNA matches from AutoCluster clusters. In all cases, the hypotheses created by the tools are only as good as the data in the trees on which they are based.

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Bettinger, Blaine T. and Debbie Parker Wayne. *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*. Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2016.

Bettinger, Blaine T. and Judy G. Russell. "Genetics for Genealogy." Elizabeth Shown Mills, ed. *Professional Genealogy, Preparation, Practice & Standards*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2018. Pages 361-390.

Wayne, Debbie Parker, ed. *Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies*. Cushing, Texas: Wayne Research, 2019.

International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki. isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page.

DNA Testing Companies

AncestryDNA, <www.ancestry.com/dna>.

23andMe, <www.23andme.com>.

Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), <www.ftdna.com>.

MyHeritage, <www.myheritage.com/dna>.

Providers of DNA Analysis Tools

DNAPainter.com, <https://dnapainter.com>.

GEDmatch, <www.gedmatch.com>.

Genetic Affairs, <www.geneticaffairs.com>.

Leeds Method, <www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method>.

Endnotes

[1] *The Goshenhoppen Registers 1741-1819: Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths of the Catholic Mission at Goshenhoppen (Bally), Washington Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. for Clearfield Company, Inc., 2002), 208; eBook, *Google Books*.

[2] Marriage date based on birth date of first know child, Daniel David Stewart. *Find A Grave* (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/97858331: accessed 6 June 2020), memorial 97858331 with photo for Daniel David Stewart (1808-1886), Packer Cemetery at Saint Matthew's Church, Weatherly, Pennsylvania.

[3] "Old Reed Cemetery," *Carbon County GenWeb*(http://www.pagenweb.org/~carbon/cemetery/reed.htm : accessed 6 June 2020).

[4] See Berks County, Pennsylvania, instrument number 1817-000K0225, *Berks County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records* (https://countyfusion4.kofiletech.us/countyweb/login.do?countyname=Berks : accessed 4 June 2020), mortgage, Daniel Levan to David Stewart and wife Julia, dated 6 May 1817. Also Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book 32: 151-2, David Stewart Senior, Jonas Markell and Juliann his wife, and Daniel Kester and Elizabeth his wife, to Joseph Steward, warrantee deed, recorded

19 Mar 1849; *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSJS-797F-6?i=262&cat=446543 and https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSJS-797Z-8?i=263&cat=446543) > film 008,091,167 > images 263 and 264 of 688.

[5] "Old Reed Cemetery," *Carbon County GenWeb*.

[6] See Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* (Arlington, Virginia, National Genealogical Society, 2016), 23-26.

[7] "Marker" is a colloquial term for a short tandem repeat (STR) on the Y chromosome. See "Y-STR," *International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki* (https://isogg.org/wiki/Y-STR : accessed 6 June 2020).

[8] See "Single-Nucleotide Polymorphism," *ISOGG Wiki* (https://isogg.org/wiki/Single-nucleotide_polymorphism : accessed 6 June 2020).

[9] "Y-DNA Frequently Asked Questions," *FamilyTreeDNA* (https://www.familytreedna.com/products/y-dna#/compare : accessed 6 June 2020).

[10] Autosomal DNA is the DNA of the 22 pairs of non-sex chromosomes in the nucleus of human cells. Unlike Y-DNA, which remains quite stable from generation to generation over thousands of years, autosomal DNA is recombined each time it is passed from one generation to the next. Each parent contributes about 50% of the DNA of a child. Children inherit variable amounts of DNA from the individuals in generations beyond the parents. Wayne and Bettinger say, "At some point, people no longer receive DNA from every ancestor in a generation. Current analysis estimates that around the seventh generation, plus or minus two, people no longer inherit DNA from every ancestor." Bettinger and Wayne, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, 67-68. See also Blaine T. Bettinger and Judy G. Russell," "Genetics for Genealogy," Elizabeth Shown Mills, ed., *Professional Genealogy, Preparation, Practice & Standards* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2018), 370-374.

[11] Leah LaPerle Larkin, "Autosomal DNA Database Growth," *The DNA Geek*, 17 January 2020 (https://thednageek.com/autosomal-dna-database-growth/ : accessed 4 June 2020).

[12] Normally, there is no advantage to including tests from parents and children in a DNA test plan, since the children inherit no DNA from an ancestor or ancestral couple that their parent did not have (and thus the parent's genome represents the DNA inheritance from the ancestor of interest). In this case, however, including the children as testers allows at least some of the DNA inherited from David Stewart to be represented in the databases at *Ancestry* and *23andMe* where the deceased parents did not test.

[13] For an explanation of why tree completeness is important, see Judy G. Russell, "Filling in the Blanks," *The Legal Genealogist*, 28 July 2019 (https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2019/07/28/filling-in-the-blanks/ : accessed 4 June 2020), summarizing and citing Blaine T. Bettinger's work.

[14] *GEDmatch* is a site independent of the DNA testing companies to which users can upload DNA results from the testing sites. At *GEDmatch* users can compare the results of their test to the results of tests from other companies that have uploaded. *GEDmatch* offers a sophisticated suite of tools for comparing and analyzing DNA segments.

[15] "The Leeds Method," *DanaLeeds* (www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method : accessed 7 June 2020).

[16] "Cease and Desist," *Genetic Affairs* (https://www.geneticaffairs.com/ancestry.html : accessed 7 June 2020).

[17] For a basic explanation of triangulation, see "Triangulation," *ISOGG Wiki* (https://isogg.org/wiki/Triangulation : accessed 7 June 2020). For more detail, refer to the references in the ISOGG article.

I would like to acknowledge the many contributions of long-time Stewart-family researcher Cynthia Gasper, who recognized the importance of DNA for researching the Stewarts and recruited the original Y-testers five years ago, long before I started working on the Stewart family. Cindy is an energetic and indefatigable scourer of documentary, as well as genetic, sources and is extremely generous in sharing her work.

Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*



Searching the Original Sources in the Family Homeland

by Kevin Cassidy

It is said that all politics is local. In real estate the key is location, location, location. I was finally able to make an extended visit to the village where my great-grandparents married. Many questions were answered and settled thanks to being on location in Northern Ireland and to the helpfulness of the locals.

Many record collections are available to search across the world. However, not every record set has been microfilmed nor digitized. An element of local research will likely always be necessary. If possible, one must visit the location in question for final answers.

Years ago I was found my great-grandparents' marriage listed in the civil marriage registration index for Ireland. It had taken some time because of the proximity of their nuptials to the arrival of their first child. Once I widened the scope I discovered that Catherine M'Ginn had wed John M'Guigan in the first quarter of 1888 in the Clogher district of County Tyrone, Ireland.

I quickly received a transcript of the record from Dublin. It stated that the couple married at the Catholic chapel of St. Patrick's Eskra in Clogher. Their fathers were both farmers named Patrick and apparently still living at the time of the marriage. The bride was listed as from Newtownsaville and the groom from Tulnafoil (sic).

I sent a request for additional information to the priest in Clogher and was disappointed that he immediately returned my letter and $10 donation with a handwritten notation stating that, "Fee for a search is $1000." He regrettably chose to ignore questions a local should have been able to answer off the top of his head.

I was able to send an email to a local business and request that they check their local phonebook for residents named McGuigan and McGinn. Three McGinn families were shared and I wrote to each of them. One of these letters found its way to a Newtownsaville resident with Tullanafoile roots. He visited with an elderly resident of Tullanafoile and she remembered my grandmother's relatives. I was eventually able to contact my second cousins thanks to these helpful locals.

Over the next several years I was able to find the farms in question in the 1901 and 1911 Irish censuses, the 1860 Griffith's Primary Valuation and the 1825 Tithe Applotment. I tracked the McGuigan farm a through the cancelled valuations books. This facilitated research in the civil registration of McGuigan deaths in 1864, 1867, 1869, 1893 and 1921. (Some of the records listed the name as "Goodwin", the Anglicized form of McGuigan.)

The International Genealogical Index revealed McGinn births in 1864, 1866, 1868, 1870, 1872 and 1874 at Newtownsaville. The 1870 birth alone listed that their townland was Tamlaght. Thanks to the cancelled valuations books and the Tamlaght townland name, McGinn deaths that occurred in 1871 and 1897 were found in the civil death registers.

Two dozen years later I booked a self-catered room in a converted barn just outside Clogher village. The owner and resident historian was most helpful in learning the lay of the land. He kindly offered to accompany me in visiting both Newtownsaville and adjacent Tullanafoile. We examined the Griffith's Valuation from 1860 and determined where on the Ordnance Survey maps the McGinn and McGuigan farms were located.

In Newtownsaville I paid a visit to the shop where years earlier its proprietor had assisted in tracking down my living relations in the area. I visited with his niece and learned that the area just outside Newtownsaville was historically called McGinns Lane. The Ordnance Survey maps indicated that several adjacent farms were leased by various McGinn families.

That moniker is no longer used every day but, as a long-time resident, she shared that old timers still refer to it that way. This information would eventually fade from the collective memory but it is now preserved in my notes. I took the best pictures of the road through the rain that I could.

I wanted to collect all the information from the area. Visiting the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) in Belfast enabled me to access other helpful records. I was able to view civil registration records of births, marriages and deaths inaccessible from the United States.

Mary Anne Maguire McGuigan was born in Apr 1893 at Dromore according to her 1978 death registration. The PRONI worker mentioned that Dromore was in County Down but when I mentioned Tyrone she offered there was one there also.

I attended the Saturday vigil Mass in Clogher with hopes of approaching the current pastor about the register. Fr. McGahan was very accommodating after Mass and we agreed to meet at the rectory on Monday at 11a.m.

I had finally learned that my grandmother's sister-in-law was born at a parish nearby. This aunt's parents were married at Dromore in 1892 and had five children there between 1893 and 1901. I neatly wrote each of the dates down in my book and attended the Sunday morning Mass in Dromore with the hope of viewing the parish register. My hope was that Mary Anne Maguire had a baptismal registration that listed where and when she married John McGuigan, Jr. I had a copy of the civil record showing St. Patrick Eskra from Dec 1916. I wanted the cross reference for extra support.

The GPS on the rental car took me to the rectory, not the parish church. I had to ask a local how to get there and I arrived several minutes late. After the service was concluded I visited Father MacEntee in the sacristy and he was most agreeable and helpful. He had a baptism to conduct in 75 minutes but we got into his car and went to the parsonage. He got the baptismal register down. I was able to find Mary Anne's christening right away but, oddly, it did not mention that she married. I also viewed the information for her siblings born in 1894, 1896, 1898 and 1901.

The sister born in 1901 was the only one that had a marriage notation. She too had married a man named McGuigan. Father MacEntee thought he knew which McGuigan family it was and went to get the marriage register. It was a different family of McGuigans than he expected. It was not the Clogher McGuigan clan either. Since he had brought the marriage register to the desk, I looked up the 1892 wedding. This provided the maiden names of both mothers, which the civil record did not record.

Father also checked a census his predecessor had conducted that showed that the brother born in 1898 was still there in 1933 and single. Father was surprised how quickly we were able to search these events and he offered me a cup of tea and some cake. We drove back to the church in plenty of time for his baptism.

The next morning I knocked on the Clogher rectory door and finally gained access to the marriage register. I quickly realized that the addresses of the parties was not encouraging. In 1870, a secondary chapel was built in the parish at Eskra townland. This chapel, however, did not maintain sacramental records until 1889. It was clear that while my great-grandparents had married at Eskra and the priest there registered their nuptials with the civil authorities, he had not done so in the parish register in Clogher. In fact, none of the marriages that were listed in 1888 were from the townlands that surround Eskra chapel. Likewise, the baptismal register for 1888 did not list my grandmother's brother.

Father McGahan called his assistant pastor at Eskra and let the retired priest know I would be coming to look at the records there. He decided it was best for me to follow him and after a cup of tea off we went. Rainy and dreary though the day was I was still hopeful.

At Eskra the records were a bit difficult to find but eventually the earliest registers from 1889 were on the table. The civil records made clear that both the marriage and the birth had taken place in 1888 and, as expected, neither was in the register.

Upon reflection weeks later, other pieces came together: I had found baptismal records for the youngest Tullanafoile McGuigan born in 1860; baptismal entries for 4 of the 5 Newtownsaville McGinn children born between Jan 1860-Sep 1868; and baptismal entries for three Gormley children of Latbeg townland born between Dec 1867 and May 1870.

All three of these areas (Tullanafoile, Newtownsaville and Latbeg) were separated from Clogher parish and reassigned to the newly formed Eskra parish in 1870. The McGinn family had three younger children born in Oct 1870, Sep 1872 and Apr 1874. The Gormley family had three more children born in Jan 1872, Jun 1874 and Jan 1877. The register at Eskra did not begin until 1889. I suspect that the chapel at Eskra, which opened in 1870, likely did so between the birth of Sarah Gormley in May 1870 and the birth of Alice McGinn in Oct 1870. This is the most likely explanation of why earlier events were registered in Clogher and apparently no sacramental celebration at Eskra was recorded from mid-1870 until the start of 1889. Fortunately, civil birth registrations and civil marriage registrations seem to have been properly recorded in this timeframe.

I looked at both the 1916 and 1949 registrations of marriages. Sadly, neither had the baptismal details in the margin that one would expect to find. The 1916 registration did record the names of the groom's father and mother. It incorrectly identified the name of the father of the bride. It did not list her mother.

Fortunately, between the census records and the parish records I was able to decipher the Maguire family living arrangements.

I was also able to verify with both PRONI and the local historian that there were no estate records for the resident landlord that owned Tullanafoile and Tamlaght in the 1800s. The previous landlord in the 1700s had been an absentee landlord and records pertaining to the area had been discovered at Nottingham by the local historian and brought to PRONI's attention years earlier. The names McGinn and McGuigan appear in the earlier lease records but it is not conclusive how they fit into my family tree. It had been hoped that the resident landlord might have maintained excellent records.

Properly kept records can be a goldmine. In reality one is left to work with whatever records have survived. In 1916 my grand-uncle married and there was an "x" and his mark on the record. I was surprised that he could not write his name apparently. National school records survived for the school at Newtwonsaville. Unfortunately, these are only examination rolls from 1889-1899. He appeared in these rolls just three times in 1894, 1897 and 1898. He did not appear to be a stellar student based on these records.

Visiting the locality was beneficial for me in many ways. I now have both visual and tactile memories from my trip. I fell over a barbed wire fence helping the historian clear tree branches on the drive approaching his establishment after a severe January storm. I also have a renewed respect for the Catholic pastors that had been soured in 1996. The locals of Clogher are a terrific bunch of people and I am proud to have roots there.



Kevin Cassidy has searched his own family tree back to the 8 Irish townlands of origin for his great-grand-parents. His talks are research and strategy centered. He encourages researchers with a plethora of examples and research approaches that will advance their own research goals. He has history and law degrees and a diploma in family history.

Celtic Connections Conference 2020 – Reinvented

by Gigi Hickey & Mary Wickersham

When life gives you lemons, make Celtic lemonade!

Planning the Celtic Connections Conference 2020 has had its up and downs, to say the least. While we hope you're planning to participate in our new July 31-September 30 event, we thought you might also be interested in a look behind the scenes.

IGSI co-sponsors the biennial genealogy conference with The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA). Primary responsibility for the conference alternates between the two organizations. The 2020 event was to be IGSI's turn, and the planning team decided metro Chicago might provide a better location to grow the conference, which was scheduled for July 31-August 1.

Committee members have worked tirelessly, beginning in July 2018 with the first of two trips to Chicago to visit potential venues. On their second trip, in November 2018, committee members found an ideal site for the 2020 conference, the Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling, Illinois. Planning then kicked into high gear: presenters, topics, contracts, menus, banquet and luncheon speakers, pre-conference events, schedules, sponsors, pricing, T-shirts, press releases, website updates, registration process, volunteers, vendors, the list goes on and on. Several IGSI and TIARA members even traveled to Wisconsin in August 2019 to promote CCC '20 at the Milwaukee Irish Fest. We built friendships with Cairde (friends) in the Illinois State Genealogical Society and the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin, groups which promoted the conference to their members. We sent promotional informational to the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago and other organizations to distribute to their visitors.

We were "all in." Conference co-chairs Mary Wickersham and Gigi Hickey had

lots of help. IGSI planning committee members and volunteer supporters included, over time: Ann Eccles, Lois Mackin, Kim Scanlan, Tim Scanlan, Randi Mary Helgesen, Fern Wilcox, Kay Swanson, Jeanne Bakken, Pat Schoenfeld, Greg Winters, Dave Miller, Megan McLean, Kathleen Foley, Forrest Peiper, Bill Hickey and Tom Rice.

A larger planning team included members from TIARA as well: Mary Choppa, Greg Atkinson, Joanne Delaney, Janis Duffy, Anne Patriquin, Kathy Roscoe, Kathy Sullivan, Pat Deal, Gary Sutherland, and others. Our partners at TIARA helped with tasks such as presenter/program selection, sponsorships, communication and syllabus, while providing valuable input during biweekly conference calls.

Things were shaping up nicely when conference registration opened at the end of January 2020. Registrant numbers and enthusiasm grew steadily into March, but then news of the COVID-19 pandemic brought gigantic uncertainty. Would everything be back to normal by July? Could the conference survive?

By late April, because of the significant risks to presenters and registrants, the planning team made the very difficult decision to cancel the conference. In addition to the disappointment of all the wasted effort and "sunk costs" for printing/advertising, the committee faced the prospect of significant penalties based on their contract with the hotel. It looked like a big basket of sour lemons!

Then committee members heard about virtual conferences. The Massachusetts Genealogical Council (MGC) had quickly converted their two-day in-person seminar to online recorded presentations which were well-received by a large audience. MGC volunteers willingly shared information and advice with us.

Early May was a blur of activity as the committee pivoted to deliver a virtual conference: canvassing presenters about their willingness to participate using video technology, making adjustments to the program, getting new contracts, studying webinar and Vimeo's video capabilities, developing a new budget, briefing IGSI and TIARA boards, creating a communication plan, etc.

In the meantime, a TIARA committee member successfully negotiated with the hotel to reduce our liability there to zero! Generous registrants donated enough to offset the expenses we'd already incurred! We could start the virtual conference without being "in the red"! Some sugar for the lemons!

Hundreds of hours of work followed: arranging for recordings, learning how to record lectures, editing videos, scheduling, recruiting and training moderators for live chats, redesigning registration and website pages to accommodate all the changes, and more.

Irish family researchers from all over North America, Australia and elsewhere have been registering! We have received notes from people who would not have been able to travel under normal circumstances. They're happy to be able to access the presentations from home and not need to choose among three lectures scheduled at the same time – they can view all 25 sessions at their convenience. While we will miss the opportunity to gather together and meet one another, we hope the chat sessions will allow for some interaction with the presenters.

So many pluses, and all for $99!

IGSI had begun to enter the webinar world even before the virtual conference was conceived, but the pace has quickened considerably! At the end of this steep learning curve, we hopefully will use our newly-learned skills to the ongoing benefit of IGSI.

The virtual Celtic Connections Conference is definitely a positive outcome, lemonade instead of lemons! Don't miss it!

If you haven't done so already, register now at <celtic-connections.org>. Registration will remain open into August.

Gigi Hickey is co-chair of the 2020 Celtic Connections Conference. She also has researched her husband Bill's Irish line, served as editor of the IGSI blog for nine years. When not doing genealogy research, she enjoys quilting and playing piano duets.



Mary Wickersham has been researching her Irish roots for over 20 years. She is a professional genealogist, past President and board member of IGSI, past board member of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. She is currently busy co-chairing the 2020 Celtic Connections Conference.

Brian Mitchell's *New Guide to Irish Genealogy*

by Line

The best sources of information on Irish genealogy are experienced Irish genealogists. Brian Mitchell, chief genealogist of County Derry, Northern Ireland, is proof of this. And he willingly shares his expertise.

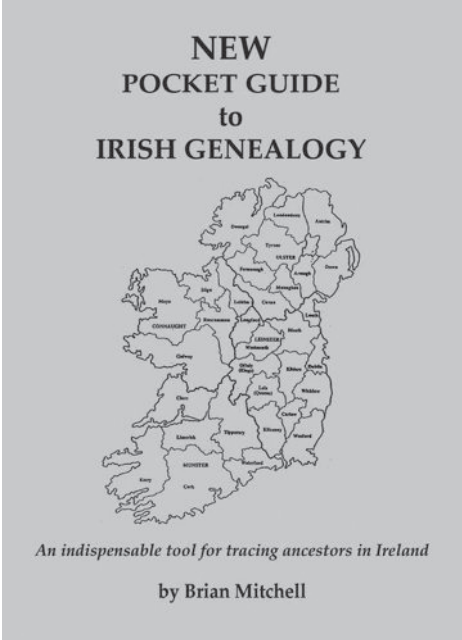
His newly updated *New Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy* includes the tag line, "an indispensable tool for tracing ancestors in Ireland". The tone throughout the book is friendly and informative. This thin — a mere 122 pages — book offers an introduction to researching family history in Ireland with case studies and research advice to guide the family historian along the way. In this edition, Mitchell emphasizes (features) online access to the traditional Irish record sources.

When Mitchell wrote the original guide in 1991 the only means of access to record sources was through examination of the original or of microfilm copies of historical sources in Irish record offices. In the preface to this guide, he affirms that his basic premise for Irish family history research "has remained unchanged since I first started working in 1982: that the examination of seven major records will throw quite detailed light on most peoples' Irish ancestry."

Mitchell takes the reader through the use of his significant seven resources:

- Civil and church registers
- Gravestone inscriptions
- Wills
- 1901 and 1911 census returns
- Griffith's Valuation
- Tithe Applotment

He includes discussion of other related record sources, including newspapers, school registers, 17th and 18th century census substitutes, military records, workhouse records, estate records and the Registry of Deeds. These offer the reader additional options to pursue in researching ancestors.



NEW Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy
Brian Mitchell
Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Company, 2020
Genealogical Publishing Company
122 pages
ISBN: 9780806359083
Price: $25

The final section of the book (titled Insights and Strategies) provides an overview of topics related to Irish family history research:

Irish placenames – an introduction to Irish administrative divisions;

surnames – their sources, variants, and distributions;

Irish passenger lists;

the use of DNA and genetics in Irish genealogy.

I see two areas for improvement: in spite of the title of this book, and due to its size (8" x 10") it is not going to fit into the average pocket — though its slim nature does lend to slipping it into a folder or laptop case; and, secondly, it lacks an index. Mitchell mentions many valuable resources throughout the book, some in relation to his significant resources. Yet once or twice I temporarily lost sight of one of these side-mentioned items. An index would have helped me find that specific record source when seeking it later.

The general format of this book works well both as an introduction to process for Irish family history research (using the author's seven basic resources) and as an overview/review for experienced researchers. Ever the Irish storyteller, Mitchell offers a combination of sound genealogical advice and research tips with a few specific case studies. He incorporates illustrations of examples and records throughout the book and suggests other resources to investigate to learn more. With the revisions in this edition, specifically his directions to relevant and appropriate websites, Mitchell provides the key for Irish family historians.

Overall, reading Brian Mitchell's book, *New Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy*, is almost a conversation with this well-informed author. It's an introduction for new Irish family researchers — friendly and encouraging in tone, simple and unpretentious in presentation. The guide is short enough to re-read upon occasion to revisit or locate the information seen earlier. It's a great addition to a personal research collection.

I Got My DNA Results. Now What?

by Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, CG

Genetic genealogy is a relatively new and evolving field.

Why do we test our DNA?

1. Curious about our ethnicity
2. See if family lore is true
3. Augment document research
4. Confirm a relationship
5. Question about parentage
6. Find biological family
7. Break down a "brick wall"

What is DNA?

- Deoxyribonucleic acid – entire genetic code in every cell that is your unique blueprint
- Base pairs of adenine, cytosine, guanine, and thymine organized into a double helix
- 46 chromosomes – 23 pairs, half from each biological parent
- 23rd chromosome: XX for females, XY for males, father determines a child's gender
- Human genome has about 3.17 billion base pairs, unwound about 6 feet long
- centiMorgan (cM) is a unit of length on a chromosome; 1cM = about 1 million base pairs
- The more cMs you share with someone, the more closely related you are to teach other

3 Basic DNA Tests

- Autosomal – both parents' sides, about 5 generations or about 200 years back
- mtDNA – mother's mother's mother…, about 52 generations, thousands of years
- Y-DNA – father's father's father…, about 25 generations, hundreds of years
  - MtDNA and Y-DNA mutate at a much slower rate so go further back in time
  - Only men carry Y-DNA; women can test a male blood-relative in her stead

Major DNA testing and database companies – kits occasionally go on sale

- AncestryDNA – < www.ancestry.com/dna/ >, (autosomal) $99, plus $10 shipping
- FamilyTreeDNA – < www.familytreedna.com >, Family Finder (autosomal) $79, mtDNA $199, Y-DNA $169-649, plus shipping
- MyHeritage DNA – < www.myheritage.com/dna/ >, (autosomal) $79, plus $12 shipping
- *23andMe* – < www.23andme.com >, ancestry (autosomal) only $99, ancestry + health $199, plus shipping
- *GEDmatch* – < www.gedmatch.com >, upload raw data, FREE!

Other Testing Companies

- African Ancestry – < www.africanancestry.com >, locate Africa ancestry, about $300
- Genographic Project (National Geographic) – < genographic.nationalgeographic.com/ >, ancestry and human migration, about $200
- *Orig3n* – < orig3n.com/ >, DNA analysis to understand health, starts at $99
- *Helix* – < www.helix.com/ >, ancestry basics is free; regional, metabolism and Neanderthal tests are $145 each, less if you're a Helix customer

Concerns

- Privacy – Some companies may share your anonymized data with nonprofit groups or sell it to for-profit companies for medical or pharmaceutical research. Most allow you to opt in or out of sharing your information in this way. However, sharing your DNA could lead to important medical breakthroughs.
- Law Enforcement – Some cold-case crimes have been solved due to DNA matches. You may opt in or out of allowing law enforcement to have access to your DNA.
- Emotional – You could learn you were adopted, have unexpected parentage, or have a sibling you never knew about.

Two Results – some companies offer health-related analysis

- Ethnicity estimate
- DNA matches

Ethnicity

Ethnicity results aren't always what is expected.

- Just estimates
- Migration introduced "foreign" DNA into populations

- DNA from neighboring regions can look similar
- Number of people in a company's particular reference population
- The markers tested are not representative of all your DNA
- Discount very small percentages as "noise"

Amount of DNA you inherit from each ancestor is reduced roughly in half with each generation.

50% from each parent, about 25% from each grandparent, about 12.5% from each great-grand…

What are markers?

DNA is a double helix with about 3 billion pairs of nucleotides per strand. Testing companies don't look at the entire sequence. They spot-test about .024% of your sequence at specific locations, aka "markers" – about 600,000 to 700,000 of them. Your markers are compared to the results of others in their database.

Matches

Siblings

- Siblings inherit differently from each parent – the "deck" is shuffled for every child
- Only identical twins have the same DNA

Cousin Matches – the real benefit of DNA testing

- Cousin share many of the same ancestors as you
- Cousins may have photos, documents, the family Bible, stories
- Cousins may introduce you to other relatives and show you ancestral places
- Focus on 3rd cousins or closer for starters – at least 50 cMs in common
- Surprises can happen – be prepared and proceed with care

Post your tree – It doesn't have to be everything you know but go back as many generations as you are able with accuracy. Living relatives are automatically named shown as "private," and you can make your tree private, but you will connect with fewer matches.

Link your tree to your DNA results.

On Whose Side is the Match – Maternal or Paternal?

- Compare family trees
- Recognize surnames? Places?
- Who else shares DNA with your match? Which branch of your family are they on?
- If possible, test relatives on Mom's side and Dad's side to help differentiate matches.
- Compare family trees to find connections: surnames, locations, ethnicities
- Check Shared Matches to determine which branch of your family your match is on
- *Ancestry*'s Thrulines compare your results to the family trees of others *(Caution: online family trees are frequently inaccurate – consider them only as clues)*
- Try the DNA Color Clustering, aka The Leeds Method: < https://www.danaleeds.com/leeds-method-dna/ >
- *MyHeritage* has Auto Cluster that groups your matches into probable family groups
- *GEDmatch* (free) has great tools for comparing your results to others' and contact them
- Build a spreadsheet for matches or use color coded recipe cards

Contacting Your Matches

- Initial contact through the testing company's website
- Be brief but specific
- Tell which testing company shows your match (some people test with more than one)
- Tell who you match and to what degree (some people manage multiple kits)
- Give the name or number for your kit
- Offer your family ethnic background, surnames, locations
- Thank anyone who responds (not everyone will)

"Fish in more ponds" – download your raw results to upload it to other databases

- *MyHeritage* and FamilyTreeDNA accept transfers from other sources for free
- AncestryDNA and *23andMe* do not accept transfers – you have to test with them
- Each company allows you to determine your level of sharing/privacy
- Check websites regularly – new matches are added daily

Learn More

Online

- *Ancestry* and *FTDNA* both offer Help or Learning Center sections
- *Ancestry*'s white paper on ethnicity prediction (35 pages): < https://www.ancestrycdn.com/dna/static/pdf/whitepapers/WhitePaper_2018_1130_update.pdf >
- International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) Wiki
- DNA:An Introduction to Genetic Genealogy
- *FamilyTree* DNA courses
- GeneTech at *FamilySearch*
- https://sites.google.com/site/wheatonsurname/beginners-guide-to-genetic-genealogy
- https://www.vox.com/videos/2019/4/16/18410869/dna-genetic-ancestry-tests
- *Facebook*: Search "DNA" to find many pages dedicated to helping individuals with genetic genealogy questions

Books

- *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* by Blaine Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne
- *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* by Blaine Bettinger
- *Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA: A Guide for Family Historians* by Graham S. Holton
- *Finding Family, My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA* by Richard Hill
- *The DNA Guide for Adoptees* by Brianne Kirkpatrick and Shannon Combs-Bennett

Interest Groups

- Minnesota Genealogical Society DNA Interest Group – 1st Sunday of the month, 1:00 at the Minnesota Genealogy Center, 1385 Mendota Heights Rd, Mendota Heights

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DNA results without document research is not genealogy.

DNA results provide additional evidence for relationships and augment our research.

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Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, CG, is president of the Association for Professional Genealogists Northland Chapter, and co-editor of the Minnesota Genealogist journal. Liz serves on the Minnesota Genealogical Society Board of Directors and is a member of several national and ethnic genealogical societies. She researches professionally as Red Bird Genealogy Services (www.RedBirdGen.com).



IGSI Webinars in September

From the comfort and safety of your own home

For full program description and to register, visit Activities page at Irishgenealogical.org.
$15.00 IGSI members $20.00 non-members

Saturday, September 12 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Instructor: Tom Rice, CG
FamilySearch: In-Depth

Saturday, September 19 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Instructor: Kevin Cassidy
How to Get Ready to Search Irish Records

Cool Tools for Working with Your DNA

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

Genetic genealogy is mainstream! Just as we have lots of tools for working with our documentary research materials, we have lots of tools for working with our genetic genealogy results. Some genetic genealogy tools are provided by the testing companies, other tools are provided by third-party developers, and still other tools are do-it-yourself efforts. Some tools are free, others have added cost.

In this article we'll survey some of the most commonly used and useful tools for working with autosomal DNA results. We'll consider five kinds of tools:

- Tools for separating and grouping matches
- Tools for refining estimated relationships
- Tools for analyzing matches
- Tools for visualizing matches
- Tools for identifying shared ancestors

Tools for Separating and Grouping Matches

Family Tree DNA *Family Matching.*

Family Tree DNA <www.ftdna.com>, a testing company that provides Y, mitochondrial, and autosomal tests, offers a Family Matching feature that allows you to view your confirmed maternal and paternal Family Finder matches together and separately.

To use this feature, you'll need a tree attached to your test kit. You can either build the tree using *FTDNA*'s MyTREE or upload a GEDCOM. Once you have your tree, pick a DNA match whose relationship you know from your match list and add their ancestral line to your tree, starting with the ancestor you and the match share. Once you have added your match's ancestors, click Link Matches (at the top left of the tree screen), click the match you want to attach, and drag it to the proper place in the tree. (Figure 1.)

Linking DNA matches to your tree tells *FTDNA* whether those matches are paternal or maternal. The Family Matching feature then identifies additional matches that share DNA with the paternal and maternal matches you identified,

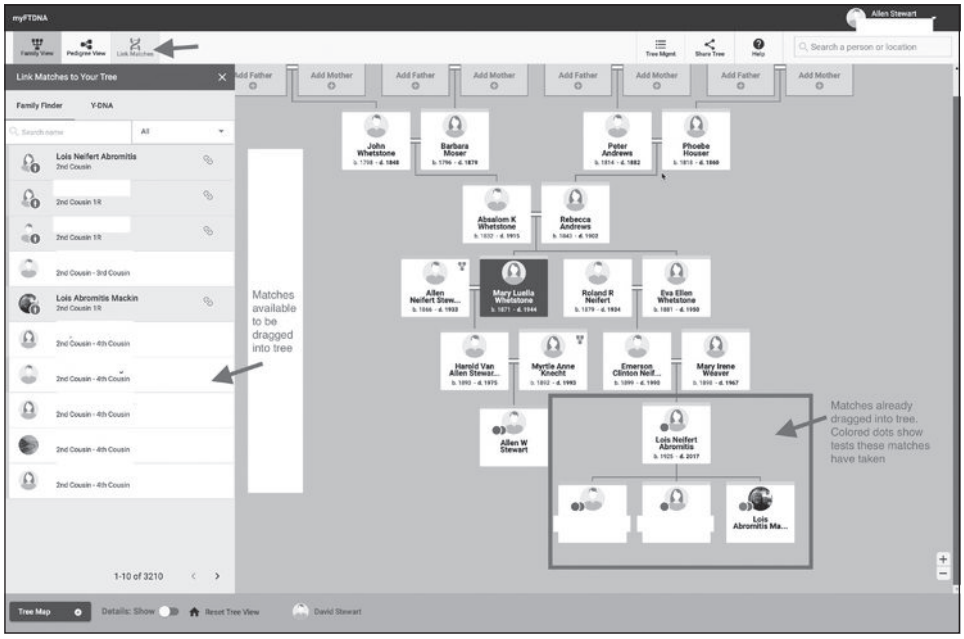


Figure 1. Adding matches to tree

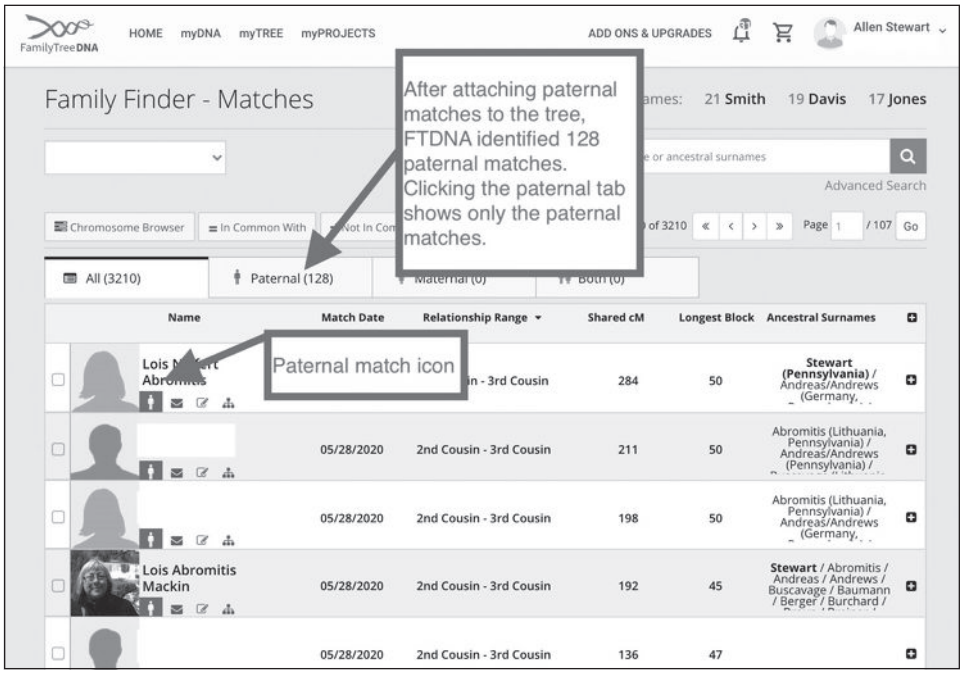


Figure 2. Match list with paternal matches

and assigns icons (blue for paternal, red for maternal, purple for both) to those matches. At the top of the match list are tabs for All, Paternal, Maternal, and Both. Clicking on a tab shows only the matches that fit the tab criteria. (Figure 2.)

Ancestry *Family Matching*

When parents and children have both tested on *Ancestry*, *Ancestry* can label matches on the children's match list as Father's Side, Mother's Side, or Both Sides. Since my husband and I have both tested at *Ancestry*, my daughter's maternal and paternal matches are labeled. She is able to filter her match list by Father's Side or Mother's Side.

Ancestry *user-defined groups*

In 2019, *Ancestry* gave users the ability to define up to 24 groups within their match lists. Each group is assigned a unique-colored dot. Individual matches can be assigned to one or more groups, and matches can be filtered by group. Let's say I create a group for the known matches descended from the Trewren family and assign that group to all the Trewren matches. I can then use the group to filter my match list so that I see only those matches.

Tools for refining estimated relationships

Your testing company uses the amount of DNA you share with each match to estimate a relationship or relationship range for the two of you. The *FTDNA* and *Ancestry* match lists shown above, for example, have matches labeled "2nd cousin-3rd cousin" (*FTDNA*) and "Parent/Child," "Brother," "Close Family-1st Cousin," "1st-2nd cousin" (*Ancestry*).

The reason these relationship ranges are non-specific is that there are not specific *amounts* of DNA shared by the different degrees of relationship, there are *ranges* of DNA shared, and the ranges overlap. For example, first cousins can share between 396 and 1,397 cM of DNA. Second cousins can share between 41 and 592 cM. Is a match sharing 497 cM with you a low-sharing first cousin, or a high-sharing second cousin?[1] You can't tell from the amount of shared DNA alone, which is why the testing companies hedge their bets and give relationship ranges.

Blaine Bettinger's Shared cM Project

Genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger collected and analyzed nearly 60,000 submissions of DNA shared in almost 50 unique relationships. From these data he produced a relationship chart which has

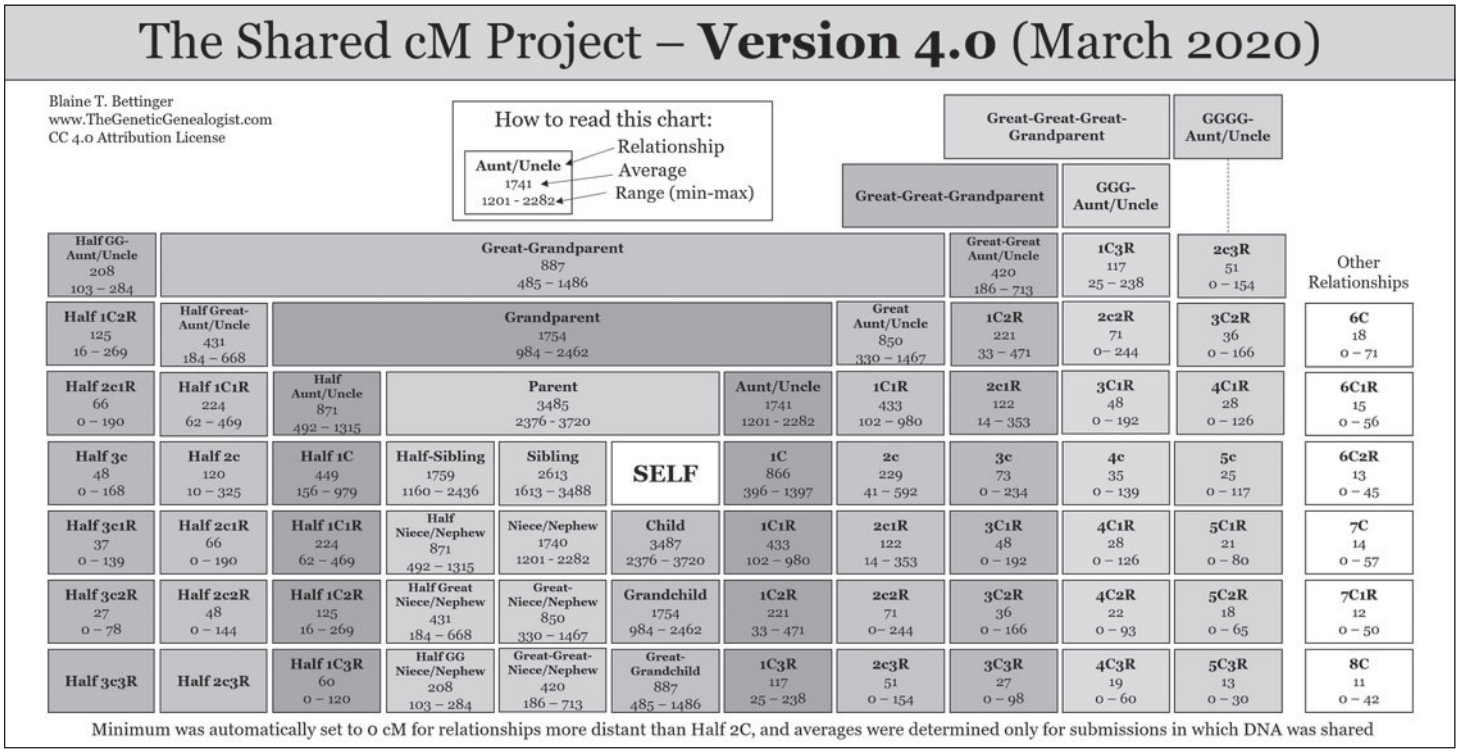


Figure 3. The Shared cM Project – Version 4.0, courtesy of Blaine T. Bettinger, www.TheGeneticGenealogist.com. CC 4.0 Attribution License. This image was converted to black & white.

now been published in four versions, most recently in March 2020. (Figure 3.)

DNAPainter*'s Shared cM Tool*

In 2017, British programmer Jonny Perl created a web-based version from the Shared cM project data on his *DNAPainter* website <www.dnapainter.com>. Jonny's tool automates the identification of possible relationships for a given amount of shared DNA, and adds probability calculations for the possible relationships based on the work of Leah LaPerle Larkin. You simply enter the amount of DNA you share with a match (in cM or as a percent), and the tool identifies the possible relationships for that amount of shared DNA, grays out the impossible relationships, and produces a table of probabilities for the possible relationships. This example shows the possible relationships for 74 cM of shared DNA. In this example, the test subject and the match are genealogically third cousins, thus falling into the most likely (30%) group of relationships. (Figure 4.)

Tools for Analyzing Matches

Shared matches

One of the most powerful tools for analyzing DNA matches is examining shared matches. From your match list, you can tell that you and one of your matches, "Mary X," share DNA, and you can see from the match list how much DNA you and Mary share. By looking at the matches that are on your match list and also on Mary X's match list, you can glean important clues as to how you are related to Mary X. These are your shared matches.

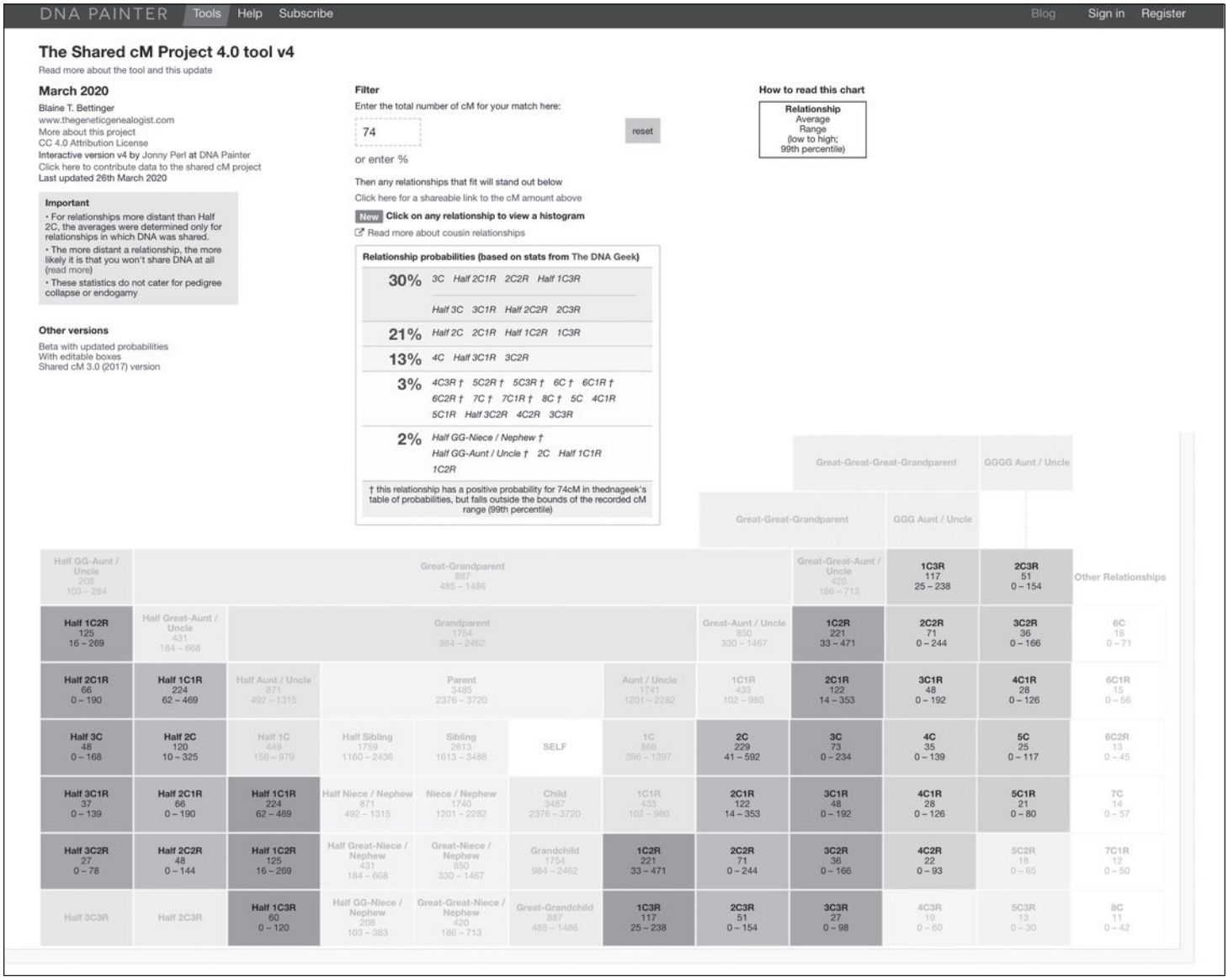


Figure 4. Shared cM Tool DNAPainter example

Relative in common	You	Katie	Shared DNA
	Son (49.8%)	3rd Cousin (0.71%)	Yes
	2nd Cousin (3.75%)	Mother (49.9%)	Yes
	2nd Cousin (2.82%)	2nd Cousin (1.93%)	Request sent

Figure 5. 23andMe *Relatives in Common*

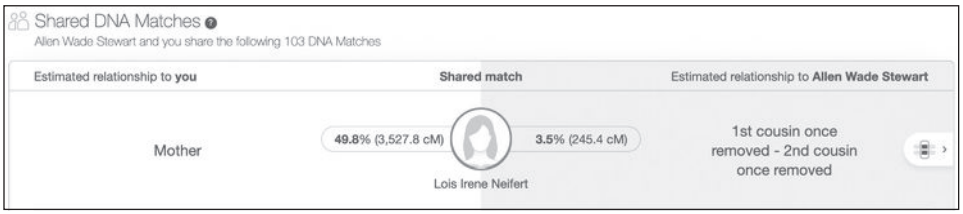


Figure 6. MyHeritage *Shared DNA Matches*

All four major testing companies — *FTDNA*, *Ancestry*, *23andMe*, and *MyHeritage* — have tools that identify shared or in-common-with matches. *FTDNA* calls these In Common With matches and displays them when you click one or more matches in your match list and press the In Common With tab. *Ancestry* calls them Shared Matches and displays them on a tab on the detail page for a match (which you reach by clicking the match name on your match list). *23andMe* calls them Relatives in Common and displays them after you click the blue Find Relatives in Common button near the bottom of the detail page that opens when you click a match on your Family Relatives page. *MyHeritage* calls them Shared DNA matches and displays them when you click Review DNA Match on your match list.

MyHeritage and *23andMe* even give the amount of DNA and relationship of a shared match to both you and your original match. *Ancestry* and *FTDNA* do not. This is part of a Relatives in Common list for me and my match "Katie" on *23andMe*. The first shared match is my son sharing 49.8% of DNA; he is Katie's estimated 3rd cousin sharing 0.71% with her. The second shared match is my estimated 2nd cousin sharing 3.75%; she is Katie's mother sharing 49.9% with Katie. (Figure 5.)

The Shared DNA Matches list on *MyHeritage* is similar. Here we see the first shared match with me and my mother's deceased cousin Allen Stewart, who happens to be my mother. *MyHeritage* shows her name, the amount of shared DNA and estimated relationship to me on the left, and the amount of shared DNA and estimated relationship to Allen on the right. (Figure 6.)

Clustering

Clustering is a term describing a set of tools that take shared-match analysis to the next level. Clustering can be performed manually or by using any of several automated tools. This is a rapidly evolving area of genetic genealogy; to keep up you might benefit from following one or two of the *Facebook* groups run by genetic genealogy experts.[2]

The Leeds Method — manual clustering. Genealogist Dana Stewart Leeds <www.danaleeds.com> developed the Leeds Method for organizing DNA matches into visual clusters usually based on shared ancestral lines. Leeds-Method clustering can be done manually (in fact, manual clustering is a great way to work with focused sets of matches and/or to learn about how clustering works). Dana provides detailed clustering instructions on her website at <https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method/>. The illustration below shows clusters identified from shared matches of two cousins descended from a great-grandparent couple with only one identified parent. (Figure 7.)

Automated clustering. Several testing company and third-party websites provide automated clustering.

- *Genetic Affairs* <www.geneticaffairs.com>. Developer Jan Evert Blom's website provides automated

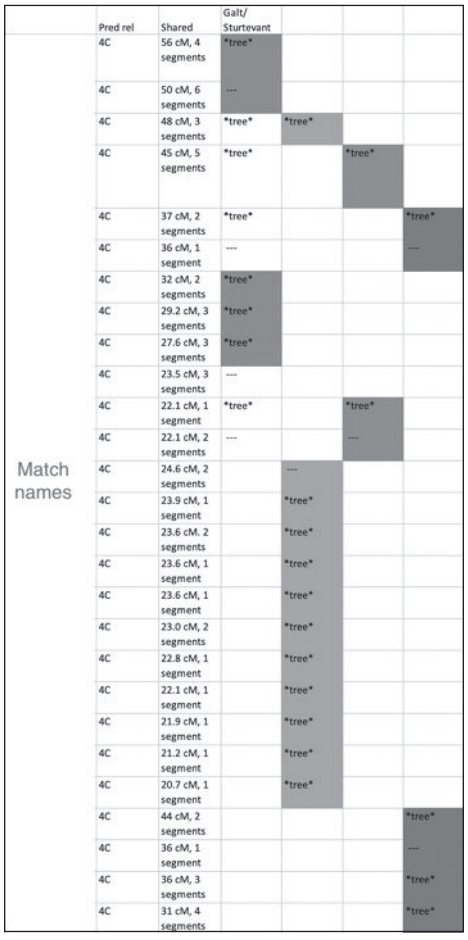


Figure 7. Manual Leeds Method example

clustering of shared matches for profiles from *23andMe* and *FTDNA*.[3] Users are able to specify minimum and maximum amounts of shared DNA for clustering. Results, in the form of an interactive cluster visualization and a spreadsheet of matches, are emailed. *Genetic Affairs* is fee-based but offers a free trial.

- *MyHeritage* AutoClusters. *MyHeritage* has licensed Jan Evert Blom's AutoCluster tool and integrated it into the DNA Tools portion of their website. Users simply choose one of their DNA kits and click the Generate button (which uses default minimum and maximum values). *MyHeritage* emails results consisting of an interactive cluster visualization and a spreadsheet of matches.
- *GEDmatch* <www.gedmatch.com>. *GEDmatch* is a third-party website offering two levels of analysis tools, a free level of basic tools, and a fee-based level, called Tier 1, with more advanced tools. Tier 1 includes a single-kit clustering tool. Users select a kit, click on the tool, and adjust the minimum and maximum cM thresholds. *GEDmatch* delivers an interactive cluster visualization on-screen. Clustering is integrated with other *GEDmatch* tools, including one-to-one and multi-kit analysis.

The following illustration shows an AutoCluster from *Genetic Affairs* for a *23andMe* kit. (Figure 8.)

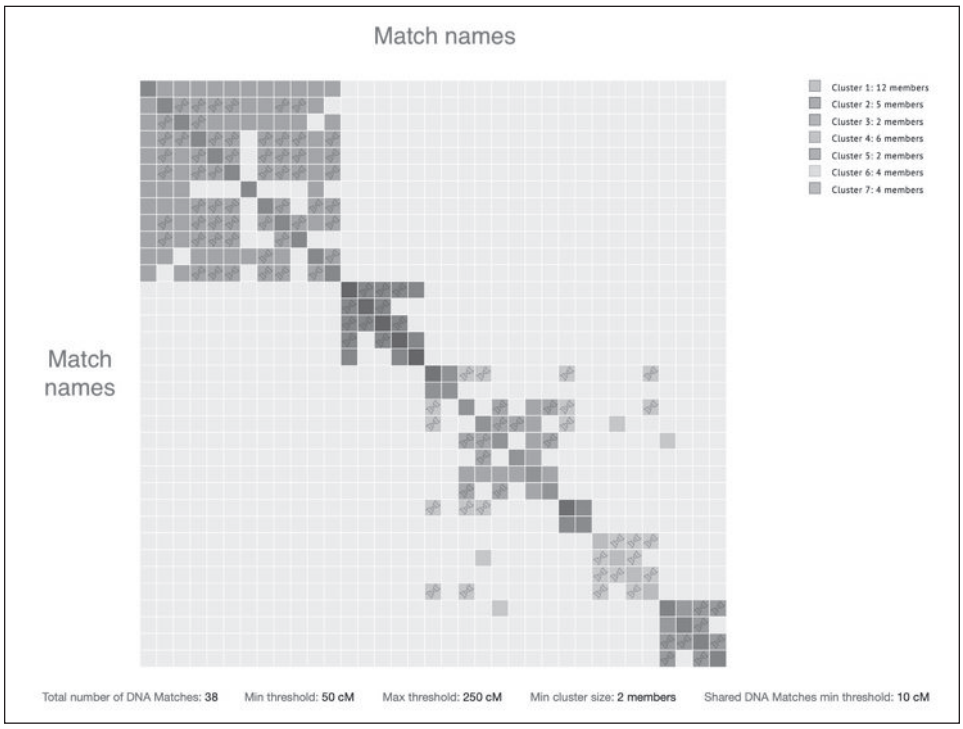


Figure 8. AutoCluster example

Tools for Visualizing Matches

Chromosome browsers

Chromosome browsers, available from *FTDNA*, *23andMe*, *MyHeritage*, and the third-party site *GEDmatch*, are graphic depictions of the DNA shared by a DNA tester and one or more matches. They show the exact segments of the chromosomes where matching DNA is found.

Chromosome painting

Jonny Perl's *DNAPainter* website offers a chromosome mapping tool that takes chromosome browsing a step farther. Users copy segment data from the chromosome browsers at *FTDNA*, *23andMe*, *MyHeritage*, and *GEDmatch*, paste it into *DNAPainter*, and assign it to a paternal or maternal group they define (often groups represent descent from an ancestral couple or family). The profile displays the paternal or maternal chromosome segments that have been mapped. The first chromosome mapping profile is free; to create additional profiles, a subscription is needed. On the next page, Figure 9 shows my profile.

Tools for Identifying Shared Ancestors

Ancestry *ThruLines* / MyHeritage *Theory of Family Relativity*

Both *Ancestry* and *MyHeritage* offer tools integrating DNA matches with trees to provide suggestions for the shared ancestors. *Ancestry*'s tool is called ThruLines, and *MyHeritage*'s tool is called Theory of Family Relativity (TFR). In both cases, the tool starts with a DNA match and compares the trees attached to the original tester's kit and the matching kit to additional trees (*MyHeritage* also compares to the *FamilySearch* tree, and the *Geni* tree, along with some historical records). The end result is a diagram showing how the DNA matches might be related to an ancestral couple. Both tools can produce erroneous results when relationships are incorrect in the trees they are based on, so ThruLines and TFRs should be used with care.

DNAPainter's What Are the Odds?

The *DNAPainter* website has a third tool called What are the Odds? (WATO), based on the probability work of Leah LaPerle Larkin.[4] WATO is designed to help ascertain where a DNA tester fits into the known family tree of their DNA matches. Users build a skeletal family tree and enter hypotheses, potential places where the tester might fit. WATO generates a score for each hypothesis, with the highest-scoring hypothesis being most likely.

Genetic Affairs *AutoTree and AutoPedigree*

Genetic Affairs, the website that provides AutoClustering, has advanced features called AutoTree and AutoPedigree. AutoTree, available for *FTDNA* profiles, identifies common ancestors and reconstructs genealogical trees based on the trees of DNA matches from AutoCluster clusters. AutoPedigree takes AutoTree a step farther, using WATO-like predictions to identify how an individual might fit into a reconstructed AutoTree.

Endnotes

[1] Amounts are from the Shared cM Project, Version 4.0 (March 2020), Blaine T. Bettinger, "Version 4.0! March 2020 Update to the Shared cM Project," *The Genetic Genealogist*, 27 March 2020 (https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2020/03/27/version-4-0-march-2020-update-to-the-shared-cm-project/ : accessed 15 June 2020).

[2] For example, Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques (https://www.facebook.com/groups/geneticgenealogytipsandtechniques/) run by Blaine Bettinger, and Genetic Genealogy Ireland (https://www.facebook.com/groups/geneticgenealogyireland/), run by Gerard Corcoran, Maurice Gleeson, and Joss Ar Gall. In the *Facebook* groups you will find posts highlighting new tools and developments in genetic genealogy; you will also learn about other groups you might be interested in.

[3] Originally, Genetic Affairs offered clustering for *Ancestry* kits; in June 2020 *Ancestry* issued a Cease and Desist order prohibiting the company from accessing their databases.

[4] Leah's work is presented in a series of seven blog posts on her blog *The DNA Geek*. Start with the first post, Leah LaPerle Larkin, "Science the Heck out of Your DNA — Part 1," 2 January 2018, *The DNA Geek* (https://thednageek.com/science-the-heck-out-of-your-dna-part-1/ : accessed 16 June 2020).



Figure 9. Sample chromosome painting

Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*



Are You Wondering What a Webinar Is?

by Kathleen Foley

You may have noticed that IGSI hosted a webinar in March, another in May, and two more in June. Now we have the opportunity to view 25 different webinar recordings and participate in ten 'chats' as part of the Virtual Celtic Connections Conference (CCC) starting July 31st and continuing through September.

If you have not taken part in a webinar, you may be wondering what it is! You probably have all the equipment necessary to take part in any of these or other webinars if you have Internet access and a computer, tablet, iPad or smartphone and an internet connection.

What is a Webinar?

Webinar is short for web-based seminar. A webinar is an on-line meeting or presentation held over the Internet. You can participate from the safety and comfort of your home.

The IGSI webinars have been real-time events. A speaker presents the material from their home or office while you listen and watch. They control what appears on the screen you see – usually a PowerPoint slide show. Because it is happening in real-time, you often can type in a question for the speaker to address during the presentation.

The CCC webinars are slightly different. Instead of happening at a specific date/time, they were pre-recorded, so you can watch at your convenience.

In both cases, you will not be on camera so you can watch in your PJs!

What Equipment Do I Need?

All you need to participate is an Internet connected device that has audio capabilities so you can hear the speaker.

What Will I have to Do to Participate in an IGSI Webinar?

For IGSI webinars, you will need to register. Upcoming webinars are listed on the IGSI website under Activities (in the left column). Click on the URL link and you will be taken to the registration page where you enter your name and e-mail address. For those webinars where we charge a fee, enter your credit card information on the secure registration site. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation e-mail plus follow-up reminders one day and again one hour before the real-time event.

After a webinar has been recorded by IGSI, it will be available for members to view in the future.

For CCC, if you have not already registered, you can do so now by visiting <Celtic-Connections.org>. In late July, registrants will receive an email with a link to the conference website to access the 25 different presentations and to register for the live chats.

I'm Not Very 'Techie'. What Problems May I Encounter?

In general, there are few problems. However, at times you may encounter issues in not being able to see or hear the real-time webinar.

I do not see the speaker's presentation – this usually means that:

- The viewer window has been minimized. Check the task bar (Windows) or dock (Mac) for the Daisy icon, then click it to bring the GoToWebinar desktop application to the forefront of your screen.
- You might have the wrong tab selected. Check the task bar (Windows) or dock (Mac) for the Daisy icon, then click it to bring the GoToWebinar desktop application to the forefront of your screen.
- There may not be any screens being shared yet. When there is no one sharing their screen, the Waiting Room is displayed and you'll see the message "Waiting to view <Presenter>'s screen". If you see this screen, then everything is in order! Once the presenter starts sharing their screen, you will see it in this window.
- The GoToWebinar Viewer may be hiding behind the "Let's get started" browser page. Once connected to the session, you can close the browser and/or open the running GoToWebinar desktop app in the task bar.

I can see the speaker's screen but do not hear the audio – this usually means:

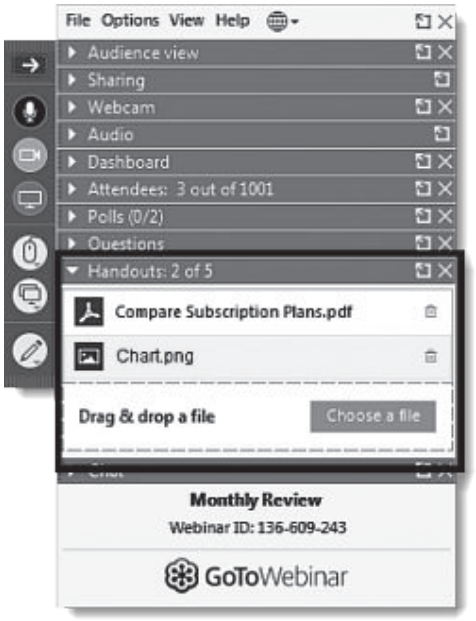
- The organizer might not have begun the broadcast yet. If you see the Control Panel and hear intermittent on-hold beeps, then the organizer has started the webinar but has not yet begun broadcasting their audio,

screen, or webcam to attendees. You should remain connected and wait for the organizer to start the broadcast. You can also use the Questions pane to send them a chat message if you have any questions or concerns.

- The wrong audio mode might be selected in the GoToWebinar app. When you are in a session, you can specify which audio mode you use to connect to the audio conference (depending on which modes the organizer made available). It's possible that the default mode you joined with is not the one you want, and that you need to manually switch it.
  - If you want to connect with your mic and speakers, make sure Computer Mode or Internet Mode is selected.
  - If you want to connect with your telephone, make sure Phone Mode is selected.
- The session might already be over. If it looks like the session is running but no one responds to your chat messages, it's possible that you joined late and the organizer accidentally left the session running! Check the start time of the session and make sure it wasn't supposed to start earlier in the day, particularly if there is a time zone difference for you and the organizer.

I cannot find the handouts.

- The handouts for IGSI webinars, if any, are available on the Handouts tab of the Control Panel. Simply click on the down arrow opposite Handouts to see the file(s). Click on the document link to bring up the document. You can then view it or, better yet, print it out and take notes on it during the presentation. Insert Kathleen's image of the GoToWebinar control panel.



Want to Try a Webinar?

Check out the free recording of the IGSI March webinar with Tammy Priolo, "Following the Irish Trail to Canada and Beyond". IGSI members can find this and other past webinars on the IGSI website by logging in as a member and clicking on Past Webinars.

Good luck! We look forward to 'seeing' you at an upcoming IGSI webinar. (Don't worry – you can still wear your PJs. We won't be able to really see you!)



Kathleen Foley, IGSI Education Chair, is a retired college administrator. Her love of everything Irish was nurtured by her mother. She has traveled to Ireland several times, including a summer-long sabbatical at the University of Limerick where she worked in the fundraising office. She lives in Northfield, Minnesota.

When Your Family Search Turns into an Unbelievable Story!

by Dave Miller

I have been researching my own family ancestry and others for quite a long time. I've come across a document every so often or learned about a family story that I just never expected to find. I usually sit there thinking "well, I've pretty much seen everything now!" That thought changed recently when I discovered information and an event about an ancestor that no one of the previous generation knew anything about. I spent a couple of years researching this ancestor without much success. But what I found ended up being a jaw-dropping event. In fact, this is one of those stories that you might find in a television soap opera. It is about this one ancestor in my Mathews family who resided in County Down, Ireland in the early 1800s.

Mathews Family Notes

My great aunts and grandfather used to tell me that they recalled visiting my second great grandparents James and Martha Jane (Mathews) Kidd on their western Wisconsin farm. Martha Jane was the daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Mathews. Elizabeth is the ancestor I knew almost nothing about, including her name.

One great aunt provided me with notes containing names and dates on the family along with information on what she remembered after talking to her parents and grandparents. These family notes only listed the names of Martha Jane along with that of her father, Edward. Edward's first wife, whose name was Mary, is listed as well as their children. The notes also listed his second wife, who was my direct ancestor, but only referred to her as "the second wife". Despite several conversations, no one in my great aunt's generation seemed to know the name or anything about this person.[1] According to the notes, Edward had two brothers, James and John Mathews, along with a sister, Anne, who married Samuel Clelland.

I decided to do some detective work and find out what I could about my third great-grandmother. My research eventually led me back to Belfast. The goal was to find some information on this mystery, but I never imagined that my research would lead to an attempted murder trial.



Martha Jane (Mathews) Kidd about 1900

I began by reviewing the records that were available in the U.S prior to my trip. I had located Martha Jane's death certificate from 1904. This vital record indicated her mother's name as Ellen Margret, which later proved to be incorrect. It confirmed that Edward was indeed Martha Jane's father.[2] In addition, I discovered through these family notes and obituaries that Martha Jane had a sister named Deborah and a brother named James. Deborah and James were children of Edward and the first wife, Mary. It appears that Mary died around 1830 and Edward remarried before 1835. Once again, there was no information or name regarding this second wife.

After completing my initial U.S. search, I continued my research through online Irish records. Searching the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) website, I discovered in the name index the will of a James Mathews from the townland of Crossgar in the Parish of Dromara. The will was dated in 1833.

Unfortunately, many original wills and Church of Ireland church records were destroyed due to the Four Courts fire in 1922. However, some wills were transcribed and printed into documents and books prior to the fire. The James Mathews will was transcribed and printed into a book called *Matthews Abstracts of Wills, Etc.*[3]

During a previous visit to Northern Ireland, I was able to locate the Mathews family in the vestry minutes from St. John's Church in Dromara. Although the church's vital records no longer exist, the vestry minutes remain intact and indicate that James and Edward were wardens in the church. The vestry minutes also confirmed that James was still a church warden in May of 1833 which is just prior to his death in July. It also listed Edward as a church warden in 1840, about 7 years after James' death. Edward is not listed in any of the vestry minutes after 1840, which made me wonder why he was no longer associated with the church.

The transcribed will listed the names of James' siblings as well as that of his widow and even the name to one of his nieces. The will indicated James' date of death as 29 July 1833 roughly a week after he signed the will. It further directed Edward Mathews, James' brother, to be one of the trustees thus overseeing the entire estate.

According to the will, Edward and his family were to live in the house located on the property while James' widow, Mary, was to occupy the cottage next door to the house and was to receive an annual stipend of £30. The will also bequeathed money to James' brother, John, his sister, Anne, and Anne's daughter, Martha.

What makes this story more intriguing is an administration bond dated 5 October 1842. Mary borrowed over £2,200 from the estate. This part of the document didn't state the reason for the huge amount borrowed from the estate. After discussing with other researchers in Belfast, we assumed that Mary most likely bought out control of the estate from Edward. This would make James' widow, Mary, the executrix of the estate. There were no additional details and there was no indication whether Edward and his family were even allowed to stay on the property.[4]

Newspaper Accounts of a Trial

I finally discovered a newspaper article online on <Newspapers.com> that appeared to give more details about Edward's second wife. Located on page 4 of *The Freeman's Journal* from 30 July 1841, the article indicated that the wife of Edward Mathews had attempted to poison the widow of James Mathews by providing her a glass of wine that had been tainted with sulphate of copper. The article further stated that upon drinking some of the wine, the widow Mary became ill but eventually survived. It continued to describe Edward's wife, who is named Elizabeth Mathews, as being around 50 years in age and dressed as "a respectable looking person." The article implied that Elizabeth was unable to stand on the dock in the courtroom when the charge against her was read and "she seemed to be laboring under severe indisposition." Mary was listed through the rest of the article as the "prosecutrix" while Elizabeth was later referred to as "the prisoner." According to the article, Mary reportedly had notified the Rev. Mr. Boyd who was the pastor at the local parish and the magistrate for Dromara at the time. He reportedly had the wine tested. According to his testimony, the glass was found to have contained some sulfate of copper that had dissolved in Mary's glass of wine. Mary believed that Elizabeth was out to murder her.[5]

This was the first time I found the name of Edward's second wife indicated in any public document or family record. The article concluded that Elizabeth was acquitted of the attempted murder charge. There was no other information on the reasoning behind Elizabeth's acquittal or what happened to her after the trial.

On a recent trip to Belfast and PRONI I uncovered a more detailed account of the trial from the 30 July 1841 issue of the *Belfast News-Letter*. This more detailed newspaper account stated that the case had gained considerable interest due to the respectabilities of the parties involved and the nature of the case. The article further implied that Edward did not pay the widow Mary in a timely manner as directed by the will and that Mary was often placed in a financial burden. It also stated that there were other issues between Mary, Edward and Elizabeth. The article concluded that the jury found Elizabeth not guilty mostly by the testimony from Doctor Davison, who was the Dromara medical superintendent at the time. Dr. Davison insisted that sulfate of copper would not dissolve in wine and that it would have taken a much larger dosage to cause any type of harm to Mary. That apparently was enough to have the jury return with a not guilty verdict within 30 minutes.[6]

In Review

From a family research standpoint, all this information was extremely valuable in tracing my Mathews family. The family notes, will, administration bond, vestry minutes and the newspaper articles helped verify where the family was residing in the 1830s and provided a great deal of information about the family. It showed that the Mathews family were "of means" and owned what was considered a rather large estate at the time in the civil parish of Dromara. An 1833 obituary of James Mathews also uncovered that he had served as a Captain in the 38th Regiment of Foot for the British army in the Napoleanic wars.

These documents and articles provided me with the names of other family members. For the first time, I was able to identify Edward's "second wife" as Elizabeth. Plus, it uncovered one of the most incredible stories that occurred almost 200 years ago involving one of my ancestors. By using several different sources, I was able to compile and trace the events that aided in identifying these ancestors. But it was the newspaper accounts from July 1841 that brought to light this very unusual and tragic family event.

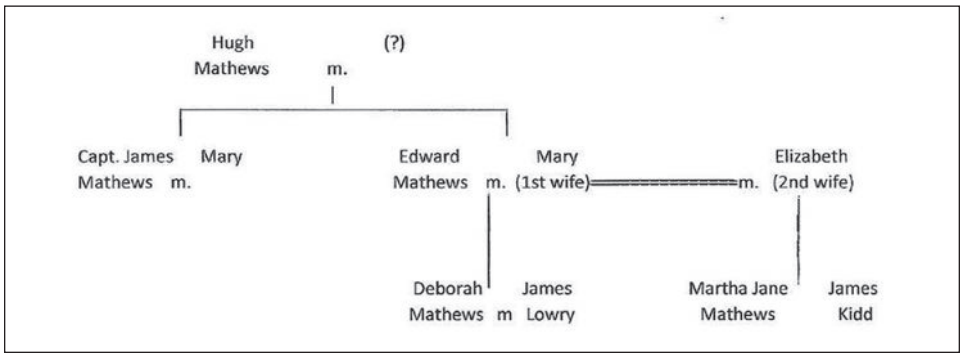
The question remained about what happened to Elizabeth after being acquitted of the charges and to Mary after this event took place in 1841. The *Belfast News-Letter* article provided more light as to Elizabeth. It mentioned that Mrs. Mathews, meaning Elizabeth, "seemed to be laboring under severe indisposition." It was the defense attorney who stated at the end of the trial that Elizabeth was "in a hopeless state of

health" affected by liver disease. Based on that bit of information, it would seem very likely that Elizabeth died shortly after the trial. This would especially be the case since she did not emigrate from Ireland to upstate New York when Edward and the remaining family members, including my second great-grandmother Martha Jane left Crossgar around 1848.

The article also indicated how Elizabeth's attorney, whose name was listed as Mr. Tomb, defended her by examining the medical superintendent from Dromara. As previously mentioned, Dr. Davison's testimony that the copper sulfate which was claimed to be in the glass wouldn't have dissolved that easily in wine. Even a small dosage, according to Dr. Davison wouldn't have poisoned James' widow Mary. That seemed to be enough, along with his character and health assessment of Elizabeth to convince the jury to return with a "not guilty" verdict in thirty minutes time. It also highlighted the fact that the two families certainly did not get along very well even before this incident occurred.

I now understand why there was so little information on this ancestor. If previous generations were aware of this tragic event, I'm sure they preferred not to talk about what happened in Dromara in 1841 since it would be considered an embarrassment to the family. Such an unknown family story would have otherwise remained buried in the archives without a bit of work to uncover all the facts. What would be considered a family embarrassment is still a factual event to the family researcher. Thus, this information and the accounts of the events from 1841 need to be acknowledged and recorded.

A major family event like this one is not what most family historians expect to find in their research nor would anyone ever dream of reading about an event like this in their family history. What started out as a discovery of a will of my ancestor's brother led to further discovery of additional wills, civil and church records, and newspaper accounts of the trial. All these documents eventually led to an unbelievable story about one of my ancestors — one that someone would expect to find in a modern-day television soap opera.



Descendant chart showing Captain James Mathews and his brother Edward Mathews

Endnotes

[1] Notes from Ada Anthes, "James Kidd and Martha Jane Mathews family group sheet," in possession; supplied on 9 October 1984, (Oshkosh, Wisconsin).

[2] Martha Jane Kidd death certificate, 25 January 1904; State of Wisconsin, Dunn County Deaths; Volume 1 of Deaths, page 175; accessed 29 April 1980.

[3] PRONI name search; online; (the deputy keeper of the Records, Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast; https://apps.proni.gov.uk/ProniNames_IE/ResultDetails.aspx) in reference to the estate of James Mathews (T681/1) of Crossgar, Parish of Dromara, County Down, 1842, accessed October 2017.

[4] Dromara Administration Bond, James Mathews, Crossgare, 1842; unauthored book; "Mat(t)hews Abstracts of Wills-etc.," page 442 (the deputy keeper of the records, Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast), reference T-681/1; accessed October 2017.

[5] COUNTY OF DOWN ASSIZES-Tuesday, ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO POISON; online; *The Freeman's Journal*; 30 July 1841, page 4; (Newspapers.com by *Ancestry*) in reference to Elizabeth Mathews' court appears involving attempted poisoning charge against her; accessed 15 November, 2018.

[6] "ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO POISON"; online; *Belfast News-Letter*, (Belfast, Northern Ireland), 30 Jul 1841, page 2; (Newspapers.com by *Ancestry*) in reference to Elizabeth Mathews' court appears involving an attempt to poison charge against her; accessed 1 November 2019.

Dave Miller has been researching his own and other family histories for 40 years. He holds a Master of Arts Degree (University of Illinois Springfield) and a Professional Learning Certificate of Genealogical Studies (National Institute for Genealogical Studies). He is a member of IGSI. Dave speaks to groups on genealogy topics including Irish research. He blogs at his website www.theancestorguy.com



100 Years Ago and More

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300 Years Ago

ADVERTISEMENTS

***Whereas John Bryan Drayman, did on Friday the 5th of this Inst. August, run away from his master Mr William Espinasse Brewer, in Twatlin Street, Dublin, and destroyed several of his Masters Tallies, and took up Mony from some of his Customers. He is a Fresh Coloured Young Man, about 28 Years old, and 5 Foot 10 Inches high, short black Hair, but since cut off his Hair and wears a Bobb Wigg. Has a Cast in his left Eye, and is something smaller than his Right, the former being a brown and the latter grey. He generally wore, a shite Fustian Frock and on Sundays, a snuff coloured Coat, with black Vest, and Britches, and a light coloured riding Coat over them. Now, whoever takes or apprehends the said Bryan, so that he be brought to Justice, shall have 5 Pounds Reward, to be paid, by the said Mr. Espinasse.

Dublin Courant
Dublin, Ireland — 20 August 1720

From the National Advocate.

Passengers. – It appears by the official returns from the Mayor's office, that, from December, 1818. To December, 1819, 35560 passengers arrived at this port. This will give an idea of the great intercourse which is had with this city; yet it also appears that out of this number 16628 were Americans, leaving 18932 foreigners, which, of itself, is an important amount. There is something also to consider in the national character of these emigrants: 7629 were English, and 6067 were Irish. The proportion of Irish to English emigrants has been heretofore in favour of the Irish, but this year the English takes the lead. It is certain that the Irish have a more sincere attachment to this country than the English – their associations, feelings, and the success of many of their countrymen, have given a great spur to emigration: added to this, their wants and their enterprise are greater than those of the English; yet we have in excess of English emigration a very strong proof of the misery of the times and the extremes to which they are reduced, extremes which the Irish have scarcely arrived at. If it is said that many of these were bound to Canada, to settle on the crown lands, the reply will be that the expense of transportation from New York to Canada would exceed the value of their possessions, and emigrants bound to Canada generally take passage for Quebec….

Kingston Graftsman
Kingston, New York — 22 July 1720

200 Years Ago

"In Life we are in Death."

St. Louis, Missouri, June 23.

The journalist has seldom to record a catalogue of greater domestic calamity than occurred a few miles west of St. Louis, on Friday morning last.

Mr. Michael Gorman, a native of Queens county, Ireland, and only a few months from the Emerald Isle, with an amiable group of children, most of them arrived to manhood, had purchased a plantation in our neighborhood. Their prospects were fair; independence, health, and every wished for felicity was in view, until the transitory gleam vanished by the following accident.

On the morning above mentioned, the eldest sons of Mr. Gorman, Thomas and Patrick, descended into a well they were digging, and had previously penetrated about 30 feet. Apprehending no danger, they, with William Neal and Thomas Kinchelo, hired laborers, who descended to assist them, fell victims to the fixed air, which had accumulated in the short period of 20 or 30 hours.

Br. Wm. Tharp, who resides near Gorman's, had the intrepidity to go down in the bucket, and brought up the four men, one after the other – bled them, but alas, they could not be brought to life. – Mr. G. left Queens county, Ireland, on the 10th of June, 1819, and arrived in St. Louis, 4th December following. All the above named, were from the same neighborhood. Michael Gorman, the unhappy father, expresses feelings of gratitude to his kind neighbors, especially to Mr. Tharp.

Adams Centinel
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
23 August 1820

150 Years Ago

CANADA.

The threatened raid of Irish filibusters did not occur on the 15th April as predicted, but enough transpired to justify the watchfulness of the authorities. The Habeas Corpus Act has been suspended, and the volunteers are under arms. Trade relations with the United States have occupied the attention of Parliament at Ottawa, and resolutions in favour of the independent action of the Dominion, subject to the Crown's assent, relative to commercial treaties with foreign countries, were defeated in the House.

Geelong Advertiser
Geelong, Victoria, Australia
6 June 1870

GOOD NEWS FROM IRELAND. – During the Irish famine we sent a million of dollars worth of food to Cork. Ireland is now repaying the debt with interest; not from her exchequer, not from harvest fields, but from the adamantine rocks on her coast. An enterprising company in New York is importing ship loads of eatable moss that grows on her cliffs, and converting it under the name of SEA MOSS FARINE into an economic source of nourishment and palatable food. The new source of aliment is prepared under a patent and although but a year in the market, has already taken precedence of all the gelatinous agents heretofore used in cookery. No epicure who has tasted the puddings, custards and jellies made from Sea Moss Farine, will deny that they are incomparable. The saving effected by using this article instead of muizens, farina or corn starch (all of which it excels in palatability) is about fifthy per cent.

Memphis Daily Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee
22 September 1870

100 Years Ago

[Commentary on Constabulary]

Latest news from Ireland informs us that the Royal Irish Constabulary is to be disbanded. Members of it are resigning in such numbers rather than enforce the mandates from England that it has already been badly broken up.

This constabulary organization is similar to the state constabulary system in operation in some of our states. Members of it are responsible to the central government rather than to local units as our policemen and sheriffs are. Hence it is not hard to understand that the Irish people have developed an intense hatred for it and why many of its strong-arm men, who have been particularly active in carrying out the desires of the British secretary for Ireland, have met violent deaths.

Some general constabulary systems have probably done good work in such fields as running down frontier bandits, but in civilized territory their only purpose is to overawe people by doing things which local police officers would not consider right or proper. Thus the local sheriff might refuse to beat up peaceful strikers at the behest of some great corporation, but an organization recruited from the backwoods or the riffraff of distant cities and bossed by hard-boiled state politicians would stop at nothing.

The fact that the kept press praises such organizations for their law-enforcing ability means nothing. The alien policeman is distinctly not the medium for enforcing the laws of a democracy.

Albert Lea Examiner
Albert Lea, Minnesota — 29 July 1920

CRIMES IN IRELAND
ONE DETECTIVE KILLED

United Services. London, Saturday

The latest news from Ireland says that a Limerick detective has been shot dead.

At Clare, a military party was ambushed, and one member was seriously wounded.

The Killarney mail train was held up and the official correspondence was seized.

The Carrighdrohed Barracks have been demolished, and the Tullow courthouse has been burnt.

The Recorder
Port Pirie, South Australia, Australia
14 June 1920

Sheila O'Rourke Northrop is a professional genealogist and President of FamilyTracer.net. She is a long-time member of many genealogical organizations. She specializes in Irish research and genealogical Data Analysis. Sheila's family hails from Counties Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford and Clare.



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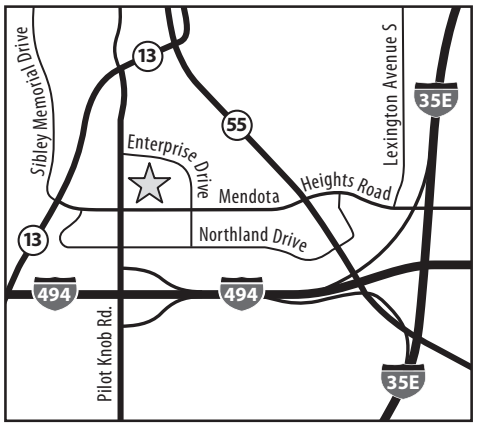
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During severe weather, or if traveling a long distance, please call before coming to the library to check if open.

The library is a self-supporting research library staffed by volunteers. If you are a member of the IGSI and are coming from out of town, contact Librarian@IrishGenealogical.org so we can have an Irish researcher available to meet you.

Volume 41, Number 4

The Septs

OCTOBER (DEIREADH FOMHAIR) 2020 $10.00

Military



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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Limited Research Hours at the Hoffman Research Library

The Hoffman Research Library is open for limited library service on Thursdays and Saturdays provided that two library volunteers are available for service in the building. Wearing masks, social distancing, and self-cleaning directions are other parts of the new rules for library use.

Admission is by advance reservation and is limited to 8 patrons for two hours at a time: Thursdays 4-8 PM and Saturdays between 10 AM and 4 PM. The library is available for use by members of IGSI and of all other genealogy societies located at the Minnesota Genealogy Center. Members of IGSI can make a reservation for a 2-hour slot by using the Minnesota Genealogy Center's Sign Up Genius website. To make a reservation, visit the IGSI homepage for the link or go to https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044BAFAE2FA1FD0-hoffman.

Please contact research@irishgenealogical.org in advance if you plan to visit the library and anticipate needing advice or assistance with your Irish research.

Note: Occupancy limitations and hours of service may change as Minnesota State COVID guidelines and regulations change. To check if the library is open, call 651-330-9312.

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Printed in the US.

The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the first of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editor at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc.

2020
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Write for *The Septs*

Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 — 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2021 | January | FAN (Family, Associates, Neighbors)

Using information from an ancestor's social circle for genealogical clues: family, associates, neighbors, organizations, and comrades in arms.

Deadline for articles: November 1, 2020.

2021 | April | Setting Family History

Finding material to flesh out a family history: *YouTube*, *Ebay*, letters, local histories, newspapers.

Deadline for articles: February 1, 2021.

2021 | July | Irish Jurisdictions

Place as a key to research. Definition and use of various geographical and record keeping divisions; Poor Law Unions in depth; Workhouses; Baronies; Parishes.

Deadline for articles: May 1, 2021.

2021 | October | Genealogical Education

Why, where and how to learn to become a better genealogist: presentations, conferences, workshops, books, Internet sites, *FamilySearch* lectures and wiki.

Deadline for articles: August 1, 2021.

Cover Photo: *Five unidentified soldiers of the 63rd New York Infantry Regiment in uniform and one unidentified man in civilian dress.* Library of Congress, public domain.

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Open the Box

by Ann Eccles

What does that mean? Well, it can mean any number of things — something different for each of us — but something relevant as well. Opening a box always presents a surprise — generally a reaction of pleasure at finding something new or forgotten.

Boxes are great for storing things out of sight and out of mind. It may be temporary, as when we pack away seasonal clothing or holiday decorations. Other times, we pack things up before moving, for a cleaner look in a room or to clear a workspace. But the boxes end up stored someplace in the house.

And who hasn't received a FedEx, UPS or Amazon Prime box during these last months? We may know what's inside, but there is still that element of anticipation. These boxes are generally tossed for recycling or repurposed to pack away something else.

With life, we set aside issues not deemed relevant or important at a time. Other matters crowd out normal business routines.

Another saying "Think outside the box" can also apply in these times. With IGSI, I don't see our resuming a full "business as usual" until late 2021 or whenever we lessen the pandemic. What has been the norm for many years is not functioning well this year. We need to figure out where and how the Society can adapt to the world today.

Since the restrictions remain on indoor gatherings at the Minnesota Genealogy Center, IGSI classes and meetings are cancelled until further notice. Yet the research library has opened for limited services. Check the IGSI website for information on how to reserve a 2-hour research time on Thursdays (4-8 PM) or Saturdays (10 AM - 4 PM).



Photo by Karolina Grabowska from Pexels

The Education Committee is working to increase the number of webinars for members in 2021. It is our way of reaching out to all members with interested and informative speakers. Check the IGSI website in December to see what will be happening in the early part of the coming year.

Thinking outside the box will help us survive these difficult times. How can IGSI improve/add services at this time and keep you, our members, informed on Irish genealogy? If you have any suggestions on how IGSI can better serve you, please send your thoughts and ideas to me at *president@irishgenealogical.org*. And we'll keep working on that issue.

What have you been doing with your time? The New England Historic Genealogical Society poses a weekly question to its newsletter readers. A few weeks back, they asked how the Covid pandemic had affected the reader's family history research. Slightly more than 3000 people responded. In response, 45% said they spent more time on family history while 16% said they spent less time and 27% said it had not affected their research at all.

It may be time to do a little house-cleaning and open one or more of those boxes — physical or metaphorical. You may find some inspiration with a family line or information to make a new connection. You may be inspired to write something, to share something, to connect, even to get more involved with IGSI.

Ann Eccles is a retired librarian who has re-focused her research skills to family history and Irish genealogy. She has several Irish ancestral lines to trace as both of her parents descended from Irish families. Ann currently serves as IGSI President and continues to serve as the editor of The Septs.



Thank You for Your Service

By Ann Eccles

"Thank you for your service." It's the phrase we often hear or say to someone in uniform or whom we know has served or serves in the military. It's an acknowledgement of our gratitude or appreciation to those currently in the military who work to ensure our liberty and freedom.

If you are like me, there are family members and ancestors who have served in the military. You probably have found records online that add details to their life stories. My father served in World War II in the Army Air Corps. Online information that I've found includes an image of his draft registration; a record of 2nd Lt. Eccles' travel from England to New York by ship in 1944 to recuperate in the U.S., and another site provided a link to more information on the plane crash that injured him.

There's much online information on American and Irish ancestors who served in the military in previous generations, e.g., the U.S. National Archives and The National Archives in Kew, England. And numerous individual websites on battles, wars, regiments, etc. Jim Sullivan's story of an Irish ancestor who served in the Civil War tells how his military file identified the birthplace in Ireland. Lois Mackin traces the story of four Germans who served in an Irish brigade in the Civil War. Military records enabled her to follow their activities during the war. Dwight Radford looks further back in history to the time of the Revolutionary War. He shares knowledge of resources in Canada and elsewhere to use in researching Loyalist ancestors, those who continued to support the British during that war.



Monument at Antietam National Battlefield, dedicated in 1997. Public domain.

Be sure to check out the final collection of clippings from newspapers, the "100 Years Ago and More" column as compiled by Sheila Northrop. What started in 2005 as a couple of items picked from 100-year-old issues of Minneapolis' *Irish Standard* newspaper by Sheila or her sister has grown into a regular feature of newspaper snippets from numerous newspapers from up to 300 years ago. Sheila has indicated that this issue's column is her final. Thank you, Sheila and Mary, for allowing us the historical look at newspaper coverage of all things Irish — humor, politics, news of the day — that you have provided for fifteen years.

We also say farewell, and *thank you*, to Tom Rice who has served as Managing Editor for this journal since 2006. He is stepping down from this position. His guidance, standards and vision for this publication have made it a quality journal. And he'll still be in the area — hopefully to occasionally share his store of genealogical knowledge with us.

So I say, with gratitude, "Thank you for your service, Sheila and Tom." Talented and capable volunteers like you will be greatly missed.

For the rest of us, let's take a few moments to find a comfy chair, relax, and enjoy this issue of *The Septs*.

Four Germans in an Irish Regiment

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

The Irish have a distinguished military history. Irish soldiers served not only in the armed forces of Great Britain and Commonwealth nations, but also in armed forces around the world. During the U.S. Civil War many regiments made up of Irish immigrants served in both Union and Confederate armies. The 69th New York Volunteers, part of the Irish Brigade that held a Catholic Mass before receiving Pickett's Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg, is one of the most famous ones.[1]

This story is about four Pennsylvania Germans who enlisted in one of those Civil War Irish regiments, the 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry, also known as the 117th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment.

The 13th had its origins in 1861, when Irish immigrant Thomas Francis Meagher[2] was given permission to raise an Irish brigade of infantry, with an attached brigade of dragoons.[3] Speaking in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, Meagher eloquently appealed to Irish-American patriotism.[4]

The first four companies of Meagher's Irish Dragoons were raised in Philadelphia during the spring, summer, and fall of 1861, with the understanding that they would become part of Meagher's Irish Brigade, along with New York and Massachusetts infantry regiments.[5] Pennsylvania's governor, Andrew Gregg Curtin, who was responsible for meeting Pennsylvania troop quotas, balked at counting the Irish Dragoons raised in Pennsylvania to count as troops from other states. As a result of Curtin's actions, on 1 August 1862 the Irish Dragoons were detached from Meagher's Irish Brigade and became the 117th Pennsylvania Volunteers, also designated as the 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry.[6]

First There Were Four

The German part of the story begins later that same month, when two brothers from Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, along with their brother-in-law and a nephew, traveled to Philadelphia to enlist. The brothers were Solomon H. Lutz, 37, and Joshua D. Lutz, 32, both carpenters.[7] Solomon was the fifth child and second son of Jacob Lutz of Lewistown (and grandson of the Revolutionary war soldier Henry Lutz) who died the February before his sons signed up. When Solomon enlisted, he was married and a father of seven. Joshua, the ninth child and sixth son, was also married and a father of five.[8]

Enlisting with Solomon and Joshua was their brother-in-law Mathias Rhoads, a 44-year-old laborer[9] married to the Lutz's older sister Catharine, the second child in the Lutz family. Mathias and Catherine had no children.[10] The foursome was completed by Solomon, Mathias, and Joshua's nephew John H. Lutz, son of the oldest Lutz brother Jacob H. Lutz. John, single and a shoemaker, claimed to be age 22 when he enlisted,[11] but was apparently not quite 18.[12] (John's father Jacob H. Lutz, 40, was serving as a private in the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry when John enlisted.[13])

Solomon enlisted 14 August as a Sergeant, John and Mathias enlisted 19 August as Privates, and Joshua enlisted 20 August as a Corporal, all in Company H.[14] This was Solomon's second enlistment. In the "Three Months' Campaign" of 1861, he had served as first lieutenant of the Scott Rifles of Tamaqua, Company C of the 10th Pennsylvania Volunteers. His previous regiment, organized at Camp Curtin on 26 April 1861, served in the area of Harper's Ferry, Virginia, and mustered out 31 July 1861.[15]

In August 1862, with Confederate General Robert E. Lee marching toward Antietam, Maryland, Company H became part of the 13th Cavalry's 2nd Battalion at the Camp Curtin staging area near Harrisburg and soon moved to Camp Fair Ground near Baltimore, where the regiment's 1st Battalion was already stationed. In Maryland the two battalions moved on to nearby Camp Carroll, where they were mounted, equipped, and armed with sabers and pistols (carbines were issued later). At Camp Carroll the regiment practiced maneuvers and performed guard and patrol duties.[16]

At the end of September the 13th moved to western Maryland, where they were assigned to scout and picket duty.[17] From his previous service, Solomon would have been acquainted with this part of Maryland. In December, the 13th moved to Point of Rocks, where they remained until February 1863, patrolling the Baltimore & Ohio railroad right of way and both sides of the Potomac.[18] In February they moved still farther west to Winchester in the Valley of Virginia, marching by way of Harper's Ferry. In the Valley they continued scouting, patrol, and escort duties, facing Confederate infantry and cavalry.[19]

On 23 February, two companies of the Confederate First Maryland Cavalry raided Winchester. Three days later two battalions of the 13th Pennsylvania, including Company H, set out in pursuit. Due to delays caused by disagreement between the battalion commanders, the pursuing force was surprised by the Confederates, and more than

200 cavalrymen were captured. The commanding general reported that "the loss of the Pennsylvania Cavalry is nearly altogether in prisoners, and occurred in consequence of the exhaustion of the horses… Official report of loss… Commissioned officers: wounded, 2; missing, 11; Non-commissioned officers and privates: wounded, 7; missing, 177."[20] The *Philadelphia Inquirer* headlined its coverage of the skirmish "Disgraceful Affair Near Strasburg, Va.," "Unfortunate Affair Beyond Winchester," and "The Late Fight Near Strasburg." On March 16 the *Inquirer* published names: "Company H, Missing — Captain John Kline, First Lieutenant James C. Roberts, Sergeant Joshua McCool, Sergeant Luke Sheard, Sergeant Solomon Lutz, Corporal McKichney, Corporal James Arment, Privates Milton Badman, John Cunius, Edward Caster, Daniel Caldwell, Ezekiel Caldwell, John Duds, Robert Holmes, Jesse Jones, John H. Lutz, George Linberg, Gideon Mace, Daniel Miller, Nathan Miller, Washington Miller, Charles Moss, George W. Munshore, Mathias Rhoads, Henry Rosenberg, John G. Segmond."[21]

The records of Solomon and John indicate that they were sent to Libby Prison in Richmond; Mathias' record does not specify where in Richmond he was confined. All three were paroled at City Point south of Richmond in early March and sent to Camp Parole in Annapolis, Maryland, to await exchange.[22]

By May 1863, John and Mathias had returned to the regiment. Mathias was again captured at Winchester on 15 June, probably during the 2nd Battle of Winchester, which occurred while Lee's forces were advancing toward Gettysburg. Mathias' record indicates that he remained a prisoner in July and August, returning to the regiment in September.[23] Meanwhile, Solomon Lutz was hospitalized, from May to October 1863. Solomon's muster records from this period indicate that he was a private.[24]

During the Gettysburg campaign, the 13th was stationed near Frederick, Maryland, and did not participate in the fighting at Gettysburg. In mid-July the regiment recrossed the Potomac into Virginia, and in August moved east of the Blue Ridge into the area of Little Washington, Catlett's Station, and Sulphur Springs.[25]

In September 1863 John Lutz was on detached service with the Ambulance Corps, where he continued to serve until February 1865.[26] Established in 1862, the Ambulance Corps was developed to provide prompt evacuation of the wounded and delivery to field dressing stations. Controlled by the Medical Director of an army corps, three ambulances were allocated to each regiment; each ambulance had a crew of three, a driver and two stretcher bearers. "Wheeling Wagon" ambulances were pulled by two horses and had space for two to six recumbent or up to twelve seated patients, with storage for water, stretchers, and medical supplies. Regimental ambulance crews were commanded by a mounted non-commissioned officer under the direction of brigade-, division-, and corps-level ambulance commanders. Each division ambulance train was assigned two medical officers, with a steward and nurses. In battle the ambulance trains followed close on their divisions.[27]

Then There Were Three

From the *Philadelphia Enquirer*:

> Army of the Potomac.—On Saturday last [10 October 1863] General Gregg's Division moved toward and arrived at Culpeper Court House in the afternoon. On Monday morning [12 October] the enemy advanced upon the Fourth and Thirteenth Pennsylvania, Cavalry, who were at Jefferson. A severe fight ensued, the Rebel forces attempting to surround our troops, who suddenly found themselves attacked on each flank, and in the rear. But notwithstanding the great superiority of the Rebels in numbers, the gallant Pennsylvanians cut their way through and crossed the river, having suffered heavily.[28]

Corporal Joshua D. Lutz didn't make it across the river. In his declaration for pension he testified,

> on the night of the 15th the Regiment was on picket duty and was attacked about daybreak on the morning of the 16th of October aforesaid by a superior force of the enemy; that in the action with the enemy he received a gunshot wound… and was taken prisoner… and conveyed to Richmond in the State of Virginia and placed in a Hospital and taken from thence to Belle Ile and from thence to Andersonville in the State Georgia at which latter place he was confined as a prisoner of war for one year and fifteen days with the exception of a short time that he was sent to other places.[29]

Joshua was released at Vicksburg, Mississippi 21 April 1865 as a paroled

prisoner of war, several weeks after Lee's surrender, and taken to Benton Barracks, Missouri, where he was on 27 April. He reported at Camp Parole, Annapolis, Maryland, 11 May 1865 and was sent from there to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on 15 May 1865, mustering out at Harrisburg on 9 June.[30]

With Joshua a prisoner, John on detached service with the ambulance corps, and Solomon in hospital in Rhode Island, Mathias was the only Lutz in Company H until Solomon returned to duty in November 1863.[31] As the 13th Cavalry went into winter quarters at Bristoe Station, the regiment was assigned to picket, scouting, and cattle guard duty.[32] In December 1863, January, and February 1864 the regiment operated west of Warrenton, foraying into the Shenandoah Valley and tangling with guerrillas and bushwhackers; these operations continued into March and early April.[33]

In March 1864, Mathias Rhoads went into hospital in Washington, where he stayed through April. In May he was transferred to another hospital in Philadelphia, where he remained through June.[34]

Mathias was fortunate in avoiding the start of the Wilderness Campaign and the battle of Spotsylvania. Increasingly, the 13th was involved in larger-scale actions. By May, much of the regiment was fighting dismounted. In June, remounted, the regiment participated in a large cavalry raid that culminated in an action at Trevilian Station, returning to the main body of the Army of the Potomac northeast of Petersburg after fifty-six consecutive days of marching and fighting.[35]

Then There Were Two

At the end of June, Solomon Lutz returned to hospital. He remained in hospital in New York and Philadelphia, with a furlough to home, until 18 May 1865, when he received a discharge by Surgeons Certificate. In September 1864, he wrote: "My Deseas is Cronic Direare [diarrhea] I am Redust to Mearly a Sclaton [skeleton] My Rauler [regular] whaight is 1.55 Pount & I now way 1.10 Pount… I am So weeke that I am Confined to my Bet the Most of the time."[36]

Then There Was One

Returning to duty from hospital, Mathias Rhoads was wounded 15 August in the right shoulder and arm at Deep Bottom on the James. Captured, he was taken once again to Richmond, where his arm was amputated the next day. He died of wounds at Confederate General Hospital No. 21 in Richmond.[37]

After his uncle Mathias' death, Private John H. Lutz was the only family member left actively serving with the 13th. He continued with the Ambulance Corps through January 1865, returning to the regiment in February 1865 and receiving promotion to corporal in March.[38] By this time the regiment had been detached from the Army of the Potomac and sent by transport to Wilmington, North Carolina, where it joined the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, Terry's Provisional Corps (XVIII Army Corps) in William Tecumseh Sherman's drive north from Savannah. On April 10 the 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry led Sherman's army into the surrendered city of Raleigh. Less than a week later, Lincoln was assassinated and Sherman took Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston's surrender.[39]

On April 30, the 13th was assigned to garrison duty in Fayetteville, south of Raleigh. One of its chief responsibilities was police duty against bands of outlaws. Ordered back to Raleigh, the regiment was mustered out of service 14 July 1865, then boarded trains to City Point, Virginia, and Philadelphia, where they were discharged from service 27 July.[40]

And Then There Were None: Aftermath

The regiment. In accordance with General Orders, No. 19, from the War Department, on 7 March 1865 General George Meade issued General Orders, No. 10, Army of the Potomac, "that there shall be inscribed upon the colors or guidons of the following regiments and batteries serving in this army the names of the battles in which they have borne a meritorious part, and as hereinafter specified, viz:

> THIRTEENTH PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY — Winchester, Middletown, Sulphur Springs, Spotsylvania, Haw's Shop, Gaines' Mill, Trevilian Station, Saint Mary's Church, Deep Bottom, Wyatt's Farm, Boydton Road, Hatcher's Run, Stony Creek Station."[41]

Solomon H. Lutz. After his discharge Private Solomon H. Lutz returned to Mahanoy City and his work as a carpenter. After the war his wife Sarah (Will) Lutz bore one more daughter before she died 19 November 1871. Solomon, left with six children at home,[42] remarried 8 February 1873 to Kate (Kline) Hahn;[43] Solomon and Kate had two children together.[44] Solomon received an invalid pension and died 21 July 1895.[45] He is buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Tamaqua.[46]

Joshua D. Lutz. After the war Corporal Joshua D. Lutz also returned to Mahanoy

City, where he worked as a hostler and proprietor of a livery stable, which he later acquired.[47] He and his wife Sybilla (Kleckner) Lutz had four more children after the war.[48] Joshua obtained an invalid pension and died 12 February 1889.[49] He is buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Tamaqua.[50]

Catherine Rhoads. After the death of Private Mathias Rhoads, Catharine (Lutz) Rhoads continued to live in Mahanoy City.[51] She applied for and received a widow's pension[52] before her death 6 August 1888. She is buried in Lewistown Union Cemetery, Lewistown, near her parents.[53]

John H. Lutz. After his discharge, Corporal John H. Lutz returned to Tamaqua, where he married Sarah A. Heiser in 1866.[54] He and Sarah had nine children before her death in 1903.[55] A shoemaker by trade, John also served as a justice of the peace.[56] John obtained an invalid pension.[57] He remarried to Laura Elizabeth Heilman in 1907[58] and died 15 February 1908.[59] He is buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Tamaqua.[60]

Lutz military record. In 1897, the *Tamaqua Courier* published a front-page article about the war record of the family of Jacob and Catharine (Hertzog) Lutz of Lewistown. In addition to Solomon H. and Joshua D. Lutz, Mathias Rhoads, and John H. Lutz of the 13th Pennsylvania, the article recognized Jacob's sons Jacob H. Lutz (67th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, father of John H. Lutz), Daniel H. Lutz (12th Pennsylvania Cavalry), Joseph H. Lutz (7th Pennsylvania Cavalry), and Henry H. Lutz (96th Pennsylvania Infantry) and grandsons Jonas and Aaron Frantz (104th Pennsylvania Infantry, sons of Hannah (Lutz) Frantz).[61]

EndNotes

[1] See, for example, "Irish Americans in the American Civil War," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Americans_in_the_American_Civil_War) and its list of references. All URLs referred to in this article were checked 28 July 2020.

[2] See "Thomas Francis Meagher," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Francis_Meagher).

[3] The term dragoon refers to cavalry, particularly to heavily armed cavalry. See "Dragoon," *Merriam-Webster* (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dragoon). In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, dragoons were mounted infantry who rode into battle, then dismounted to fight on foot. See "Dragoon," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragoon).

[4] Harold Hand, Jr., *One Good Regiment, the Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry (117th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment (1861-1865)* (Victoria, BC: Trafford Publishing, 2000), 2–3. Hand's book is a well-researched regimental history based on a variety of original and published sources. Several members of the regiment later wrote memoirs or autobiographies. Two of these, the memoirs of Private George Schmittle, Company B, and Private Michael Dougherty, Company B, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, have been published. Schmittle enlisted in the 13th 24 July 1863, fought with the regiment at Sulphur Springs, was captured and sent to Andersonville. Dougherty enlisted at the same time as the Lutzes, August 1862, was captured at Jefferson, Virginia, at the same time as Joshua D. Lutz. His Medal of Honor was awarded for action at Jefferson. For Schmittle's memoirs, see Robert P. Broadwater, ed., *Chickamauga, Andersonville, Fort Sumter and Guard Duty at Home: Four Civil War Diaries by Pennsylvania Soldiers* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 2006). For Dougherty's memoirs, see Michael Dougherty, *Prison Diary, of Michael Dougherty, Late Co. B, 13th., Pa., Cavalry While Confined in Pemberton, Barrett's, Libby, Andersonville and other Southern Prisons* (Bristol, Pennsylvania: Chas. A. Dougherty, 1908), imaged at *HathiTrust*.

[5] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 4–5.

[6] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 9.

[7] Compiled service records, Solomon H. Lutz, Sgt., and Joshua D. Lutz, Corp., both Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav.; Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War: Record Group 94: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

[8] See "Lois Mackin's Tree," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/48990), entries for Jacob Lutz and family.

[9] Compiled service record, Mathias "Roades," Pvt., Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav.; Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War: Record Group 94: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

[10] Claim for widow's pension, 15 August 1864, Catharine Rhoads, widow's pension application no. 111,295 certificate no. 80,539; service of Mathias Rhoades (Pvt., Co. H, 13th Pa. Cav., Civil War); Case Files of Approved Pension Applications…, 1861–1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs; National Archives; imaged at *fold3* (https://www.fold3.com).

[11] Compiled service record, John H. Lutz, Pvt., Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav.; Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War: Record Group 94: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

[12] Pennsylvania Bureau of Vital Statistics, certificate of death no. 18,879 (1908), John H. Lutz, "Pennsylvania, Death Certificates,1906–1967," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5164/) > 1908 > 017401–021200 > image 1549 of 3965.

[13] Compiled service record, Jacob H. Lutz, Pvt., Co. K, 67 Pa. Inf.; Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War: Record Group 94: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

[14] Compiled military service record, Solomon H. Lutz, Sgt., Joshua D. Lutz, Corp., Mathias Roades, Pvt., and John D. Lutz, Pvt., all Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War, RG 94, NA–Washington.

[15] Kate Lutz, declaration for widow's pension, 30 July 1895, widow's pension application 618,585, certificate no. 417,059; service of Solomon H. Lutz (Sgt., Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War); Case Files of Approved Pension Applications…, 1861–1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs; National Archives, Washington, D.C. Also Francis B. Wallace, compiler, *Memorial of the Patriotism of Schuylkill County in the American Slaveholder's Rebellion* (Pottsville, Pa.: Benjamin Bannan, 1865), 35. For the 10th Pennsylvania, see "10th regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry (3 Months, 1861)," *FamilySearch Research Wiki* (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/10th_Regiment,_Pennsylvania_Infantry_(3_months,_1861)) and "10th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers," *Pa-Roots* (http://www.pa-roots.com/pacw/infantry/10th/10thorg.html).

[16] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 9–13.

[17] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 14–15, 18. Pickets were "soldiers posted on guard ahead of a main force," responsible for providing advance warning of enemy action. See "Picket," in "Glossary of Civil War Terms," *American Battlefield Trust* (https://www.battlefields.org/glossary-civil-war-terms).

[18] Hand, *One Good Regiment*t, 17–22.

[19] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 22–24.

[20] Brig. Gen. R. H. Milroy, 2 Mar 1863, *The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, various dates), series 1, vol. 25, part 1, 28–30. *The War of the Rebellion* is available in digitized format at "Making of America," *Cornell University Library* (http://collections.library.cornell.edu/moa_new/waro.html). See also Hand, *One Good*, 24–28.

[21] "Disgraceful Affair Near Strasburg, Va.," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 2 March 1863, page 1, col. 3; "Unfortunate Affair Beyond Winchester," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, page 2, col. 3.; "The Late Fight Near Strasburg," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 4 March 1863, page 1, col. 3; "Our Winchester Va., Letter, News from General Milroy's Departmen — List of Killed, Wounded and Missing, Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, Feb. 26," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 16 March 1863, page 1, col. 4.)

[22] Compiled military service record, Solomon H. Lutz, Sgt., Mathias Roades, Pvt., and John D. Lutz, Pvt., all Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War, RG 94, NA–Washington. For an illustrated description and history of Libby Prison, see Angela M. Zombek, "Libby Prison," *Encyclopedia Virginia* (https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/libby_prison#start_entry).

[23] Compiled military service record, John H. Lutz and Mathias Roades, Pvts., Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War, RG 94, NA–Washington. For the 2nd Battle of Winchester and the movements of the Thirteenth Cavalry in May and June, see Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 39–64. For a map of the Winchester battlefield, see United States, George B. Davis, Calvin D. Cowles, and J. A. Caldwell, *Atlas of the war of the Rebellion giving Union and Confederate armies by actual surveys by the Union and Confederate engineers, and approved by the officers in command, of all the maps herein published* (New York: Atlas Pub. Co., 1892), Plate XXXIX, Map 4. A digital copy of the atlas is available in the digital collections of Baylor University Library (https://digitalcollections-baylor.quartexcollections.com/texas-collection-collections/the-war-of-the-rebellion-atlas-1) and also in the digital collections of Ohio State University (https://ehistory.osu.edu/books/official-records/atlas).

[24] Compiled military service record, Solomon H. Lutz, Sgt., Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War, RG 94, NA — Washington. Solomon's change in rank is unexplained. For details of hospitalization, see Surgeon General's Office statement, 27 November 1885, Solomon H. Lutz Civil War pension no. 880,559, RG 15, NA — Washington. For Portsmouth Grove hospital, see Seebert J. Goldowsky, "The Hospital at Portsmouth Grove," *Rhode Island Medical Journal*, 42 (1959), 733–743, and Frank L. Grzyb, *Rhode Island's Civil War Hospital, Life and*

Death at Portsmouth Grove, 1862–1865 (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2012). I am indebted to Brown University librarian Andrew Creamer for assistance in obtaining the Goldowsky article.

[25] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 66, 68, 71, 74–81.

[26] Compiled military service record, John H. Lutz, Pvt., Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War, RG 94, NA–Washington.

[27] See "Jonathan Letterman," "Biographies," *American Battlefield Trust* (https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/jonathan-letterman). For details of the Ambulance Corps operations, see "Army Surgeon," "Ambulance Corps — Its Organization and Working in the Army of the Potomac," letter to the editor, *The New York Times*, 20 December 1863, page 5, col. 2. For description of "Wheeling wagons," see Jonathan T. Liebig et al, "Major Jonathan Letterman: Unsung War Hero and Father of Modern Battlefield Medicine," PDF, *American College of Surgeons* (https://www.facs.org/~/media/files/archives/shg%20poster/2016/04_letterman.ashx), also "Christina Fisanick, "The Wheeling Ambulance: a Civil War Hero, 16 April 2018 (https://weelunk.com/the-wheeling-ambulance-a-civil-war-hero/). A reconstructed Civil War ambulance at the Pry Field Hospital Museum, Antietam battlefield, can be viewed at "A Civil War Ambulance," *YouTube* (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6y3sUounVU). Also Benjamin Forrest, "Following the Rear: Travails of the Union Army's Ambulance Corps," 2 August 2019, *Circulating Now from the Collections of the National Library of Medicine* (https://circulatingnow.nlm.nih.gov/2019/08/02/following-the-rear-travails-of-the-union-armys-ambulance-corps/).

[28] "The War," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 15 October 1863, page 4, col. 1. For the location of Culpeper Court House and Jefferson, see United States et al, *War of the Rebellion Atlas*, Plate CXXXVII.

[29] Statement of Joshua D. Lutz, 22 September 1879; Joshua D. Lutz (Corp., Co. H, 13th Pa. Cav., Civil War), pension no. 194,026, Case Files of Approved Pension Applications…, 1861–1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Record Group 15; Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs; National Archives, Washington, D.C. His autopsy report describes the wound thus: "the shot wound entered 4 3/4 inches to the left of center of the 10th dorsal vertebra passed forewards and upwards penetrating the pleural membrane, lung, diaphragm and pericardium, coming out in front — fracturing the 7th rib with a spicula of bone projecting inwards which undoubtedly had to be the cause of the great pain he had constantly complained of in that location. All of the above structures were firmly glued together by inflammatory adhesions." Physician's affidavit, T. A. Grigg, M.D., 9 July 1890, Joshua D. Lutz Civil War pension no. 194,026, RG 15, NA — Washington, D.C.

[30] Compiled military service record, Joshua D. Lutz, Corp., Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War, RG 94, NA–Washington. For Belle Isle, an open-air stockade on an island in the James River, see Angela M. Zombek, "Belle Isle Prison," *Encyclopedia Virginia* (https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/belle_isle_prison). In the autumn of 1863, the prison housed 6,000 to 8,000 prisoners, twice its capacity. Overcrowding led to disease and other health problems.

[31] Compiled military service record, Solomon H. Lutz, Sgt., Joshua D. Lutz, Corp., Mathias Roades, Pvt., and John D. Lutz, Pvt., all Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War, RG 94, NA — Washington.

[32] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 86–87. For Bristoe Station at this time, see United States et al, *War of the Rebellion Atlas*, Plate XLV, maps 6 and 7.

[33] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 90–97.

[34] Compiled military service record, Mathias Roades, Pvt., Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War, RG 94, NA — Washington.

[35] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 106–129. United States et al, *War of the Rebellion Atlas*, Plate LXXIV, map 1.

[36] Compiled military service record, Solomon H. Lutz, Pvt., Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War, RG 94, NA — Washington. See also Solomon H. Lutz Civil War pension no. 880,559, RG 15, NA — Washington.

[37] Compiled military service record, Mathias Roads, Pvt., Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War, RG 94, NA — Washington. Also "U.S., Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861–1865," citing Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917, Record Group 94, National Archives; imaged at *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2123) > Pennsylvania > P–S > image 76 of 192, for M. Rhoads. For General Hospital No. 21, see "General Hospital #21," *Civil War Richmond* (https://www.civilwarrichmond.com/prisons/general-hospital-21#). For Deep Bottom see United States et al, *War of the Rebellion Atlas*, Plate LXV, map 6 and Plate LXVII, map 7.

[38] Compiled military service record, John H. Lutz, Pvt., Co. H, 13 Pa. Cav., Civil War, RG 94, NA — Washington.

[39] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 196–221.

[40] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 221–223.

[41] Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 200.

[42] 1870 U.S. census, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Mahanoy City, pp. 17–18 (penned), dwelling 141, family 141, S. H. Lutz household; imaged at *Ancestry*.

[43] Kate Hahn Lutz, Declaration for Widow's Pension, 30 July 1895, widow's pension application 618,585, Civil War, RG 15.

[44] Pennsylvania Department of Health, death certificate 81,331 (1954), Robert J. Lutz; imaged in "Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906–1967," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5164/). Also Pennsylvania death certificate 094637-60 (1960), Gertrude L. Felmlee.

[45] Solomon H. Lutz Civil War pension no. 880,559, RG 15, NA — Washington.

[46] *Find A Grave* (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/29832183/solomon-h.-lutz), memorial 29,832,183 for Solomon H. Lutz (1825–1895), Odd Fellows Cemetery, Tamaqua, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

[47] See 1880 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Pa., pop. sch., enumeration district (ED) 196, Mahanoy City, p. , dwell. 180, fam. 198, J. D. Lutz household; imaged at *Ancestry*.

[48] See "Lois Mackin's Tree," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/48990), entries for Joshua D. Lutz and family.

[49] Joshua D. Lutz Civil War pension no. 194,026, RG 15, NA — Washington.

[50] Odd Fellows Cemetery (Tamaqua, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania), Josh. D. Lutz marker, section 04, lot 185; read by author, 2016.

[51] See 1870 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Pa., pop. sch., Mahanoy City, p. 5 (penned), dwell. 40, fam. 40, Catharine Rhodes; also 1880 census, Schuylkill Co., Pa., pop. sch., Mahanoy City, ED 196, p. 17 (penned), dwell. 141, fam. 157, Catharine Rhoads, both imaged at *Ancestry*.

[52] Catharine Rhoads, widow's pension no. 80,539, Civil War, RG 15, NA — Washington.

[53] *Find A Grave* (https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2194597/lewistown-union-cemetery), memorials 112,031,763 for Catharina Rhoads (1817–888), 130,862,788 for Jacob Lutz (1790–1862), and 130,862,860 for Catherine (Hertzog) Lutz, all Lewistown Union Cemetery, Lewistown, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

[54] Statement of John H. Lutz, 4 May 1898; John H. Lutz (Corp., Co. H, 13th Pa. Cav., Civil War), pension no. 931,916, Case Files of Approved Pension Applications…, 1861–1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Record Group 15; Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

[55] See "Lois Mackin's Tree," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/48990), entries for John H. Lutz and family.

[56] See 1870 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Pa., pop. sch., Tamaqua, p. 28 (penned), dwell. 210, fam. 222, John H. Lutz. Also 1900 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Pa., pop. sch., Tamaqua, ED 201, sheet 20B, dwell. 419, fam. 424, John H. Lutz.

[57] John H. Lutz Civil War pension no. 931,916, RG 15, NA — Washington.

[58] Declaration for widow's pension of Laura E. (Heilman) Lutz, 20 Feb 1908, John H. Lutz Civil War pension no. 931,916, RG 15, NA — Washington.

[59] Pennsylvania death certificate no. 18,879 (1908), John H. Lutz.

[60] *Find A Grave* (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/29902275/john-h.-lutz), memorial 29,902,275 for John H. Lutz (1844–1908), Odd Fellows Cemetery, Tamaqua, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania

[61] "War Record — Family Who May Lay Claim to Patriotism at the Breaking Out of the War of the Rebellion," *Tamaqua (Pennsylvania) Courier*, 30 January 1897, p. 1, col. A copy of the article was given to the author by a DNA match descended from John H. Lutz.

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Researching the Loyalists

by Dwight A. Radford

Editor's note: *At the time of the American Revolution (1775-1783), Loyalists were the American colonists who stayed loyal to the British Crown. Many Loyalists served under the British. Most Loyalists settled in what are now the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario.*

In American research, the soldiers who fought on the American side of the Revolutionary War are given much attention. It is within their records that Irish birthplaces are often preserved. The same is true in Canadian research for those who remained loyal to the British. Within their records birthplaces in Ireland also are preserved. Soldiers and those who suffered on both sides are considered patriots and there are lineage societies for both groups, which also may have preserved Irish birthplaces. However, military research resources rarely record divisions in family allegiance. For this reason, if an Irish birthplace is not preserved in American records, one should consider checking Canadian records to see if a branch of the family were Loyalists in exile.

Resources

This article will focus on the Loyalists who were exiled and some of the basic records which were generated from which to document them. A holistic approach to genealogy takes in both sides. Even if it is not known ahead of time that a Loyalist branch of the family exists, it is easy enough to check out.

There are several reference works, some with specific military or Loyalist chapters, which can be used to identify sources:

Bunnell, Paul J., *Research Guide to Loyalist Ancestors: A Directory of Archives, Manuscripts, Published and Electronic Sources.* Westminster, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2006.

Cox, Kenneth G., *A Call to the Colours: Tracing Your Canadian Military Ancestors.* Toronto, Ontario: Dundurn Press, 2011.

Douglas, Althea, *Finding Your Ancestors in English Quebec.* Toronto, Ontario: Heritage Productions, 2001.

Douglas, Althea, *Finding Your Ancestors in New Brunswick.* Toronto, Ontario: Heritage Productions, 2002.

Irvine, Sherry and Dave Obee, *Finding Your Canadian Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide*. Provo, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2007.

Merriman, Brenda Dougall, *Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the Records.* 4th ed. Toronto, Ontario: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2008.

Merriman, Brenda Dougall, *United Empire Loyalists: A Guide to Tracing Loyalist Ancestors in Upper Canada.* Campbellville, Ontario: Global Heritage Press, 2006.

Punch, Terrence M., *Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia.* 4th ed. Halifax, Nova Scotia: Nimbus Pub., 1998.

Punch, Terrence M. and George F. Sanborn, Jr., *Genealogist's Handbook for Atlantic Canada Research.* 2nd ed. Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1997.

Radford, Dwight A., *American Scots-Irish Research: Strategies and Sources in the Quest for Ulster-Scots Origins.* Orting, Washington: Family Roots Publishing Co., 2020.

Taylor, Ryan, *The Canadian Sourcebook.* Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Library Association, 2004.

There are also several repositories and websites which are a must to check: the databases and digitized records on *Ancestry.com* and *FamilySearch.org*, various provincial archives, and the Library & Archives of Canada (LAC). Concerning the LAC, many of their microfilm are being digitized and placed on the *Héritage* website <Heritage.canadiana.ca>. The keyword "Loyalists" will sort through this massive collection. The LAC website <Bac-lac.gc.ca> has many databases. The easiest way to sort through this major website is to go to the "Genealogy & Family History" section and look for the category of "Topics" and then "Loyalists" as a subject heading.

When searching, the term Loyalists is the most common, but there are other terms which may be used: Tories is often found, as is UEL, which stands for United Empire Loyalists.

Background to the Loyalists

The American Revolution (1775-1783) shattered British North America. It gave rise to two distinct countries, but not at the same time. During the war, both individuals loyal to the Crown and those seeking independence often operated in the same community. There were distinct reasons why many did not want independence. Some, but not all, motives were

political. Their business and livelihood depended on the British, and independence would equate to financial ruin. Some feared that too much democracy would lead to mob rule. Loyalists cut across all social classes and encompassed people who had nothing in common other than backing the losing side.

In areas held by the American revolutionaries, the Committees of Safety acted as shadow governments and harassed Loyalists. In British-held areas, Loyalist regiments were formed and harassed the revolutionaries. Banishments from the Thirteen Colonies began as early as 1775 by way of the Committees of Safety, but the main exodus occurred with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 that recognized the independence of the United States. With it, a massive expulsion of Loyalists began, and an estimated 70,000, at the least. While many went to the Caribbean and others to Great Britain, most were transported on ships to the colonies of Nova Scotia (present-day Maritimes Provinces) and Quebec (present-day Ontario and Quebec).

Many members of disbanded Loyalist Regiments settled on lands granted them by the government along the St. Lawrence River in what is today Ontario. Grants were given to the heads of households by military ranks, then dispensed to wives and children. Note: These are key among the types of records from which to document Loyalists and their families.

Who Qualifies as a Loyalist?

First and foremost, not everyone who was exiled did so because they sided with Great Britain. Many were exiled because they were non-combatants, such as Quakers and Mennonites. This would disqualify them as Loyalists. Others, such as British Army troops who settled in British North America after the war, were not Loyalists. Brenda Dougall Merriman in her Ontario textbook chapter "Who is a Loyalist?" in *United Empire Loyalists: A Guide to Tracing Loyalist Ancestors in Upper Canada* (2006), pp. 7-18, explores who was, and was not, pointing out even in Canadian history, it is not set in stone. A case in point is women, who traditionally have not been considered Loyalists as they did not fight. However, many suffered and fought locally to protect their families. Therefore, their contributions and Loyalist status has been reevaluated.

Loyalist Research Strategies

The basic premise of Loyalist research for Irish ancestors would be to see if a record naming their birthplace has been preserved. However, this is where it gets convoluted. Often the first approach is to find out where in the newly-created United States they were from prior to exile. That is a valid research goal. This places them into contact with friends and family who may or may not have been Loyalists. In this strange approach, research may lead back into American records in search of the birthplace in Ireland. This certainly is not always true, as there are plenty of Canadian-generated records after their arrival which will also preserve birthplaces. This is simply a two-fold strategy which must be considered. Is it a Canadian or American research problem? Maybe both.

Once the Loyalists were expelled to British colonies in Canada or elsewhere, they had to reconstruct their lives, which generated records. New colonies were framed in British North America to accommodate the influx of Loyalists, e.g. New Brunswick from Nova Scotia in 1784 and Quebec's splitting into Lower Canada (Quebec) and Upper Canada (Ontario) in 1791.

With the advent of databases, it is possible to explore Loyalist genealogy to see what records are left behind. Sometimes, a birthplace is mentioned in a record and then there are registers which list everything but a birthplace. Regardless, it is important to understand where in the emerging United States / American colonies the Loyalist originated, which leads to those records being explored for birthplace information.

Part of the research strategy is to understand that for these incoming refugees from America, any record becomes a prime source for documenting Loyalists: church, land, claims for losses and mention in one of the numerous historical works. All can potentially document a Loyalist among the founders of their communities.

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Founded in 1897, the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC) is a lineage society headquartered in Toronto. The UELAC has branches for each geographical region throughout Canada and serves scattered members around the world, especially in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. The UELAC estimates that 1 in 10 Canadians has a Loyalist ancestor. There is no shortage of Irish-born in their records, making them a perfect place to begin a search for a Loyalist branch of the family.

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC) has as its mission: Uniting, in a Canadian-based association, descendants of families who remained loyal to the British crown during the American Revolutionary War, as well as persons interested in the Loyalist era and early Canadian history. Its website <uelac.org> includes a "Loyalist Directory," of basic information on Loyalists with

sources cited. It is not a comprehensive treatment of everyone listed, although some biographies are quite extensive. Things to take note of are birthplace information and where in the United States the person originated. The search is straightforward because a register of all persons by surnames can be studied for clues. The directory and the website can be manipulated for more detailed information.

Due to the time period of the American Revolution, a county of origin in Ireland may be known, but a parish may not. A search of the UELAC website may show who else was born in that Irish county or, better yet, from the Irish county and the American state they had lived in. If a pattern of people emerges, then consider they may have known each other in Ireland, travelled together and settled amongst each other in the American colonies, and then were exiled together. This does not necessarily mean they settled together after exile, but it is at least a place to begin searching. The point is to look for patterns among Irish-born Loyalists, regardless of whether they have the same surname as an ancestor or not.

Be aware that, important as it is, the UELAC website does not include all Loyalists; no website does as research is ongoing to document these people.

Claims for Losses

One set of records constructed specifically about Loyalists was the Claims for Losses, made through the Commissioners of American Loyalist Claims. The Commission was first set up in 1783. While potentially more than 100,000 Loyalists fled what became the United States, only about 2,000 applied for claims through the Commission. The requests were for losses of personal and real estate in former colonial residences. For applications that were approved, some amounts of compensation were granted.

The database "UK, American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835" found on *Ancestry.com* indexes Audit Office (AO) 12 and AO 13 records. Digital images accompany the index. The original records are at The National Archives, Kew, England. Birthplaces are not often included in these records. The records are also indexed in a series of books by Peter Wilson Coldham. One is *American Loyalist Claims: Abstracted from the Public Record Office, Audit Office Series 13, Bundles 1-35 & 37* (Washington, D.C.: National Genealogical Society Bookstore, 1980-). For his work *American Migrations, 1765-1799: The Lives, Times, and Families of Colonial Americans Who Remained Loyal to the British Crown Before, During and After the Revolutionary War, as Related in their Own Words and through Their Correspondence* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000), Coldham obtained documentation from AO 12 and AO 13 to reconstruct the family stories. Even if a claim was rejected, the supporting reports, usually in AO 13, restored many personal facts about the applicants or the families. His latter book has been digitized as the database "American (Loyalist) Migrations, 1765-1799" on *Ancestry.com*. These records are also digitized on *FamilySearch.org*.

Although these records are of only a few of the Loyalist settlers in Canada, they can yield some valuable information.

Library and Archives Canada (LAC)

Library and Archives Canada < www.bac-lac.gc.ca/ > is a key Canadian resource for anyone tracing their family history through Canada. Within its section on Military Heritage are several Loyalist specific databases. Those discussed here are "Carleton Papers — Loyalists and British Soldiers, 1772-1784" and "Loyalists in the Maritimes — Ward Chipman Muster Master's Office, 1777-1785."

The "Carleton Papers" is another term for the British Headquarters Papers, New York. These were records kept by the commanders of the British Army in North America from 1776 to 1783, detailing matters such as service, sufferings, Loyalist exile, and property confiscated. They include documentation on Loyalists from the Manhattan area. The online database contains references to 54,557 names from the Carleton Papers, which the LAC has on microfilm (MG23 B1, microfilms M-343 to M-359) and consists of over 30,000 manuscript pages from the original.

The "Loyalists in the Maritimes" microfilm records consist of the papers of Ward Chipman, a lawyer, judge and Loyalist who settled in Nova Scotia in 1783. The collection of his records (MG 23 D1) covers the years 1751 to 1844 with information about Loyalists who settled in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The database provides access to over 19,000 references in the reports found on the LAC website.

Beyond Canada: East and West Florida Loyalists

In 1763, Spain ceded Florida to the British as part of the treaty ending the French and Indian War (aka Seven Years' War). To administer the newly-gained territory, the British divided Florida into two colonies: East Florida and West Florida, with the dividing line being the Apalachicola River in the panhandle. The capital of East

Florida was St. Augustine and the capital of West Florida was Pensacola. Florida remained loyal to the Crown during the American Revolution, making it a Loyalist stronghold throughout the war. The Treaty of Versailles (1783) returned both East and West Florida to Spain, bringing an end to British control of Florida.

There were exiles, mainly from the Southern American colonies, who left the United States for the Caribbean and Florida, rather than Canada. When Florida was returned by the British to the Spanish in 1783, the Loyalists moved elsewhere to Canada, Great Britain, or the Caribbean Islands. Some eventually moved back to the United States.

As with all Loyalist exiles, there are no exact numbers for the East Florida settlement. Many scholars believe there were over 5,000 who brought with them over 8,000 slaves. For southern Loyalists, Florida was a natural place to find refuge in 1775. Of significance for researchers, that Southern exiles returned to the U.S. means that Americans can also have Loyalist roots.

Some important reference works which document East and West Florida Loyalists include

- Clark, Murtie June, *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War.* 3 vols. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981. (Volume 1 includes Florida. It is searchable and digitized on *Ancestry.com*.)
- Duncanson, John Victor, *Rawdon and Douglas: Two Loyalist Townships in Nova Scotia.* Belleville, Ontario: Mika Publishing, 1989. (Rawdon was founded for Loyalists from the Ninety-Six District of South Carolina and St. Augustine, East Florida.)
- Siebert, Wilbur Henry, *Loyalists in East Florida, 1774 to 1785: The Most Important Documents Pertaining Thereto*. DeLand, Florida: Florida State Historical Society, 1929.

There is no shortage of resources from which to document Florida Loyalists. *Ancestry.com* should be consulted, especially their database "UK, American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835" (as described above). Use the search word "Florida" in the database search to find entries for both East and West Florida.

Black Loyalists

The Black Loyalists are those who were exiled with their Loyalists masters and those who fled American masters to join up with the Loyalists. Black Loyalists were treated harshly and unequally, with the promise of freedom illusionary at best. During the American Revolution, the British promised freedom to slaves who left their masters and joined the Loyalist cause. Slaves ran away and joined the British lines from New York City to Charleston.

An estimated 1,230 enslaved blacks arrived with their Loyalist owners after the American Revolution. About 3,000 Black Loyalists went to Nova Scotia, where the first race riot in North America occurred in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, on 26 July 1784 with the violence lasting ten days. Landless white veterans attacked the African American settlers whom they saw as stealing their jobs. It was a complex time with free and enslaved blacks living next to each other in Nova Scotia.

The Nova Scotia Archives website <https://novascotia.ca/archives/african-heritage> has an excellent section and discussion on African Nova Scotians. The Archives is a major resource for documenting their Black Loyalists.

The LAC database "Black Loyalist Refugees, 1782-1807 — Port Roseway Associates" consists of documents concerning Loyalist refugees who evacuated from the port of New York in 1783 then banded together to form the Port Roseway Associates. This was the beginning of the community of Port Roseway, renamed Shelburne — to find new homes and settlements in Nova Scotia for Loyalist white families, their servants and slaves. The free blacks formed a separate community known as Birchtown. The database includes the "Muster Book of Free Blacks, Settlement of Birchtown, 1784" (MG 9 B9-14). It is important to know that in this record the free blacks had surnames and that those names were known by the white clerks.

A second LAC database for Black Loyalists is the "Carleton Papers — Book of Negroes, 1783." They are part of the original collection of "British Headquarters Papers, New York, 1774-1783" (discussed earlier in this article). The database is extracted from microfilm of those records held by the LAC (MG23 B1, microfilms M-343 to M-369). The database itself does not link to digitized images; however, the amount of material extracted and searchable is amazing.

Be aware that not everyone in the "Carleton Paper — Book of Negroes, 1783" is listed with a surname; there may be only a first name, so care has to be taken when sorting through information and comparing it with other Canadian records which list surnames. The surnames from the 1783 Book of Negroes and the 1784 muster rolls (those given provisions) have been made into the database "Black Loyalist Surnames" on the Nova Scotia Museum

website <https://novascotia.ca/museum/blackloyalists/names/default.htm>. The Book of Negroes (MG23 B1, Microfilm M-369) is only one part of this collection. It contains the names of about 5,000 people, both black and white. The Book of Negroes identifies 2,831 names of men, women and children as Black Loyalists. The information details can include place of origin, legal status, and former owners or claimants. These details are essential in tracing a slave or "free color" family back into the colonial American records.

While the Black Loyalist may not have been born in Ireland, a parent or grandparent may have been. But there may be multiple steps to find that individual. One must trace the Black Loyalist back to his owner, the potential immigrant. If the owner was not the Loyalist, then check for the last owner identified in the American records as a potential Irish link. Finally, the search for the Irish origins of the master can be undertaken.

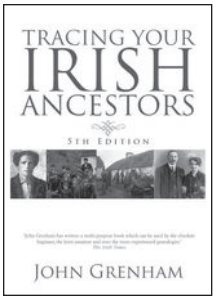
Due to the continued discrimination, 1,192 Black Loyalists, became part of a resettlement program from Nova Scotia to West Africa in 1792. They and free blacks from England were the original settlers of Freetown, which is now part of Sierra Leone. This created another set of records to check for Loyalists, and it can be stated that many in Sierra Leone today have Black Loyalists ancestors.

Dwight Radford is a professional genealogist residing in Utah. He has taught Irish and Irish immigration related classes in both the United States and Canada and is a regular contributor to The Septs. *His newly published book is* American Scots-Irish Research: Strategies and Sources in the Quest for Ulster-Scots Origins. *Or check his blog, www.thejourney-homegenealogy.com.*



Have You Heard About These Four New Books?

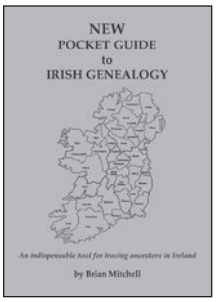
Genealogists continue to research and write. Four major genealogists have written new or updated editions of their works.



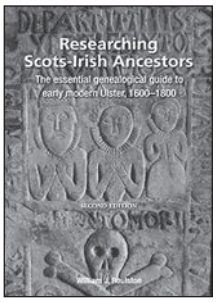
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Civil War Pension — The Key to Our Journey to County Cork

by Jim Sullivan

Editor's note: *This article originally appeared in the October 2009 issue of* The Septs. *The author has made a few updates for this reprint.*

My genealogy research began in 1976 when my Aunt Mary, who passed away in 2014, gave me all of her Sullivan family tree information which she recorded on three by five-inch index cards.

About that time, Aunt Mary had visited Doylestown, Columbia County, Wisconsin, where my Sullivan ancestors from Ireland are buried. She found the grave sites of four of my great aunts, one great uncle, my great grandmother and great grandfather and my great-great grandmother in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Doylestown. My great grandmother Margaret and great grandfather Daniel and great-great grandmother Ellen were all born in Ireland. All we knew about them was that they were from County Cork as indicated on their gravestone. My great-great grandmother Ellen was born in 1798 according to her gravestone. No one knew of the whereabouts of her husband or even what his name was. My grandfather James was one of five boys born to their Irish immigrant parents and, strangely enough, those five boys fathered only two male siblings to carry on the Sullivan family name. One of them never married and the other was my father, James Jr. My father, a World War II veteran, passed away in 1976, before I began my family tree research. I am an only son with three sisters. I have two sons, one married and one single; my married son has one daughter and one son.

For many years, before internet research, we traveled to the same Doylestown Cemetery. We also visited the location of the cemeteries where my grandfather and his other three brothers were buried in hope of finding some clue to additional information. Their grave sites are located in Duluth, Minnesota; Columbus, Wisconsin; Cassville, Wisconsin; and Chicago, Illinois. I requested death records and I researched dozens of census records. Nothing on any of the documents provided any information about the "Mystery Mr. Sullivan", my great-great grandfather who was not buried alongside his wife, son and daughter-in-law in Doylestown, Wisconsin.

Around 2004, Aunt Mary recalled that when she was young, one of her aunts once mentioned a Sullivan family member who served in the American Civil War; however, she had no additional information. Around this same time period, Aunt Mary found an obituary of one of her uncles by the name of Patrick Sullivan, who had passed away in 1932. The obituary, which I now have, stated that Patrick, another brother Cornelius and a sister Nellie were born in Caledonia, Livingston County, New York. It further stated their parents Daniel and Margaret and their grandmother Ellen had settled there when they arrived from County Cork, Ireland in the 1850s. Why they settled in Caledonia, which is south of Rochester, New York, and when and why they moved to Wisconsin was still a mystery; however, we felt we were making progress. With the information about the Civil War and the obituary referencing Livingston County, New York, I began my New York State research. The 1860 federal census listed my great-great grandmother Ellen and her two sons, Daniel (my great grandfather), and his brother, James. The 1865 New York state census mysteriously did not show Ellen, who was still living. It did show Daniel and now a wife named Margaret and two children. This was beginning to get very interesting. I was curious that the state census did not show Daniel's brother James. The census was dated June 28, 1865, and the Civil War had ended in April 1865. I contacted Livingston County for research and I did additional Civil War research in New York State. Both came back showing James had been killed at the Siege and Battle of Petersburg, Virginia on July 6, 1864, and his body was never returned to New York. This interesting find confirmed my Aunt Mary's great memory; however, we didn't yet see it as any kind of major breakthrough in our research. How wrong I was!!

I've been a member of the Irish Genealogical Society International since 1995. Over the years, I've attended many seminars and classes provided by the IGSI. The assistance I've received and the knowledge I've obtained from so many wonderful volunteers in invaluable. I was provided an NATF Form 86, (National Archives Order for Copies of Military Records) to use to verify the Civil War military service of James Sullivan. The documents I received after filing the form showed that James had two periods of service in the Union Army during the Civil War. During his first enlistment, James became a Prisoner of War, was exchanged and discharged in May 1863. He re-enlisted in April 1864 and subsequently was killed on July 6, 1864. These

were really interesting documents, however, none of the documents provided any information to take us back to Ireland, specifically County Cork. Our major breakthrough came in 2005 while talking with the most knowledgeable and helpful genealogist I've ever met, Beth Mullinax. She suggested submitting a NATF Form 85 (National Archives Order for Copies of Federal Pension or Bounty Land Warrant Applications). She thought this was worth a look, because James was single with no children and it was possible his Mother may have been eligible for a "Mother's Pension". She stated at the time it would cost $35.00, whether they found the requested information or not. I thought it would be worth the investment; was I ever right!! Several weeks later I received a large envelope with over twenty pages of documents regarding the pension record of James Sullivan, killed in the Civil War. I had struck gold!!

As I read through the documents, I felt like a kid at Christmas time. This was the key to the mystery, a 29-year search to learn where our Sullivan family had lived in County Cork, Ireland. The pension record provided us the following information;

The Sullivans lived in Rahan Civil Parish in County Cork, Ireland (1 of 253 Civil Parishes in County Cork)

The name of my great-great grandfather; Cornelius

Cornelius died on March 1, 1840 in Ireland from reasons unknown

Ellen Sullivan's maiden name: Kenny

Ellen and Cornelius were married on March 25, 1826

Our Sullivan family moved from New York State to Wisconsin in September 1866

A letter from James Sullivan's Company Commander to the Sullivan family stating that James had been killed at the Battle of Petersburg, Virginia on July 6, 1864

Beginning in September of 1866, Ellen began receiving a "Civil War Mother's Pension" in the amount of $8.00 a month until her death in March 1883



Sullivan tombstone

The information in this document provided answers to many questions. Shortly thereafter, I began my research in Griffith's Valuation and with Mallow Heritage Center in County Cork. Knowing that the Sullivans came from Rahan Civil Parish, my research became focused on this civil parish which is 1 of 253 in County Cork. Rahan Civil Parish has 21 Townlands; however, we didn't yet know which one they came from. Townlands are the smallest officially defined geographical division in Ireland. After researching all 21 Townlands in Griffith's Valuation which was completed in that area in 1851, I found our Sullivan's in Knockbrack Townland. The Sullivans I found were Ellen and her known children John, Mary, Daniel and James; and I'm convinced there were two other children, Timothy and Jeremiah. I later acquired maps showing precisely where the Sullivan's lived in Knockbrack Townland. Mallow Heritage Center provided Baptismal Records showing the Baptism dates of four of the Sullivan children born to Cornelius and Ellen Sullivan between 1830 and 1840. Unfortunately, record keeping in County Cork began on June 1, 1829, so we have a gap in time between the March 25, 1826 wedding date and the start date of record keeping. I also received a copy of the Tithe Applotment of 1825 which shows Cornelius and three other brothers or cousins who farmed the land in Knockbrack Townland a generation earlier.



Old stone Sullivan house in Knockbrack, County Cork

With all this newly gained knowledge, my wife Ruth and I began to plan for our first trip to Ireland. We made our first journey to the homeland in March 2006. We landed in Shannon and drove down through Limerick, staying three nights at the Round About Inn in Mallow. We compared our maps from 1851 with the current maps of Rahan Civil Parish and we were pleasantly surprised at how closely the rural roads matched 155 years later. We greatly appreciated the assistance provided from the local people with whom we talked. Mr. Tommy Healy kindly took us directly to the old stone Sullivan house which sat precisely on the location shown on the 1851 Griffith's Valuation map. It was derelict and abandoned. We were informed that the last residents were Jeremiah and Patsy Sullivan. They unfortunately were both single with no children. Another helpful individual, Pat O'Donnell took us directly to their gravesite location. Unfortunately, we didn't locate any living relative on the trip, but the experience was priceless.

Upon returning home, I researched the 1901 census records for County Cork, Rahan Civil Parish, Knockbrack Townland and found some Sullivan's that I'm confident were related. My wife and I enjoyed ourselves so much, we decided to visit Ireland again in 2008. We toured Dublin and Belfast this time and we also retraced our steps in County Cork to see if we left any stones unturned. We again found no living Sullivan relatives; however, we made contact with some Kenny family members, descendants of my great-great grandmother Ellen (*nee* Kenny) Sullivan, who is buried in Doylestown, Wisconsin. We stayed in touch with them for several years.

Our trips and the whole experience were a direct result of the valuable information that came from the Civil War pension for James Sullivan. Without it, we wouldn't be much further along today than we were in 1976. The journey has been just as enjoyable as the destination.

Jim Sullivan and Ruth, his wife of 43 years, were born in Chicago but have lived in Minnesota since 1983. In 2004, Jim retired from active duty with the Minnesota Army National Guard after 27 total years of military service. They've researched their Sullivan family tree since 1976; they made two trips to Ireland to do research, to travel the beautiful country and to enjoy the hospitality of the Irish people.



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100 Years Ago and More

Compiled by Sheila Northrop

300 Years Ago

[no title]

A Gentleman is gone over to Ireland to hire about threescore young Women, with as many young Men, to go to the Companies new Settlement, on the River Gambia.

They write from Limerick in Ireland, that they have began to Fish for the Wreck of a Ship, lost near the Mouth of the River Shannon, in the Year 1688, which had on Board 500000 Pieces of Eight for King James's Army, the same being carry'd on by a Subscription of 20000 l. The Country People came down and opposed the Workmen, so that Soldiers were sent for from Limerick to protect them.

London Applebee Original Journal
London, England — 29 October 1720

[no title]

We hear that Sir John Eccles, who was, upon his Majesty's Accesson, Knighted, in consideration of his good Services to the Protestant Interest, is remov'd from being Collector of the Customs in the Port of Dublin in Ireland; and, we hear, Mr. Mainhard, Collector at Cork, will succeed him.

London Applebee Original Journal
London, England — 3 December 1720

250 Years Ago

The BATCHELOR: Or, *Speculations* of JEOFFREY WAGSTAFFE, *Esq*; No. 404

…

Let us now examine the fact so often asserted in the modest Freeman, that the linen trade has suffered by what he calls the oppression of America; the public will also recollect the constant pious labours of the worthy Phlagos's agents, to engage this kingdom to associate themselves in a common cause with the Colonies. – This is the time, says the Freeman, to assert your rights, observe "the distressful, distracted" State of Great Britain: shake off the yoke, O ye gallant sons of Hibernia! Adopt the American spirit of revolt, and we shall become an independent kingdom. Instruct – Address – Remonstrate. Have you no grievances, real or imaginary. – Quarrel with those mercenary hirelings whose very buttons threaten our liberties, and are an audacious insult on the constitution. "Every" one in the army is now numbered to shame and slaughter." Pull down their barracks – Expell your Viceroy – do something, at least to partake of the mirabitia *[sic]* of patriotic enthusiasm. …

London Hoey Dublin Mercury
Dublin, Ireland — 2 October 1770

DUBLIN-CASTLE.

By the LORD LIEUTENANT and COUNCIL of IRELAND.
A PROCLOMATION.
TOWNSEND.

WHEREAS we have received information upon oath, that on the sixth day of September last, the Sub-sheriff of the King's county proceeded to carry into execution at Philipstown, in the said county, the sentence which had been pronounced against John Bryan, who was lately convicted of murder at Philipstown, aforesaid and for that purpose employed a person as executioner on that occasion, that after the said John Bryan had hung a proper time and was cut down, &c whilst the said executioner was performing the remainder of the sentence, a riotous and tumultuous mob, to the amount of several hundreds, behaved in a most outrageous manner, throwing stones at the said Sub-sheriff and executioner, but directing their fury principally against the said executioner, who by some of the said riotous mob was instantly killed, and that the cause for the said mob's committing ther said riot and murder was as in the said information is expressed, that the said mob apprehended the said executioner to be the person who executed Sheehy the priest, and several of the people called White-boys. …

London Hoey Dublin Mercury
Dublin, Ireland — 22 December 1770

200 Years Ago

IRELAND.

On the night of Friday last, actuated by those principles which are the bane of all social order, a formitable *[sic]* band of miscreants, upwards of sixty in number, entered the vicinity of Kilbeggan, in the county of Westmeath. There chanced to be billeted in that place at the time, on their route from Dublin to their quarters in Athlone, a division of the 55th regiment. Being apprised of this circumstance, those audacious ruffians immediately forced into a house in which were lodged some soldiers, whom having effectually surprised, they stripped of five stand of fire-arms, and instantly decamped. Such acts, so disgraceful to civilized society must solely emanate from the veriest dregs of mankind. – (*Athlone Herald*.).

British Press
London, England — 22 December 1820

150 Years Ago

Why Irishman should Vote for Protection.

(Continued from first page.)

In a paper read before the British Association it was shown that the Irish estates owned by English capital, embracing 403,065 acres, had been purchased at an average valued of £2 15s, or $13.50 per acre, the price paid for unbroken prairie in Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. Captain Head, in a work on Ireland, tells us of an estate of ten thousand acres, purchased at 5 cents an acre.

Absecon South Jersey Republican
Absecon, New Jersey — 15 October 1870

Departure of the Irish Ambulance Corps. - …

A correspondent says: – A gentleman named Leonard, who calls himself 'delegate and inspector of ambulances,' gives some account of the exploits of the Foreign Legion in the service of France. He met with them in camp at Salbris the day after the action at Orleans. They went into the field, he was told, 1,500 strong., and brought out scarcely 500. 'Never did soldiers fight more bravely, and I am proud to say that, from the reports given to me by the officers, the Irish portion distinguished themselves particularly. I am sorry to add that they were, it is to be feared, nearly all shot or taken prisoners. The following are some of the names I have been able to procure of the men who went into the field of battle, but who are unaccounted for, and have not turned up: – Thomas Kelly, Conway Scott, Michael Finnigan, O'Donovan Elliott, Maurice Moriarty, and Ryan Ward. The three who survived and escaped unhurt are Donelan, John McEvers, and Michael Wade. From the remaining officers and sub-officers I have been assured that the three survivors fought for six hours or more constantly under fire in the vines near the town, and afterwards in the fanbourg of Orleans. Donelan, one of the finest men I ever saw, made himself conspicuous for his coolness and bravery. He stood in the centre of the street, taking aim as coolly as if he were practicing at a target for a wager, measuring his distance. He is to be made knight of the Legion of Honour. …

Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette
Gympie, Queensland, Australia
31 December 1870

In a Hurry. – This is a prominent trait of our American life. There is no leisure. From boyhood to old age, especially in the Western country, all are pressed with business and cares. As soon as the emigrant to a new country gets a place, no matter how rude, as a shelter for himself and family, he sets himself to work to pay for it. No day or hour can be devoted to anything else till this is paid for, and the ground on which it stands. …

Accident. – As a family from the country were driving to town on Saturday, the persons being seated in chairs, while turning a corner on North Hill, one, a young lady, was thrown out of the wagon and seriously injured, being made insensible for a short time. The people living in the vicinity rendered all the assistance in their power, and by the use of camphor, hartshorn and brandy, succeeded in restoring her to consciousness, when the family resumed their journey. The family were Irish, and the moaning and screaming of the mother, who thought her daughter Bridget was dead, called forth the sympathy of all present.

Bloomington Weekly Leader
Bloomington, Indiana
13 October 1870

100 Years Ago

DRAWS A DARK PICTURE OF TERRORS THRUST UPON THE IRISH PEOPLE BY THE 'BLACK AND TANS'

Says National Spirit is Unbroken

Several hundred houses were raided in Dublin on November 2 and 3. Included in these were the National University, where 800 students and teachers were lined up against the walls and all that the searchers found on the 800, which the military thought might be of any use to then were two letters, one written in Irish and one in German. They backed a motor truck up to the office of the University and took away all its books and records. They raided the town house of the Duke of Leinster in Dominick street. The Duke's brother Lord Edward Fitzgerald, lives most of his time in that house. They also raided the Protestant Church and grounds at Glasevin, and the National Bank in Lesson street, and the principal residences and business houses of the city. Arrests were made by the score in Dublin that week and over 100 prisoners had been deported to England from different parts of Ireland, and that without trial. The jails of Ireland were all full and they had to make room for more. When I left Limerick, five weeks ago, a city of less than 40,000 people, there were 170 men in jail there without trial. …

Huron Evening Huronite
Huron, South Dakota
19 December 1920

FORMER RESIDENT IS LEFT $15,000

Chief of Police Parker is Endeavoring To Locate William Anderson

Chief of Police Parker is looking for Mt. Vernon relatives of one William Anderson, who died in California in 1892 at the age of 62 years, and who left a cash fortune of $15,000.

A letter and a telegram from L. K. Frazer of Chicago were received this morning by Chief Parker. Mr. Frazer is evidently the executor of the will. He writes that he is look for relatives of this man, who formerly lived in Mt. Vernon, so that he can settle the estate.

Mr. Anderson, according to the letter, was a relative or friend of John S. Braddock of Mt. Vernon. Mr. Anderson likely lived here about 1878. He later went to California. While there he received a grant of 40 acres and a warrant for the land signed by Mr. Braddock. The letter states that Mr. Anderson was born in Ireland, that he at different times lived in Ohio, Illinois and California.

Any information concerning William Anderson will be highly appreciated by Chief Parker.

The Democratic Banner
Mt. Vernon, Ohio – 15 October 1920

Sheila O'Rourke Northrop is a professional genealogist and President of FamilyTracer.net. She is a long-time member of many genealogical organizations. She specializes in Irish research and genealogical Data Analysis. Sheila's family hails from Counties Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford and Clare.



IGSI Webinars

Have your found ***everything*** there is to know about your Irish ancestors?? We didn't think so! That is precisely why IGSI is excited to let you know about our final 2020 webinar. All you need is a computer/phone/tablet with Internet access and audio capabilities to participate from the safety and comfort of your own home.

Saturday, November 14 | 10:30am – Noon CST

Finding Your Overseas Irish Ancestors: A Case Study | Lois Abromitis Mackin, PhD

Finding your Irish ancestors' place of origin is usually the most difficult thing for those of us researching our Irish roots. How many times have you come across a document or record that lists their place of birth as "Ireland"? Attend this webinar and let Lois help you conquer this challenge. This class, featuring the quest for the origins of a Wisconsin Irishman, show how to find his Irish place of origin using the American records he and his family left. The step-by-step case study will provide you with a roadmap for your own quest. $15 for IGSI members; $20 for non-members.

While attending the LIVE webinars is ideal since you will be able to ask Lois questions, you may not be available to attend the live taping. Never fear!! IGSI members will have exclusive access to the recordings and handouts within a few days after the live event for the same low member price.

And watch for news on additional webinars planned for 2021.

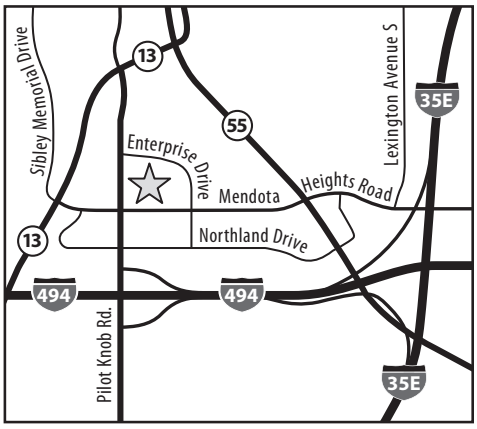
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During severe weather, or if traveling a long distance, please call before coming to the library to check if open.

The library is a self-supporting research library staffed by volunteers. If you are a member of the IGSI and are coming from out of town, contact Librarian@IrishGenealogical.org so we can have an Irish researcher available to meet you.

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The Septs

JANUARY (EANÁIR) 2021 $10.00



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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Limited Research Hours at the Hoffman Research Library

After January 8, 2021, the Hoffman Research Library will be open for limited library service on Thursdays and Saturdays provided that two library volunteers are available for service in the building. Wearing masks, social distancing, and self-cleaning directions are other parts of the new rules for library use.

Admission is by advance reservation and is limited to 8 patrons for two hours at a time: Thursdays 4-8 PM and Saturdays between 10 AM and 4 PM. The library is available for use by members of IGSI and of all other genealogy societies located at the Minnesota Genealogy Center. Members of IGSI can make a reservation for a 2-hour slot by using the Minnesota Genealogy Center's Sign Up Genius website. To make a reservation, visit the IGSI homepage for the link or go to https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044BAFAE2FA1FD0-hoffman.

Please contact research@irishgenealogical.org in advance if you plan to visit the library and anticipate needing advice or assistance with your Irish research.

Note: Occupancy limitations and hours of service may change as Minnesota State COVID guidelines and regulations change. To check if the library is open, call 651-330-9312.

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The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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Layout/Design	Megan McLean	

The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the first of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editor at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc.

2021
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Write for *The Septs*

Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 — 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2021 | April | Setting Family History

Finding material to flesh out a family history: *YouTube*, *Ebay*, letters, local histories, newspapers.
Deadline for articles: February 1, 2021.

2021 | July | Irish Jurisdictions

Place as a key to research. Definition and use of various geographical and record keeping divisions; Poor Law Unions in depth; Workhouses; Baronies; Parishes.
Deadline for articles: May 1, 2021.

2021 | October | Genealogical Education

Why, where and how to learn to become a better genealogist: presentations, conferences, workshops, books, Internet sites, *FamilySearch* lectures and wiki.
Deadline for articles: August 1, 2021.

2022 | January | 1922 / 2022

Irish Independence, The Irish Civil War, the Four Courts fire: these events from 100 years ago set an imprint on Irish history, politics and families. Historical articles, family stories, current implications.
Deadline for articles: November 1, 2021.

Cover Photo: *Cheaper by the dozen?*
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Reflection on the Year

by Ann Eccles

Approaching the end of the year, I almost automatically look back to reflect. This year, the famous Dicken's quote "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" comes to mind. But the sentence offers more juxtaposed sentiments: wisdom and foolishness, belief and incredulity. There are ordinary activities once taken for granted that I have had to eliminate from my life this year. Trips, birthdays and other celebrations with friends, even attending church services or volunteering. All of these have been postponed until sometime next year, with hope that they will become common occurrences once again.

I looked back to the president's column for January 2020, and noted how many of our plans changed quickly within the first quarter of the year. Within weeks we had cancelled the Irish Tea and made plans to switch classes to webinars. We learned to use technology for virtual meetings and worked to change an in-person genealogy conference into a successful virtual event.

As other events and activities changed throughout 2020, we learned to adapt. Some have become benefits that will continue into the future. By switching classes to webinars, we extend the benefits once available to local members only to others who live beyond commuting distance. Board and committee members appreciate online meetings as they eliminate the travel time to and from the Genealogy Center. So, these will continue into 2021 and be further evaluated.

Some volunteers need to be recognized for their work this past year. Foremost are Mary Wickersham, Gigi Hickey, Kim Scanlan, Kathleen Foley, and the rest of the Celtic Connections Conference team. Then, Kay Swanson regularly picked up mail from the office to keep membership records up-to-date and Audrey Leonard spent each Saturday the library was open available to help Irish researchers. Maureen Meier and Mary Schowalter volunteered for a special barcoding project. The Education committee flourished during the year. Míle buíochas (many thanks) to each and every one of them for all their work!



New Year's Eve! © Sumit Rai, Pexels.com

There will be changes coming in 2021 for the Society. A number of our Directors are stepping down. Kim Scanlan served as IGSI treasurer (2019-2020) and 2020 conference treasurer; Pat Schoenfeld served as secretary for four years meticulously recording our meetings. Nancy Fennessey, Gigi Hickey, and Tim Scanlan have served on the board for two years; Kay Swanson has served for four years. Gigi and Kay will remain active with Committee work — Kay as Membership chair and serving on Education and Technology committees. Gigi continues as our Blog writer and will become a Co-Managing Editor of *The Septs*. It takes two to replace Tom Rice, longtime Managing Editor of this journal; Gigi and Mary Wickersham will share the duties.

Looking forward, Jeanne Bakken, Mike Flynn, Kathleen Foley and Donna Jones join the 2021 Board of Directors. Jeanne Bakken and Mike Flynn have previously served on the IGSI Board: Jeanne prior to 2010 and has managed multiple years as volunteer coordinator; Mike served as treasurer 2011 -2015 and as 2016 CCC treasurer. Kathleen Foley is the current Education Chair; Donna Jones, a resident of North Carolina, serves on the Education committee. Ann Eccles and Ron Zweber will continue on the Board in 2021.

In 2020, the Hoffman Research Library closed as did other non-essential businesses. It reopened with minimum service levels for a few months only to close again late in the year. We hope to see it reopen again in early 2021. (Check the website for latest information.)

I don't know what the new year will bring but I choose to remain optimistic. With IGSI — we managed to turn the 2020 lemons into lemonade. For the coming year — Yes, there will be challenges. On the other hand, I hope that there will be wonderful times of seeing friends once again, of traveling for fun and for research. May we all find hope and joy in the new year!



Ann Eccles is a retired librarian who has re-focused her research skills to family history and Irish genealogy. She has several Irish ancestral lines to trace as both of her parents descended from Irish families. Ann currently serves as IGSI President and continues to serve as the editor of The Septs.

Meet the New Managing Editors

by Gigi Hickey and Mary Wickersham

We are excited and a bit apprehensive as we launch our first issue as co-Managing Editors. Tom Rice leaves big shoes to fill after 15 years of competent, faithful service as our predecessor.

Many readers of *The Septs* will recognize our names as co-chairs of the virtual Celtic Connections Conference 2020. That experience proved we could work well together and reassured us about venturing into new, unfamiliar territory. We thought you might be interested to learn about our genealogy backgrounds.

Georgetta "Gigi" Hickey

My interest in genealogy was stoked by family curiosity regarding my husband Bill's paternal Irish-born great-grandparents. That's what brought me to IGSI! Several of my Irish-research stories have been published in *The Septs* and *Minnesota Genealogist*, the MGS journal.

I also extensively researched my paternal grandmother. In 2008 I was surprised to uncover the possibility she descended from a Revolutionary War soldier. I spent the next 18 months documenting his service and all the generations in between him and me. I was gratified when my DAR application was approved. I subsequently self-published a family history book about my grandmother, a Gold Star Mother with a teaching career spanning over 50 years. Here I am pictured in 2016 when I found my donated book on the shelves of the DAR library in Washington, D.C.

Since July 2011 I've been IGSI's blog editor. I've served as an IGSI board member and was involved in planning the 2016 and 2018 Celtic Connections Conferences, which brings us to the ill-fated plans for a Chicago conference in 2020. Thanks to my co-chair, Mary Wickersham, and the rest of the planning committee, we were able to turn it into a successful virtual conference. Read a few statistics about the conference on page 26.



Gigi Hickey finds her book on the shelf at the DAR Library

This issue of *The Septs* focuses on using the FAN (Family, Associates, Neighbors) club to expand knowledge of an ancestor. Co-Managing Editor Mary Wickersham provides direction on when and how to do cluster research. Lois Mackin and Kathy Lund each offer examples of success when research is expanded to include friends and neighbors. And check out the new DNA column.

Mary Wickersham

While planning a trip to Ireland back in the late 1990s, I asked my father, Edward O'Rourke, where in Ireland the O'Rourke and Barry families came from. A few days later my sister Joanna called to say she was happy to learn I was writing a book on the family history! No book has been written, but my sister Sheila Northrop and I met with Joanna and our parents to start gathering information. Many happy hours of research commenced, and we both started volunteering for IGSI and the Minnesota Genealogical Society.

Sheila and I joined the Association for Professional Genealogists, providing research services for others, and giving talks on Irish and general genealogy research.

The family history still has not been written, and I have had a lot of fun volunteering with both IGSI and MGS. I am a past IGSI Secretary, Board member, President, Treasurer, two-times Celtic Connections Conference co-chair, and now serve as one of IGSI's website editors. The 2020 Conference was a very stressful project — converting to virtual on short notice — and watching its success has been very gratifying. I look forward to seeing how Gigi & I divvy up the work as co-Managing Editors of *The Septs* as we continue our partnership on IGSI projects.

Now, about that book….



Mary Wickersham

Branches, Clusters, and FANs

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

When I started asking questions about my family history, three of my grandparents had already passed away. I wrote to several great-aunts for information on their parents and grandparents, and they sent other great-aunts to the cemeteries and wrote back with names and dates. Here is one response, from my great-aunt Eva: "I am supposing you only want the parents' birth and death dates, and just their children's names. My oldest aunt (92) alive… is your great-grandfather's sister."[1] I thanked her and filed her letter.

I hope you're jumping up and down and shouting, "Wrong!" Unfortunately, I didn't realize till after Aunt Eva and all her sisters had passed away what a mistake I made. Instead of saying, "Thank you, that's great," I should have said, "Thank you so much, this is great. I would love more! I want to know everything. Did you say my great-grandfather had sisters in the U.S., and one is still living? Wow! Can I contact her? Does she have a family? Do you or your sisters have any pictures or letters?" In fact, I should have contacted all my great-aunts and uncles, not just a selected few.

Since those of you reading this belong to genealogical societies and care about doing quality research, you know that family is about more than a few relationships and facts, it's about reconstructing ancestors' lives, learning what they did, how they lived, what their personalities were like, maybe even why they made the choices they made.

Branching Out

You can't learn the whole story of your family by concentrating only on your direct lineage. Very few people lived isolated lives, independent of parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and cousins. Instead, they banded together, migrating to new places with family members, members of their churches, neighbors, and people they served with in the military. Sometimes all members of a group migrated at the same time, sometimes group members migrated serially.

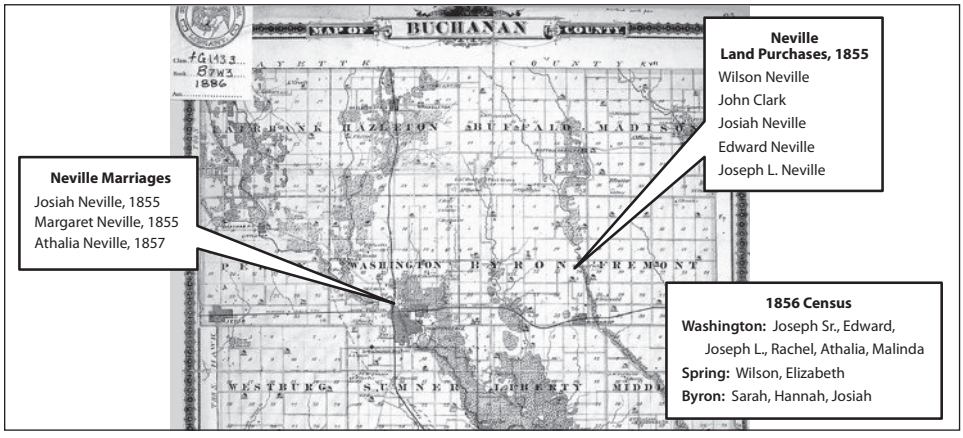
Many genealogists use "sideways genealogy" to circumvent brick walls. Checking the records of family members and associates when you can't find the answer to your problem in the records of your direct ancestor is a great way to work. Don't reserve this approach until you run into problems — make it your way of doing research from the start. Yes, it's more time-consuming than confining research to your direct line, but it keeps you out of trouble and enriches your understanding of the families that produced you.

Here are some examples of how researching the branches of an ancestral family provide a richer story than researching the direct line.

The Neville Family, Ohio to Iowa

My husband is descended from a family from Buchanan County, Iowa — Clarks intermarried with Nevilles — that we traced back to Ohio in 1850. We knew that John Clark became the second husband of Sarah (Neville) Shidler in Holmes County, Ohio, in 1851,[2] and that he received a patent for 240 acres in Buchanan County in 1855.[3] John and Sarah's two oldest sons Walter Finney Emery Clark and Joseph Neville Clark were born in Ohio in 1852 and 1854,[4] narrowing the time frame for the family's migration to Iowa.

It is only when we researched Sarah (Neville) Shidler Clark's eleven brothers and sisters that we began to see the true story of the migration to Iowa. Between 1850, when Sarah, her parents, and all her siblings lived in Holmes County, Ohio,[5] and 1856, when Iowa took a census of inhabitants, all but one of Sarah's siblings, plus her parents, moved to Iowa.[6] Examination of land purchases,[7] together with marriage records[8] and children's birth dates and places,[9] reveals that the migrating siblings most likely arrived together, about the same time as John and Sarah Clark, with single brothers and sisters migrating along with their married siblings and their parents.



Plat Book of Buchanan County, Iowa (Minneapolis: Warner & Foote, 1886); digitized at Iowa Digital Library, https://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/islandora/object/ui%3Aatlases_1501

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This pattern of group migration was not a new one for the Nevilles—the family first appeared in eastern Maryland, then moved via western Maryland and Pennsylvania to Ohio, in company with related Buckmaster, Barnes, and other families.[10]

The Whetstone Family, Pennsylvania to Colorado and Wyoming

The second example comes from the Whetstone family of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. John Whetstone and his wife Barbara (Moser) had eight children: Mary, Gideon, John, Elias, Catharine, Absalom, Amos, and Emanuel.[11] All were born in Pennsylvania, and most spent their lives there, with the exception of Mary, who died in New York; John, who died in Ohio; and Elias, who died in Colorado.[12]

My ancestor was Absalom Whetstone. One of Absalom's sons, Darwin Benjamin, ranched in Wyoming.[13] (My mother, Darwin's great-niece, recalled his visits to Pennsylvania – memorable because he wore a black cowboy hat.) Darwin's 1900 census record showed him at age 22 in Routt County, Colorado. He was living in the household of a rancher named John A. Whetstone, and his relationship to the head of household was "cousin."[14]

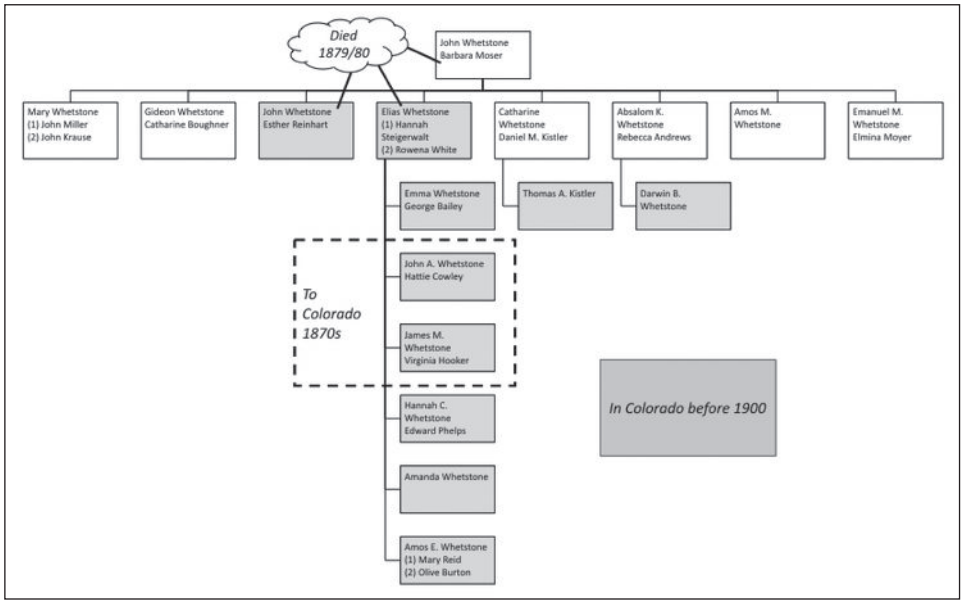
Who was this John A. Whetstone, and how did he and Darwin get to Colorado? Some digging revealed that John was John Adam Whetstone, son of Absalom's brother Elias, the brother who died in Colorado.[15] More research revealed that John Adam, Darwin, and Elias were not the only Whetstones in Colorado – in fact, all of Elias' children except Emma settled there, as did Elias' older brother John for a time.[16]

Analyzing the chronology of the migration showed that Elias' sons John Adam and James Madison led the way in the last half of the 1870s.[17] The rest of the migration appears to have been triggered by deaths in 1879 and 1880. In January 1879 Barbara Whetstone, the matriarch of the family, died.[18] She was followed in death within a year by Elias' wife Hannah.[19]

These deaths unleashed a landslide of movement in the Whetstone families, scattering Barbara's grandchildren westward. Within a year of Hannah's death, most of her family moved to Colorado.[20] Elias joined his sons John and James and his nephew Thomas Kistler (son of his sister Catharine) in Breckenridge, Colorado,[21] leaving his youngest children Amanda and Amos in Schuylkill County with his married daughters Hannah Phelps and Emma Bailey.[22] Amanda and probably Amos followed Elias to Breckenridge soon after the 1880 census; Amanda died in Breckenridge in 1882.[23]

By the time the Colorado state census was taken in 1885, three multi-generational groups of Schuylkill County Whetstones were in residence: Elias and his son Amos in Breckenridge; Edward and Hannah Phelps in Weld County; and James and his uncle John in Routt County.[24] Elias remarried in Colorado and had two more children.[25] His three older sons and daughter Hannah settled in Colorado permanently, with John Adam Whetstone hosting his cousin Darwin in 1900.[26] Elias' brother John ultimately returned to the east, establishing residence with his son John in Defiance, Ohio by 1900.[27]

Most of these two stories would be unknown if my husband and I had not expanded the direct-line research sideways to include the whole families of Sarah Neville and Absalom Whetstone, and forward to include their nephews and nieces. It was in the records and stories of the extended family members that critical details of the family's story emerged. Other genealogists across the country researching these extended family lines contributed key information, photos, and artifacts.



Whetstone Family

An Irish Contrarian

From "The Kinney Family," undated family history written by Paul Kinney (1908–1989), author's files:

"About 1858 Thomas Kinney I moved his family to a farm in Iowa… The trip was made in a covered wagon drawn by oxen, possibly part of a caravan. Thomas II told how the oxen were rested in a level area half way up a steep hill in Dubuque…

Apparently a number of Irish homesteaders planned on settling at Ryan Iowa… A number of them were traveling west on a trail which approximates U.S. Highway 20 in eastern Iowa, and they were instructed to turn south… When the Kinney wagon reached this point Thomas I drove straight ahead to the west, and when his wife remonstrated he remarked that if they wanted to live with the Irish they should have stayed in Ireland… So the Kinneys proceeded on their way and eventually settled on a farm a few miles west of Winthrop, Iowa. Ryan is still an Irish settlement…"

Resources for Cluster and FAN Club Research

Family clusters like the ones I've described are just the tip of the iceberg. To learn more about cluster and FAN club research, you might enjoy reading the articles below and following their links and bibliography.

- "Cluster Genealogy," *Wikipedia* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluster_genealogy : accessed 1 December 2020).
- Elizabeth Shown Mills, *QuickSheet: The Historical Biographer's Guide to Cluster Research (the FAN Principle)*, rev. ed. (Baltimore Genealogical Publishing Co., 2012).

Case studies illustrating the cluster approach include

- William M. Litchman, "Using Cluster Methodology to Backtrack an Ancestor: The Case of John Bradberry," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 95 (June 2007):103–116.
- Elizabeth Shown Mills, "QuickLesson 11: Identity Problems & the FAN Principle," *Evidence Explained* (https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-11-identity-problems-fan-principle : accessed 1December 2020).
- Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Articles," *Historic Pathways* (https://www.historicpathways.com/articles.html : accessed 1 December 2020), Individual Case Studies: by Type of Problem > Cluster Research (FAN Principle) (links to nine articles).

An earlier version of this article was published in Minnesota Genealogist*, vol. 45, no. 4 (winter, 2014), 21–24.*

End Notes

[1] Eva (Abromitis) McLaughlin, Havertown, Pennsylvania, to Lois (Abromitis) Mackin, letter, 11 November 1980; privately held by author.

[2] Holmes County, Ohio, Marriage Records, 3:33, Clark-Sheidler (1851); FHL microfilm 477,144.

[3] Bureau of Land Management, "Land Patent Search," digital images, *General Land Office Records* (https://glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx : accessed 1 December 2020), John Clark (Buchanan County, Iowa), patent no. 26725.

[4] 1856 Iowa state census, Buchanan County, population schedule, Byron Township, pp. 756–757 (stamped), dwelling 29, family 29, John Clark household; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com), citing microfilm obtained from the State Historical Society of Iowa via *HeritageQuest*. All state and federal census records were accessed on *Ancestry* 1 December 2020.

[5] 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Oh., pop. sch., Berlin Township, p. 194A (stamped), dwell. 1525, fam. 1555, Joseph Neville household; dwell. 1526, fam. 1556, Hannah Downs.
1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Oh., pop. sch., Hardy twp., p. 96A (stamped), dwell. 164, fam. 177, Wilson Neville. 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Oh., pop. sch., Hardy twp., p. 98A (stamped), dwell. 189, fam. 202, Sophiah Tidball.
For the marriage of Hannah Neville and Robert Downs, see Holmes County Genealogy Society, *Holmes County, Ohio, Marriages,* 1825–1859, vol. I from Books 1, 2, & 3 (Millersburg, Ohio: Holmes County Genealogy Society, 2007), 116. No marriage record has been found for Sophia Neville and James Tidball.

[6] 1856 Iowa state census, Buchanan Co., pop. sch., Spring Twp., pp. 694–695

(stamped), dwell.. 28, fam. 28, Elesabeth Markley; pp. 702703 (stamped), dwell. 78, fam. 78, Wilsen Nevil; Byron Twp., pp. 756–757 (stamped), dwell. 29, fam. 29, Sarah Clark; pp. 754–755, dwell. 43, fam. 43, Hanah Downs; pp. 756–757, dwell. 30, fam. 30, Josiah Nevill; Washington Twp., pp. 822–823 (stamped), dwell. 146, fam. 167, Joseph Nevill, Mary Nevill, Edward Nevill, Athey Nevill, Rachel Nevill, Emillia Nevill; dwell. 146, fam. 168, Joseph L. Nevill. For the marriage of George Markley and Elizabeth Neville, see *Holmes County Marriages*, 116. Margaret Neville was not found in the 1856 Iowa census; she was in Buchanan County in 1855, when she married William Boone. William Boone-Margaret Nevill marriage (1855), "Iowa, U.S., Select Marriages Index, 1758–1996," database, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60284/ : accessed 1 December 2020), citing FHL microfilm 1,024,827.

[7] Wilson Neville, John Clark, Josiah Neville, Edward Neville, and Joseph L. Neville purchased federal land in Buchanan County in June 1855. Bureau of Land management, "Land Patent Search," database, *General Land Office Records* (http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch : accessed 1 December 2020), Edward Nevill (Buchanan County, Iowa), cash entry patent no. 28312; Josiah Nevill (Buchanan County, Iowa), cash entry patent no. 26724; Wilson Nevill (Buchanan County, Iowa), cash entry patent nos. 28311 and 27204; John Clark (Buchanan County, Iowa), cash entry patent no. 26725; Joseph L. Neville (Buchanan County, Iowa) cash entry patent 50473.

[8] Josiah and Margaret Neville married in Buchanan County in 1855, followed in 1857 by Athalia. "Iowa, County Marriages, 18381934," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1805551 : accessed 1 December 2020), Josiah Neville and Elizabeth Jane Logan, 31 May 1855; Wm Boone and Margaret Nevill, 30 Aug 1855; Jno F. Romig and Atha Ann Nevill, 16 Aug 1857, citing Buchanan, Iowa, United States, county courthouses, Iowa.

[9] The first Neville child born in Iowa was Wilson Neville's daughter Mary M. Neville, born in 1855. 1856 Iowa state census, Buchanan Co., pop. sch., Spring Twp., p. 702703 (stamped), dwell. 78, fam. 78, M. M. Nevil.

[10] The earlier migrations are documented in Shirley Moore Barnes, *The Kindred Venturers: the History and Genealogy of Peter Barnes (1744-1814) and Related Families Bevington, Buckmaster, Graham, Howard, Inman, Porter, Shipley, Springer, and Warner in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Ohio* (Apollo, Pennsylvania: Closson Press, 1993).

[11] Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, probate file, John Whetstone (1848); Schuylkill County Archives, Pottsville.

[12] For the birthplace of the Whetstone children, see 1850 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Pennsylvania, pop. sch., Schuylkill Twp., p. 313A (stamped), dwell. 277, fam. 290, Mary Miller; West Penn Twp., p. 283A (stamped), dwell. 254, fam. 276, Gideon Whetstone; p. 286A (stamped), dwell. 305, fam. 329, John Whetstone; p. 281B (stamped), dwell. 236, fam. 258, Eli Whetstone; p. 280B (stamped), dwell. 222, fam. 243, Catharine Kistler; Schuylkill Twp., p. 313A (stamped), dwell. 275, fam. 287, Absalom Whetstone, Amos Whetstone, Emanuel Whetstone. For the death of Mary (Whetstone) Miller Krause, see *A Biographical History of Central Kansas Illustrated* (New York and Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1902), II: 1536; digitized at *Internet Archive*. For the death of John Whetstone, see *BillionGraves* (https://billiongraves.com/grave/John-Whetstone/230960 : accessed 1 December 2020), page and image for John Whetstone (1825–1908), Riverside Cemetery, Defiance, Ohio. For the death of Elias Whetstone, see *Find A Grave* (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39981256/elias-whetstone : accessed 1 December 2020), page and image for Elias Whetstone (1827–1897), Valley Brook Cemetery, Breckenridge, Colorado, Find A Grave Memorial # 39981256.

[13] "Darwin B. Whetstone," *Thermopolis Independent Record*, 20 March, 1955, p. and col. unknown, copy provided by Hot Springs County Library, Thermopolis.

[14] 1900 U.S. census, Routt Co., Colo., pop. sch., Twenty Mile Precinct, sheet 12B (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 146, dwell. 287, fam. 290, Darwin Whetstone.

[15] *Progressive Men of Western Colorado Illustrated* (Chicago: A. W. Bowen & Co., 1905), "John Adam Whetstone," 444–445; digitized book, *Internet Archive*.

[16] For the identities of Elias Whetstone's children, see *Progressive Men of Western Colorado*, "James M. Whetstone," 437. For residence in Colorado, see 1885 Colorado state census, Routt Co., pop. sch., District 1, image 11, dwell. 67, fam. 67, James Whetstone, John Whetstone. Also Summit Co., pop. sch., District 1, p. 4 (penned), dwell. 49, fam. 50, E. Wheatstone, Amos Wheatstone, and dwell. 50, fam. 51, J. A. Wheatstone. Also Weld Co., pop. sch. District 2, p. 44 (penned), dwell. 408, fam. 408, Hannah Phelps.

[17] *Progressive Men of Western Colorado*, 437, 444–445.

[18] Zion (Greenwood) Cemetery (Tamaqua, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania), Barbara Whetstone marker; personally read by author, 2005.

[19] *Progressive Men of Western Colorado*, 437. No burial or burial record has been located for Hannah Whetstone.

[20] See note 16.

[21] 1880 U.S. census, Summit Co., Colo., pop. sch., Breckenridge, ED 106, p. 24 (penned), dwell. 282, fam. 319, Elias Whelstone, John Whelstone, James M. Whelstone, Thos. A. Kistler.

[22] 1880 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Pennsylvania, pop. sch., Mahanoy City, ED 195, p. 27 (penned), dwell. 197, fam. 218, Hannah C. Phelps, and dwell. 198, fam. 219, Emma Bailey, Amand Bailey [Amanda Whetstone], Amos Bailey [Amos Whetstone].

[23] *Find A Grave* (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39981254/m-amanda-whetstone : accessed 1 December 2020), page and image for M. Amanda Whetstone (1859–1897), Breckenridge Masonic Cemetery, Breckenridge, Colorado, Find A Grave Memorial #39981254.

[24] See note 16.

[25] "Missourians Visit Old Home Below Breckinridge," *Summit County Journal and Breckenridge Bulletin*, 10 June 1914, p. 1; digital image, *Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection* (http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org ; accessed 1 December 2020).

[26] For John Adam Whetstone, see 1900 U.S. census, Routt Co., Colo., pop. sch., Twenty Mile Precinct, sheet 12B (stamped), ED 146, dwell. 287, fam. 290, John A. Whetstone. "John A. Whetstone," *Steamboat Pilot* (Steamboat Springs, Colorado), 9 February 1934, p. 3; digital image, *Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection*. For James Madison Whetstone, see 1900 U.S. census, Routt Co., Colo., pop. sch., Hayden, sheet 2B (stamped), ED 146, dwell. 53, fam. 53, James M. Whelstone. "J. M. Whetstone Passes Away," *Routt County Republican*, 30 July 1926, copy supplied by Joyce Cusick, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. For Hannah (Whetstone) Phelps, see 1900 U.S. census, Arapahoe Co., Colorado, pop. sch., Denver, sheet 3A (stamped), ED 88, dwell. 48, fam. 50, Hannah C. Phelps. *Find A Grave* (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/95455553/hannah-catherine-phelps : accessed 1 December 2020), page and image for Hannah C. Phelps (18571938), Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, Colorado, Find A Grave Memorial #95455553. For Amos E. Whetstone, see 1900 U.S. census, Las Animas Co., Colo., pop. sch., Trinidad, sheet 17B (stamped), ED 65, dwell. 360, fam. 372, Amos E. Whetstone. *Find A Grave* (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/83627118/amos-elias-whetstone : accessed 1 December 2020), page and image for Amos E. Whetstone (1865–1927), Evergreen Washelli Memorial Park, Seattle, Washington, Find A Grave Memorial #83627118.

[27] 1900 U.S. census, Defiance Co., Oh., pop. sch., Defiance, sheet 19B (stamped), ED 8, dwell. 430, fam. 431, John Whetstone.

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Solve Mysteries with the FAN Club

by Kathy Lund

Who posted that remarkable photograph of my great-aunt Ella on findagrave.com? The name is unfamiliar. Hmmm, this a job for the FAN Club!

In David Rencher's presentation, "Methodology for Irish Immigration and Emigration," at the 2020 Celtic Conference, he stressed FAN research. Who comprise the FAN Club? It is the Friends, Associates, and Neighbors of your family members that may hold the key to your research. Their stories, mementos, and facts from differing perspectives bring clues for a clearer focus. Internet resources make locating these FANs feasible.

Assemble the FANs you already have: names from baby books, references to a mysterious "Uncle Ed," or "shirttail relatives." Then dig through censuses, church records, newspapers, wills and probate, and cemeteries. Make the connections.

Censuses and directories - Complete a census run, working backward to the immigration date for your family. In-laws and siblings may be living with or near your people. A mother-in-law listing yields a wife's maiden name and line to follow. Boarders or lodgers may actually be cousins. Scroll through the neighbors' birth places for clues to neighboring married daughters. In cities neighbors may be nearby but listed in a different enumeration district; use maps to check street names and addresses. In 1910 my grandfather lived in Chicago, kitty-corner from his in-laws, on the same street but one block west. He was in enumeration district 1258 and his Walsh in-laws in 294. In 1920 he was living as a widower next door to those in-laws with a Scully family, which later proved to be their cousins.

Vital records - Birth, marriage, death, and burial may name FANs as sponsors, witnesses, or informants. An Ontario record for the second marriage of the uncle of my great-grandfather in 1865 was the only mention of the family's County Clare origins.

Church records – These private records substitute for vital records. Although less accessible, they are worth seeking. Baptisms, marriages, and membership lists are some of the very best sources for family connections. When I found a Michael O'Hern baptism in 1880 in a Chicago church with a note that Fr. J. J. O'Hearn had officiated at his marriage at a different parish in 1916, I knew that this Michael was the relative.

A Lutheran burial in Denmark resembled a family group sheet – naming wives, children in birth order, and sons-in-law and their residences. Another burial record listed six children that linked two Iowa immigrants as brothers when the elder had been born five years before the parents' marriage.

French-Canadian marriage records, besides giving the couple's names, give their parents' names with the mother's maiden name, their parishes, if either is a minor, and usually the groom's occupation. If either is a widow or widower, the name of that prior spouse in mentioned instead of the parents. If a parent is deceased, that is noted. Witnesses, whose relationships are often given, sign the register with the couple, if they are able. Those signatures might help distinguish people of the same name.

Death and cemetery records - Nothing brings out the FANs like the many records around deaths. Informants on death records are often married daughters or sons-in-law, relatives to pursue. Gravestones are helpful but often lost or unreliable. Sexton records and plot cards are preferable. An unrecognized, prematurely deceased relative may have been buried with your people. They may be collateral relatives, connections from the homeland, or descendants from a line you have not yet pursued.

In the records of Calvary cemetery in Evanston, Illinois, I found a young Michael Geohagan among my Mullanes. Michael was included in Tom Cook's book, *Chicago Irish Families*, abstracted newspaper obituaries that mention an Irish birthplace. It is digitized on ancestry.com. Michael's funeral was from the home of Mrs. Margaret Wall whom I knew to be a Mullane relative. Pursing the Geohagans – and its multiple name variations – in church records in Newcastle West, County Limerick, led to Margaret's previously unknown sister Anna Mullane, who married Patrick Geohagan in 1865. Irish church records are frustratingly skimpy, so without this clue I could not have made a connection.

Wills and probates tie people together — and not just heirs. The aforementioned Margaret Mullane Wall's unmarried son was killed in a train wreck in 1889, and she was appointed administratrix of his estate, requiring a $10,000 bond. A son-in-law and Mrs. Ellen O'Hearn, my great-grandmother, were surety for the bond. This was a two-fer: a clue to Margaret's daughter and her spouse, and a confirmation of the suspected relationship between Margaret and Ellen. Even today, one does not guarantee a sum like that for a stranger!

Obituaries might have been a family historian's best friend prior to DNA. The best ones present a personal history, a sense of character, a list of survivors, or previously deceased family members. Use this information to search internet databases. Some

brief death notices ask a newspaper in another area to "pick up" the notice.

In the case of my great-grandfather in Chicago in 1903, the request was to Montreal and Petrolia, Ontario. How great was that! Montreal was no surprise, but Petrolia was discovered to be home to my great-grandmother's hitherto unknown brother. That led to another brother in Smiths Falls, Ontario, and ultimately to a shirttail connection to a Maryknoll priest, Father Fleckenstein, on my FAN list since he had contacted my Dad in the early 1960s.

Funeral home records may be overlooked. My great-grandmother Susannah Largay Donnelly's death record showed her parents as James Largy and Sarah Hart. The only record to confirm this couple was a baptism for a brother Patrick in 1837 in New Brunswick. How to find their Irish origins? Both parents had died before the first New Brunswick census in 1851.

Susannah's unmarried sister Bridget was known to have come from Hamilton, Ontario, joining her in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, by 1903. The 1861 Hamilton census had Bridget and the family of Michael Largay living with Thomas Hart, Catherine Hart, and Eliza Hart. A Michael Largay had witnessed Susannah's marriage in 1853 in Bangor, Maine. Catherine Hart was later found to be a Largay, likely an elder sister. Michael was buried in 1879 with the Harts in Hamilton's Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. But the key was Eliza who died in 1896. Her birthplace was recorded by the Dwyer Funeral Home as County Armagh. That long research journey ended by discovering that Susannah was baptized in Killeen, County Armagh, and was not a native of New Brunswick as she had always believed.

Letters are saved for a reason. My Muttart line bears a rare name. Immigrant Balthazar had come from Strasbourg to Canada during the final years of New France. Quebec church records exist for his marriage and the births of three daughters. For complex reasons he resettled in Prince Edward Island by 1769 where the Catholic church was forbidden; records are few. He drowned in 1784. Two sons and their young grandchildren left Prince Edward Island around 1835 and settled in Whitby, Ontario. One of the granddaughters, Isma Ann Muttart, youngest sister of my 2xgreat-grandfather John, married James Asa Castor in Buffalo, New York, in December 1853.

The Public Records Office in PEI had a Kindex, a record of inquirers on Island lines. One was a researcher in Michigan who found a three-page letter signed by James A. Caster among an aunt's photos. The name meant nothing to him but everything to me! Dated in July 1860 from Collingwood, Ontario, it berated "Dear brother" for not visiting the man's dying wife. The only other name mentioned was "your sister Rebecca." In the large Muttart family there was only one Rebecca – Isma's eldest sister. The letter had come down on this collateral line due to a marriage of first cousins. The mortality portion of the 1861 Ontario census showed that a 37-year old female had died of dropsy in July 1860, and that a housekeeper, Ruth McAllister, was caring for her two young children. Years later the letter was returned to a descendant of James Castor and Ruth in Alberta who contacted me on the Internet. She was able to locate the church burial record for Isma, the only record that directly gave her parents' names. She left yellow flowers on the grave and sent a picture. So satisfying. Mysteries solved.

Printed genealogies - After finding my 3xgreat-grandmother Elizabeth Pardon's maiden name, Paxton, on the Canadian death record of her sister who died in 1913, I discovered that her brother William Paxton had also immigrated to Whitby, Ontario. A researcher with the Whitby-Oshawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogy Society found that William Paxton had married late in life to a widow whose family was included in Henry Winthrop Hardin's 1916 book, *Huckins Family: Robert Huckins of the Dover Combination and Some of His Descendants*. It has been digitized by familysearch.org. William's parents were listed as George Paxton and Eleanor Thompson. Those names fit; one more generation identified.

My great-aunt Ella's mystery continues. She was a Chicago-born and bred twenty-year old teacher who was pictured as a bridal attendant to her Irish-born aunt's step-daughter for her 1904 marriage in Fowler, Indiana. What circumstances could have led to that aunt's marriage with her German farmer husband? The answer must be in the FANs so I will keep digging.

Untangling mysteries is possible if you are cautious, curious, and remain alert while using the tools so readily available.

Kathy Lund began family research in 1988. Seven of her eight great-grandparents are fully Irish with the eighth one-quarter Irish. She served as President and Treasurer of IGSI and as a Director of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. She headed the MGS Committee to index the 1940 US census for familysearch.com. She loves a mystery, church records, collaboration, and the Internet.



When to Use Cluster / FAN Techniques

by Mary Wickersham

The terms Cluster Research and FAN (Family, Associates and Neighbors) Club refer to the same approach to researching your ancestors: "a research technique employed by genealogists to learn more about an ancestor by examining records left by the ancestor's cluster. A person's cluster consists of the extended family, friends, neighbors, and other associates such as business partners." [1]

Start your cluster analysis by researching the ancestor directly. Next, identify the information gaps to fill. Then use FAN techniques to identify relatives whose information may give clues to discover more about a direct ancestor.

While you can collect FAN information as you do your initial research, it may be more efficient to conduct your research of your direct family line first. You can revisit records for an organized gathering of your ancestor's FAN Club list.

You might expect that Associates and Neighbors do not have high potential for striking genealogical gold for your own family. Why should you pursue them, and how much time should you spend on that pursuit? The answers depend on what information you are missing, and how important the answer is to you. Often our ancestors immigrated with and settled and associated with people from their own background. That means that their associates could be more tied to them than it appears on surface: they could be related through blood or marriage, but - because their relationships are not readily apparent – you might skip over them in your research.

Finding a group of settlers from the same origins in Ireland may help you find the answer to the elusive question "where in Ireland did grandpa come from?".

1. Start with Traditional Research

Use traditional research methods first: locate birth, marriage and death records, census records and their substitutes, obituaries, biographies, cemetery records, etc., for your ancestor. Then ask yourself what information you are missing, and retrace your steps through these records looking for names of others you can and should research in pursuit of information to fill in gaps. For example, if your grandfather's death certificate doesn't tell you his parents' names, the death certificate of one of your grandfather's siblings may reveal that information.

2. Identify FAN Club Members

As Emily Anne Croom stated well in *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research*:

"Our ancestors often migrated in family groups, as church congregations, or as a group of neighbors. They often lived very close to other family members. They worshipped with, went to war with, bought land from, and were buried near friends and relatives. Although we may not know the names of this group when we begin researching a focus ancestor, we must train ourselves to look for its members." [2]

Family

Research for the Family in FAN starts with determining the relatives who surrounded your ancestors throughout their lives. The most straightforward sources for these answers are census records and directories. U.S., Canada, and U.K. census records give you a series of snapshots of entire households' memberships, while city and regional directories may fill in between-census years.

Associates and Neighbors

Finding Associates usually takes more effort than finding Neighbors, who appear in census records.

Associates: with whom did your ancestor associate? Examples of these are co-workers, organization members, business partners, and fellow church members.

Among records you may already have, gather the names of

- witnesses at your ancestors' wedding
- sponsors at their children's baptisms
- informants on death certificates
- news articles: who attended their wedding, or attended or served as a pallbearer at their funeral?
- individuals mentioned in probate records: who inherited? Who administered the estate? Who witnessed the will?
- naturalization witnesses: starting in 1816, residence in the U.S. had to be proved by oath of witnesses who must be U.S. citizens.[3] The witness could be a relative.
- pension applications, which may include names of witnesses

Figure 1 shows a baptism record with sponsors for two baptisms.[4] The two images were taken from entries across two pages of the register. (Both children were baptized on 14 March 1858.)

Add the sponsors' names to the FAN Club(s) for the child and the parents. If your ancestor was a sponsor, add the child and parents' names to the FAN Club of the sponsor.

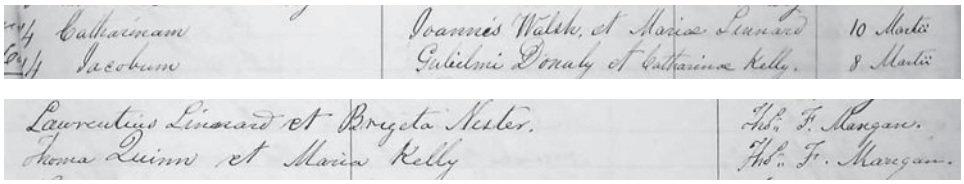


Figure 1. Catharine, of John Walsh & Mary Linnard, born 10 March 1858, sponsors Lawrence Linnard & Bridget Nester. James, of William Donaly & Catherine Kelly, born 8 March 1858, sponsors Thomas Quinn and Mary Kelly.

Neighbors: revisit census, directories and other records such as plat maps with a focus on finding "suspects." When reviewing census records, look at nearby households, as a daughter or sister may be living next door under her married name. Check nearby households for women of the appropriate ages, and check their birthplaces and those of the parents for a pattern that identify her as a possible relative. Pay particular attention to older women in those households, as they could be aunts or a grandmother who remarried and has a different surname.

If your ancestor lived in a city with city directories available, be sure to check for others who lived at the same address.

Ancestry tip for searching directories: try searching without entering a name into the search box; instead, use the street address or street name and city. This search method is particularly effective when using Ancestry.com, which provides a Keyword search field. First, find an entry for your ancestor, then copy the street name as displayed and place it in the Keyword field of the second search.

In a search by family name, we locate Bridget Mahoney in Minneapolis in 1887 at the address of 728 Hennepin in Minneapolis in 1887.

A search for just Bridget's address (728 Hennepin) for 2 years +/- 1887 is the next step. Resist the temptation to include names. The results list includes Bridget's son, Thomas "Malioney," but who are the others? (Figure 2)

Further research of other listed residents shows that Mrs. Horan is Bridget's daughter, Margaret Mahoney Horan, the widow of Frank Horan, Jr.

Results 1–8 of 8

View Record	Name	Residence Year	Residence Place	Spouse	View Images
View Record	Julie Mayer	1887	Minneapolis, Minnesota		
View Record	Thomas Malioney	1887	Minneapolis, Minnesota		
View Record	Mrs Bridget Mahoney	1887	Minneapolis, Minnesota		
View Record	Mrs Margaret Horan	1887	Minneapolis, Minnesota		
View Record	Sidney Smith	1886	Minneapolis, Minnesota		
View Record	Washington Horan	1886	Minneapolis, Minnesota		
View Record	Ttrtrflii Washington	1885	Minneapolis, Minnesota		
View Record	Julius Mayer	1885	Minneapolis, Minnesota		

Figure 2. Ancestry *image of search results listing names of residents and year*

A look at the 1885 city directory entry for Trtrflii Washington reveals the entry for Margaret's husband (Figure 3). We do *not* find him listed under Horan.


& Co r 1214 Chestnut av.
Horan Frank J. merchant tailor 29 S
Washington av r 728 Hennepin av.

Figure 3. Snipped image of Frank Horan name in city directory

The "no name" technique can be used on *Ancestry* for Griffith's Valuation. Using the Townland name as keyword and no names, we can see a list of all households in the area. (Figure 4)

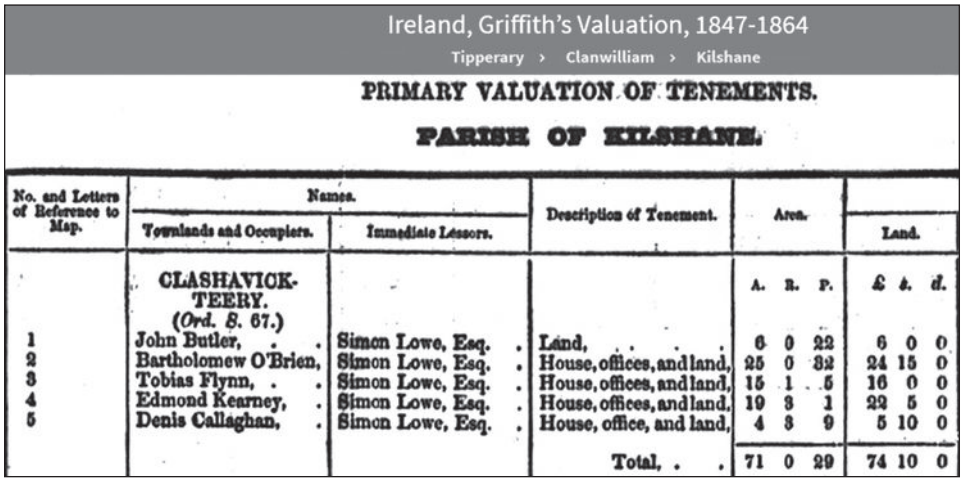
Research the FAN Candidates

Trace each "suspect" through their lives. Some individuals may be quickly moved to the Family list once you have researched them through census, vital, church and cemetery records, naturalization, property and probate records. County and local histories and others' family trees may provide helpful leads in this stage of your research.

Selecting the likeliest candidates first, start by checking how long each candidate lived in the same area as your ancestor. If they were in the area significantly ahead of your ancestor, they may have been a starting member of "chain migration," where family members followed one another in successive immigrations.

Among the historical records to research:

- the earliest census records the candidates appear in. Did they arrive in the area before or after your ancestors?
- if they lived during the 1900 and 1910 censuses, check for their immigration year. Is it similar to the year your ancestor arrived?


Ireland, Griffith's Valuation, 1847-1864
Tipperary › Clanwilliam › Kilshane

PRIMARY VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.

PARISH OF KILSHANE.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names. Townlands and Occupiers.	Names. Immediate Lessors.	Description of Tenement.	Area. A.	Area. R.	Area. P.	Land. £	Land. s.	Land. d.
	CLASHAVICK-TEERY. (Ord. S. 67.)								
1	John Butler,	Simon Lowe, Esq.	Land,	6	0	22	6	0	0
2	Bartholomew O'Brien,	Simon Lowe, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	25	0	32	24	15	0
3	Tobias Flynn,	Simon Lowe, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	15	1	5	16	0	0
4	Edmond Kearney,	Simon Lowe, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	19	3	1	22	5	0
5	Denis Callaghan,	Simon Lowe, Esq.	House, office, and land,	4	3	9	5	10	0
			Total,	71	0	29	74	10	0

Figure 4. Image from Griffith's Valuation

- if they lived in a city, check city directories. Did your immigrant ancestor spent his/her first year living with the neighbor? Further research may reveal that neighbor is a relative.

3. Collect Data About FAN Club Members

Now that you have a list of names of associates and neighbors, the next step is to conduct initial research to rule them in or out as candidates for your ancestor's extended family group.

As you find information about FAN Club members, you need to keep track of information about those individuals. Jennifer Dondero suggests:

> With cluster research, it might be (1) first name, (2) last name, (3) location the name came in contact with your person, (4) date the name came in contact with your person, and (5) source. There may be additional data points but usually, those five points are all you hope for from most members of a cluster.[5]

The above limited data collection is appropriate for a small group, but if your group is more extensive you may want to use a spreadsheet or other tool to track more fields. For example, it may be helpful to know birth years and birth places when trying to arrive at theories about their connections.

4. Manage Your Data

You may end up with so much data that you will need to organize it for effective analysis. I quickly realized that I needed to include more information than the minimum, as my cluster analysis covers more than 100 years. I decided to create an Excel spreadsheet with fairly simply headings and room for notes.

Figure 5 demonstrates the possible connection between two O'Rourke families: 29-year-old Richard O'Rourke was buried in Mt. Olivet cemetery in 1892; Patrick O'Rourke was buried in the same cemetery 48 years later. Having the birth year for each person in the spreadsheet helps highlight that Patrick would have been old enough (about 16 years old) at the time of Richard's death to know Richard. Were they related?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	First	Last	Location		Date	Source	Birth year	Place	Occupation	Note
	Richard	O'Rourke	Spring Valley, Bureau, IL, USA		1892	Find-A-Grave, Mt. Olivet Cemetery	1863			
	Patrick	O'Rourke	Spring Valley, Bureau, IL, USA		1940	Find-A-Grave, Mt. Olivet Cemetery	1876			

Figure 5. Two item comparison of Find A Grave *findings*

When I reviewed notes from correspondence with the helpful researcher at the Bureau County Genealogical Society back in the early 2000s, I found records of four additional O'Rourke burials at Mt. Olivet Cemetery that are not reported in *Find A Grave* and the lot numbers of the gravesites. (Figure 6)

Why are they not listed on *Find A Grave*? Some of the grave markers in this cemetery are small circular pieces of metal which have tarnished to a soft turquoise color and easily blend in with grass or may be overgrown. Patrick's grave marker is slightly larger, it probably measures six inches across.

More research. Adding information from the 1870 and 1880 U.S. census shows both men with their families. Entries for Richard and Patrick are bolded. (Figure 7)

Analyze the Data

Using the data you collected, analyze it for patterns. To evaluate the likelihood of family connections, build timelines, search online family trees for leads and hints of possible connections. Search for more detailed records of early family members in particular to find the Club member's origins.

Case Study

For my O'Rourke puzzle, I looked at the families of the two O'Rourke men. Using the information from the censuses, the names of their parents and the birth patterns of their children, I built a timeline for each family and set them side-by-side. If the heads of household – Henry and James – are related, they took different paths to travel from their

	First	Last	Location	Date	Source	Birth	P C	Note
2	Richard	O'Rourke	Spring Valley, Bureau, IL, USA	1892	Find-A-Grave, Mt. Olivet Cemetery; Bureau County Genealogical Society (lot)	1863		Lot 633
3	James	O'Rourke	Spring Valley, Bureau, IL, USA	1928	Bureau County Genealogical Society	1859		Lot 633
4	Edward	O'Rourke	Spring Valley, Bureau, IL, USA	1935	Bureau County Genealogical Society	1861		Lot 633
5	John	O'Rourke	Spring Valley, Bureau, IL, USA	1928	Bureau County Genealogical Society	1867		Lot 703
6	Patrick	O'Rourke	Spring Valley, Bureau, IL, USA	1940	Find-A-Grave, Mt. Olivet Cemetery; Bureau County Genealogical Society (lot)	1876		Lot 703
7	James	O'Rourke	Spring Valley, Bureau, IL, USA	1903	Bureau County Genealogical Society	1902		Patrick's infant son - no lot provided

Figure 6. Chart showing burial information on O'Rourke families

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	First	Last	Location		Date	Source	Birth	Place	Occupation
2	**Richard**	**O'Rourke**	**Spring Valley, Bureau, IL, USA**		**1892**	**Find-A-Grave,**	**1863**		
3	**Patrick**	**O'Rourke**	**Spring Valley, Bureau, IL, USA**		**1940**	**Find-A-Grave,**	**1876**		
6	Henry	O'Rourke	Collinsville, Madison, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1835	Ireland	Miner
7	James	O'Rourke	Collinsville, Madison, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1859	England	Miner
8	Edward	O'Rourke	Collinsville, Madison, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1861	England	Miner
9	**Richard**	**O'Rourke**	**Collinsville, Madison, Illinois, USA**		**1880**	**U.S. Census**	**1863**	**England**	**Miner**
10	Mary Jane	O'Rourke	Collinsville, Madison, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1865	Pennsylvania	
11	Catherine	O'Rourke	Collinsville, Madison, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1868	Illinois	
12	Margaret	O'Rourke	Collinsville, Madison, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1869	Illinois	
13	James	O'Rourke	Hollis, Peoria, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1838	Ireland	Coal Miner
14	Margareth	O'Rourke	Hollis, Peoria, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1840	Ireland	
15	Mary	O'Rourke	Hollis, Peoria, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1864	New York	
16	Adelia	O'Rourke	Hollis, Peoria, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1865	New Jersey	
17	John	O'Rourke	Hollis, Peoria, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1867	Pennsylvania	
18	James	O'Rourke	Hollis, Peoria, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1869	Illinois	
19	Margareth	O'Rourke	Hollis, Peoria, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1871	Pennsylvania	
20	Dennis	O'Rourke	Hollis, Peoria, Illinois, USA		1880	U.S. Census	1874	Illinois	
21	**Patrick**	**O'Rourke**	**Hollis, Peoria, Illinois, USA**		**1880**	**U.S. Census**	**1877**	**Illinois**	
22	Henry	O'Rourke	Township 1 Range 8, St Clair, Illinois		1870	U.S. Census	1838	Ireland	Coal Miner
23	Margaret	O'Rourke	Township 1 Range 8, St Clair, Illinois		1870	U.S. Census	1847	Ireland	
24	James	O'Rourke	Township 1 Range 8, St Clair, Illinois		1870	U.S. Census	1860	England	
25	Edward	O'Rourke	Township 1 Range 8, St Clair, Illinois		1870	U.S. Census	1861	England	
26	**Richard**	**O'Rourke**	**Township 1 Range 8, St Clair, Illinois**		**1870**	**U.S. Census**	**1863**	**England**	
27	Mary Jane	O'Rourke	Township 1 Range 8, St Clair, Illinois		1870	U.S. Census	1865	Pennsylvania	
28	Catherine	O'Rourke	Township 1 Range 8, St Clair, Illinois		1870	U.S. Census	1868	Illinois	
29	Margaret	O'Rourke	Township 1 Range 8, St Clair, Illinois		1870	U.S. Census	1869	Illinois	

Figure 7. Census data on the O'Rourke families

birthplaces in Ireland to arrive in the coal mining region of Illinois.

The naming patterns of the children do not line up. If Henry and James were brothers, I would expect the oldest son and second daughter of each to share first names. Henry's eldest son was James, and James's was John; Henry's second daughter was Catherine, and James's was Adelia (interchangeable with Delia and Bridget).

Comparing birth places and years of their children provides a timeline, as shown in Table 1.

The date and place of death and burial for Henry O'Rourke is not known.

Analysis: it appears members of both families were in the Spring Valley area around 1892 – 1893. Did they know one another? Where is the 1890 census when you need it? The information gathered so far appears inconclusive.

More direction came through further research in both families. Several of the death certificates of the children noted "Ireland" as the place of birth for their parents. Tracing of all children for both families uncovered one death certificate from each family which listed the parents' place of birth.

Conclusion

Henry and James are unlikely to be siblings. This conclusion is based on the information provided on the death certificates of the two children whose records provided parents' place of birth, the lack of a similar naming pattern, and no proof of residence in the same county at the same time.

Table 1 – Comparison of Henry and James O'Rourke families

year(s)	Henry	James
1830s	Born Ireland 1835 - 1838	Born Ireland 1838 - 1839
1859 - 1863	3 children b. England	
1864		Daughter Mary b. NY
1865	Daughter Mary Jane b. PA	Daughter Delia b. NJ
1867		Son John b. PA
1868	Daughter Catherine b. IL	
1869	Daughter Margaret b. IL	Son James b. PA or IL
1870	Living in St. Clair County, IL Coal miner	Living in Mount Carmel, PA Coal miner
1871		Daughter Margaret b. PA
1874		Son Dennis b. IL
1876	Wife Margaret Boylan dies and is buried in St. Clair County	Son Patrick b. PA
1880	Living in Collinsville, IL (no wife listed)	Living in Peoria, IL
1883		Daughter Mary weds John McGinnis in Peoria, IL
1887		James dies near Tiskilwa
1892	Son James dies in Spring Valley, IL	
1893		Daughter Delia weds in Spring Valley, IL.

Table 2 – Birth locations of Henry and James – from the death certificates of their children

Year	Henry	James
1933		Mary O'Rourke McGinnis dies in Spring Valley, IL; is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Spring Valley, IL. Her death certificate gives her parents' place of birth as County Sligo.
1935	Son Edward dies in Chicago, IL; is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Spring Valley, IL. His death certificate gives his father's place of birth as Queen's County, and his mother's place of birth as County Connaught.	

Next Steps

The spreadsheet with entries for these two families and their FAN cluster now has over 100 entries. Census information was fairly easy to add. I am now adding funeral attendees' names, gathered from newspaper articles; additional baptism and marriage witnesses, as I come across them in my notes. Another piece of information may turn up that will either help nail shut this door, or pry it open slightly.

Patrick (son of James, and my grandfather) was baptized in 1876 at St. Patrick's in La Salle, IL. His sponsors were Peter Doyle and Mary Conroy or Conway. There were other O'Rourkes in that area, and I previously traced several through the census. My next FAN project will be an analysis in that area, working my way out from 1876. I look forward to looking at the church records, once we're past the Covid-19 epidemic: IGSI has a copy of St. Patrick's Church La Salle sacramental records. I will look for O'Rourkes and members of their FAN club as baptismal sponsors and marriage witnesses!

Additional Information on Cluster Research

American Ancestors has a recorded webinar "Creating a Cluster Research Plan" on *YouTube*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFA_IfMsThg>.[7] They also offer a spreadsheet template for a research log in Excel format that you can download after registering on their site (registration and the template download are free). <https://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/download#template>.

Croom, Emily Anne. *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research*, Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2008. To my surprise, my local library's catalog carried an entry for it which linked to an online copy at the Minnesota Historical Society's Gale Library. See the chapter: "Broadening the Scope: Cluster Genealogy."

Endnotes

[1] "Cluster Genealogy," *Wikipedia*, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluster_genealogy : accessed 18 November 2020)

[2] Croom, Emily Anne, *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research,* Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2008.

[3] "United States Naturalization Laws," *Family Search Wiki*, (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Naturalization_Laws: accessed 29 November 2020)

[4] Catholic Diocese of Springfield; Springfield, IL; *Illinois, Church Records, 1853-1975*, (https://www.ancestry.com : accessed 30 November 2020). Baptism at St. Peter and Paul, Alton, Illinois, USA.

[5] Dondero, Jennifer, *The Occasional Genealogist*, (https://www.theoccasionalgenealogist.com/2018/03/genealogy-fan-club-cluster-collateral.html: accessed 28 November 2020)

[6] *Find A Grave*, St. Benedict's Cemetery, Spring Valley, Bureau County, Illinois, USA, (http://www.findagrave.com:accessed November 30, 2020). Memorial ID 5050772

[7] Fulton, Lindsay, Director of Research Services, American Ancestors. *Creating a Cluster Research Plan*, May 21, 2020.

Mary Wickersham has served IGSI in several board positions and twice co-chaired the Celtic Connections Conference. A member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Mary gives genealogy talks on research tools and techniques. She became IGSI Web Editor in 2018 and one of The Septs *co-Managing Editors in 2021.*



IGSI Webinars for 2021

Add these New Year's resolutions to your list:

1. Learn more about my Irish ancestors
2. Before doing that, update or learn genealogy skills with IGSI!

The IGSI Education Committee has put together a slate of exciting learning opportunities for 2021. Why not give yourself a gift of learning by enrolling for one or more of our upcoming webinars?

Registration currently is open for the January – March online classes. All you need is an Internet-connected device with audio capabilities to take part from the comfort and safety of your home – whether that home is in Minneapolis, San Francisco or Galway (we wish!).

For details and to register, click on the **Activities** tab on the IGSI website.

Other webinars scheduled for 2021 include the following. Watch the IGSI website, our Facebook page, *Ginealas* and your e-mail in-box for details about registration openings.

- Genealogical Treasures in Irish Archives, with David Ouimette
- *The Burren Girl*, movie and discussion with Rita Davern
- The Unplanned Irish Immigration to Canada,with Melanie McComb
- Comparing the Irish-Rich Databases, with Mary Wickersham
- Hiring a Professional Genealogist, with panelists Liz Gomoll, Bob Johnson and Lorna Moloney
- Finding Irish Records on *FamilySearch* and Other Major Genealogy Websites, with David Rencher

IGSI members have exclusive access to recordings of past webinars. Are you new to genealogy? Check out Tom Rice's "*FamilySearch*: In-Depth" to learn valuable tips for navigating the largest free genealogy database in the world. Lois Mackin's "Finding Your Overseas Irish Ancestors: An Irish Case Study" will provide tried-and-true steps to use in research. For more information, log in as an IGSI member and click on **Past Webinars**.

Are you a computer novice? Not experienced with webinars? Check out "What is a Webinar?" on the IGSI website and try watching "The Connemaras: Despair in the Heartland."

We hope to 'see' you soon! If you have questions about any of our webinars or classes, contact Kathleen Foley, IGSI Education Chair, at Education@Irish Genealogical.org .

January 9, 10:30am – Noon CST | Planning a Genealogy Trip to Ireland | Donna Moughty

Many of us created a travel list entitled "When the pandemic is over". The time is coming…you have enough information about your Irish ancestors to visit "the ould sod" to continue your research. At this point you know where your ancestors lived and when they emigrated from Ireland. This presentation looks at the major repositories in Ireland (both Dublin and Belfast) and the types of records they hold to assist you in planning your trip. It also will discuss local resources outside of the major repositories.

February 13, 10:30am – 12:30pm CST | Brick Wall Strategies | Michael John Neill

This session will discuss a series of "brick wall" breaking through strategies, focusing on those that apply to tracking immigrant origins and determining emigration patterns. Participants will learn immigrant problem-solving strategies, cluster-group approaches, ways to determine the chain of emigration and organizational methods. Michael's talk will be followed by a panel of experts addressing some participant-submitted questions.

March 13, 10:30am – Noon CST | Irish Famines and Emigration – Before, During and After the Great Hunger Professor Christine Kinealy and Dr. Gerard Moran

Did your emigrant ancestors leave Ireland during the Famine? Did you know that throughout the 19th century, Ireland endured 29 famines, subsistence crises and crop failures? While the Great Hunger of 1845-1852, when over one million people died, is well known, other crises had the potential to be as devastating. An estimated 8 million left Ireland in the 19th century, 2.5 million emigrating in the decade between 1845 and 1855, settling in Canada, Australia, Britain and in particular, the United States. In this presentation you will learn of the impact of famines on Ireland, the role of government and its agencies in relation to famine relief, 19th century emigration patterns, the settlement patterns of Irish emigrants and go through a case study of Irish famine emigrants and marriage in New York.

A New DNA Column for *The Septs*

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

In December 2005, *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* editors Claire M. Bettag and Thomas W. Jones wrote, "Documentary resources form the 'stock in trade' from which genealogists routinely establish relationships. Reputable genealogical reference guides routinely exhort family historians to consult these and all available resources and to base their conclusions on original sources. Most guides and handbooks, however, do not yet include genetic testing as part of the conventional genealogical tool kit."[1]

How things have changed! In 2019, the Board for Certification of Genealogists published seven new standards for using DNA evidence in the second edition of its *Genealogy Standards*.[2] The editors wrote, "The Genealogical Proof Standard requires researchers to consider all relevant evidence. Such consideration includes DNA evidence."[3]

The Septs has published three issues featuring DNA topics (October 2015, January 2017, and July 2020). On the brink of a new decade, the editors have now decided that it's time to introduce a regular DNA feature. To kick off the new feature, we felt that a great start would be to highlight DNA information already available to readers of *The Septs* in its archives.[4]

Are you worried about reading articles that are a couple of years old? It's true, genetic genealogy is a quickly evolving field. Testing companies, testing tools, and analysis techniques change. Test prices change. New reference works and how-to information come out. However, many things don't change. We're still working with three kinds of DNA test — Y, mitochondrial, and autosomal. The science of DNA and the way it is inherited have not changed. The vocabulary of DNA is substantially the same as it was in 2005. This means that much of what *The Septs* has published is still current!

Here is an annotated bibliography of *The Septs*' DNA articles, along with some notes on what's changed and what hasn't.

DNA Basics

"DNA and Genealogy Basics: What Test to Use and Who to Test," Alice Eichholz, Ph.D., CG, *The Septs* 38-1 (January 2017), 18–21. Still a great intro to DNA basics, the three kinds of test, and how to use each one.

"Getting Started with DNA," Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., *The Septs* 36-4 (October 2015), 110–112. As with Alice Eichholz' 2017 article, the basics haven't changed. To the three main companies providing genetic genealogy testing, today I would add *MyHeritage*. Test prices have changed. Resources for learning more have changed.

"'Green Genes' Sources for DNA Family Research," Ann Marie Coghlan, *The Septs* 36-4 (October 2015), 117–119. Ann Marie Coghlan's list of books for beginners and general reference would likely be updated today to include

> Blaine T. Bettinger, *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, 2nd ed. ([no place identified]: Family Tree Books, 2019).
>
> Diahan Southard, *Your DNA Guide, the Book: Step-by-Step Plans to Connect You with Your Family Using Your DNA* ([no place identified]: Your DNA Guide, 2020).
>
> Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* (Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2016).

"'Green Genes' Acronym and Vocabulary List," Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., compiler, *The Septs* 36-4 (October 2015), 126–128. Still current.

After You've Tested

"I Got My DNA Results. Now What?" Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, CG, Septs 41-3 (July 2020), 75–77. Up to date and very helpful!

"Third Cousins and Sunny Skies: Making Sense of DNA Relationship Predictions," J. H. Fonkert, CG, *The Septs* 38-1 (January 2017), 22–26. Still current and useful. Since Jay wrote his article, Blaine Bettinger has published an update to the Shared cM Project, and software developer Jonny Perl has created an automated tool at his *DNAPainter* website that makes using the Shared cM Project data a breeze.

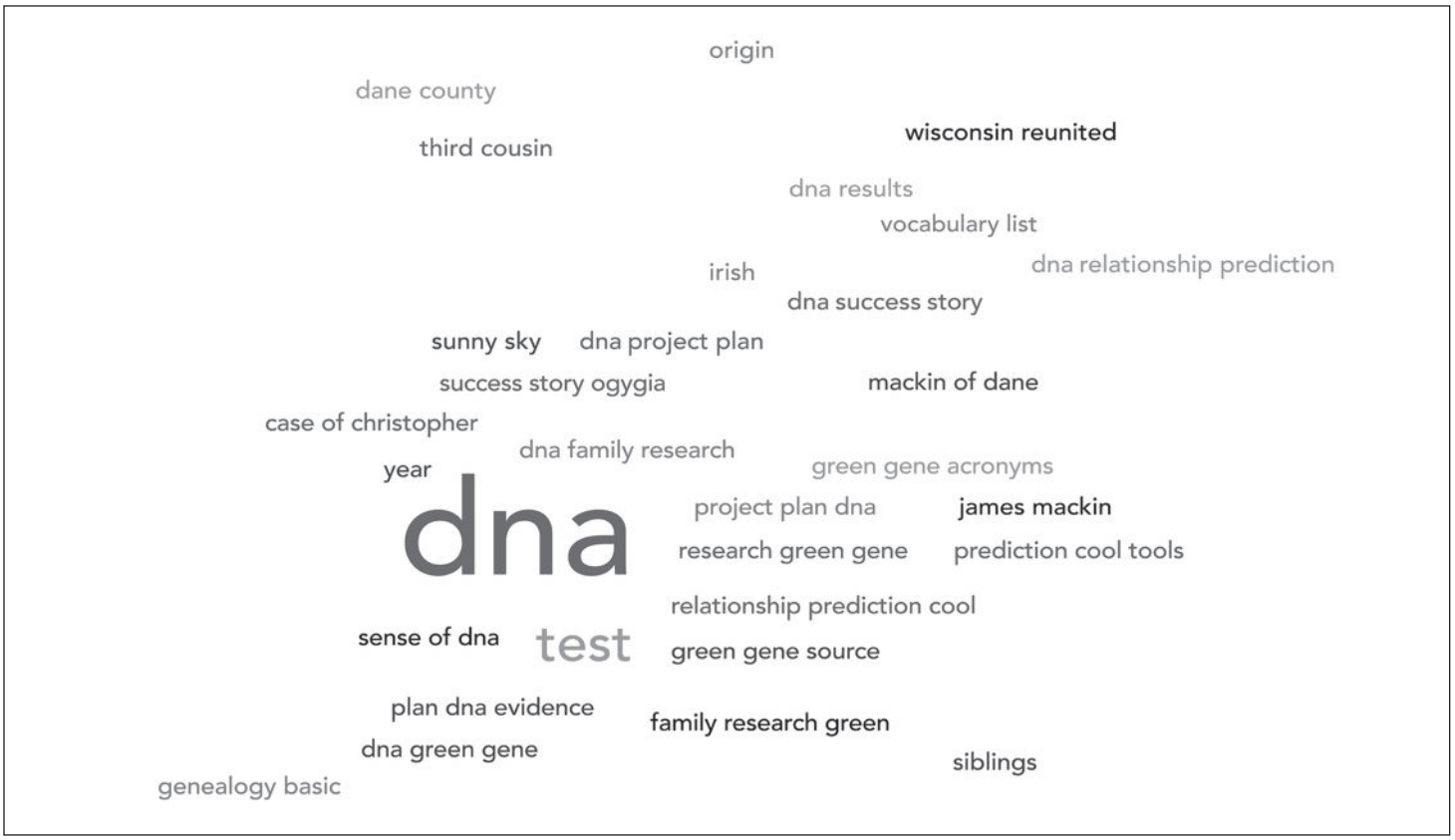
"Cool Tools for Working with Your DNA," Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., *The Septs* 41-3 (July 2020), 78–83. Still current (until the next updates!); describes the newest tools for refining estimated relationships.

Your Next Steps

"Writing a DNA Project Plan," Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., *The Septs* 41-3 (July 2020), 66–69. Up to date (till the next advances).

Case Studies

"DNA Evidence in the Case of Christopher and James Mackin of Dane County, Wisconsin," Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., *The Septs* 38-1 (January 2017), 6–13. Written before the first set of Shared cM Project data was published, today this



DNA word cloud

article would use *DNAPainter*'s Shared cM Project tools.

"Reunited with Siblings After 75 Years — a DNA Success Story," Maurice J. Gleeson, MB, *The Septs* 36-4 (October 2015), 113–116. Like the previous case, if this case were written today, it would likely use the latest version of the Shared cM Project info.

Ancient DNA

"Ogygia & the Origins of the Irish as Told by DNA," Elizabeth O'Donoghue/Ross, *The Septs* 36-4 (October 2015), 120–125. *Genetic Genealogy Ireland* does a great job of presenting updated information on ancient DNA and the Irish. See their *YouTube* channel at https://www.youtube.com/c/GeneticGenealogyIreland/.

Endnotes

[1] Claire M. Bettag and Thomas W. Jones, "Editors Corner: Adding Genetic Testing to the Genealogical Tool Kit," *NGS Quarterly* 93 (December 2005), 243.

[2] Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG), *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd ed. (Washington, DC: Board for Certification of Genealogists, 2019), 29–32.

[3] BCG, *Genealogy Standards*, xiv. Note that the editors said "consider," not "use."

[4] To find the archives, IGSI members should go to the Member Login at the IGSI website (https://irishgenealogical.org/), enter their user name and password, and click the left-side menu item for *The Septs* (Journal). They will find access to issue tables of contents and a list of issues by theme. Both the tables of contents and the list of issues by theme have live links to PDF copies of past issues.

Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*



FAN Concept for Scots-Irish Research

by Gigi Hickey

When we contacted author Dwight Radford to ask permission to reprint Tom Rice's review of *American Scots-Irish Research: Strategies and Sources in the Quest for Ulster-Scots Origins*, Dwight kindly offered to have the publisher send us a review copy. The book arrived, and I settled in a comfortable chair to take a look. After all, I've spent many hours searching for the Ulster origins of my 4X great-grandparents.

I quickly recognized how the FAN (Family, Associates, Neighbors) concept — the theme for this issue of *The Septs* — runs like a ribbon through the book. Virtually every chapter provides advice about how to make comprehensive, collateral use of U.S. record sources in order to identify elusive ancestors, with gems of insight based on Radford's many years of experience.

Chapter 2: Census Records to 1850 — examples of incorporating the 'neighborhood strategy' to find others in the community with whom the ancestor may have had earlier connections.

Chapter 3: Church Records — the most exhaustive explanations I've seen regarding Protestant denominations on the frontier. Because the Scots-Irish tended to intermarry and assimilate, this section could be a valuable ongoing reference about different religions/practices/records.

Chapter 4: Female Ancestors — ways to identify the 'indispensable' maiden name, thereby tracing siblings and children of the immigrant.

Chapter 5: Land Records — creative land-research strategies and their possible outcomes; an outstanding explanation of State-land states vs. Federal-land states and guide to reconstructing neighborhoods from grants and deeds.

Chapter 6: Lineage Societies — a long listing of societies with potential for Scots-Irish research, including their specific qualifications for membership. Radford points out an "ancestor may have married into a family whose lineage meets the original criteria for membership" because the Scots-Irish so often intermarried with other ethnic, religious and cultural groups.

Chapter 7: Migration Patterns — The maps are marvelous! Three types of migration are described: group, congregational and chain. Strategies are described for following veterans (i.e., Revolutionary War, War of 1812) who moved west with their families and for tracing Presbyterian ministers who immigrated with their congregations.

Chapter 8: Military Records — nearly 40 pages of tips on using military records, organized by conflict/period and state; plus an excellent summary of key timelines for Federal bounty land distribution.

Chapter 9: Naturalization Records — process and strategies for using citizenship records.

Chapter 10: Passenger Lists (Pre-1820) — helpful information about unusual sources including a list of known ports with pre-1850 records, *Filby's*, Letters of Thanks and the Hardwicke Papers.

Chapter 11: Published and Internet Family Histories — Radford suggests the probability (because of assimilation) that an early Scots-Irish ancestor is referenced somewhere in a published/online family history, regardless of color lines or ethnicity.

Chapter 12: Tax Records — Tax lists tend to be one of the last sources checked, but Radford recommends they should be among the first because of potential value; specifically he suggests creating a 10-year spreadsheet to track everyone with the surname of interest.

Chapter 13: Vital Records — looking for evidence of birth/marriage/death among church or cemetery collections which may have been published or available online.

The final four chapters set out strategies for special situations (e.g., connections with Latter-Day Saints or Southeastern Native Americans or United Empire Loyalists, using Ulster records) and provide unique guidance for those particular challenges.

Radford's *American Scots-Irish Research* should become a standard reference guide for the Scots-Irish family history researcher. The large font and 84 maps/images/charts make it user-friendly. The comprehensive content will be appreciated by anyone who adds the book to their library.

Gigi Hickey has twice served on the IGSI board and, since 2011, as IGSI blog editor. After co-chairing the Celtic Connections Conference 2020, she became one of the co-Managing Editors of The Septs. *In addition to genealogy research, she enjoys quilting and piano-duets (pre-pandemic).*

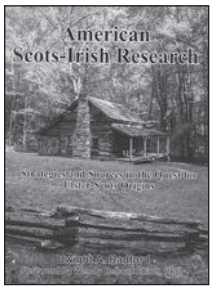


Review: *American Scots-Irish Research: Strategies and Sources in the Quest for Ulster-Scots Origin*

Written by Dwight Radford / Reviewed by Tom Rice

This is an essential resource for the study of Scots-Irish genealogies. Radford uses his encyclopedic knowledge of this ethnic group to guide the reader generation by generation back to their Scots-Irish ancestors and then to their place of origin in Ulster. He does this firstly by telling the reader how to best use core genealogical record types to best advantage when tracing a Scots-Irish lineage. Radford extends his guide from the usual census, vital and church records to sources such as tax records and published and Internet family histories. One of the strengths of Radford's approach is its emphasis on methods of record analysis and how to follow clues from one source to another.

The other, often neglected, strong point is Radford's discussion of records of the various groups the Scots-Irish associated with such as the native American tribes of Southeast, the religions they became part of such as the Latter Day Saints and the social groups they may have been part of such as the Loyalists. These chapters are rich with references to key resources for studying these groups, especially sources that discuss the Scots-Irish as parts of these societies.



Dwight Radford
American Scots-Irish Research: Strategies and Sources in the Quest for Ulster-Scots Origin. Orting, WA: Family Roots Publishing Co., 2020.

Statistical Look at the Virtual Celtic Connections Conference

While it has been a while since the end of the virtual Celtic Connections Conference, the following stats may be of interest to our readers:

668 paid registrants

- 572 from 40 U.S. States and District of Columbia
- Top-represented states were MA (111), MN (63), CA (41), IL (38), NY (32) and WI (25)
- 58 registrants from Canada, 24 from Australia, 8 from Ireland, 4 from Great Britain
- 102 people registered after the conference began on July 31

Membership

- 21.3% Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI)
- 19.9% The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA)

Live Chats

- Average # of attendees at each session: 144
- At least 18 participants attended all 10 chats (live chat groupies?)

Video Views

- Viewings of presentations (including replays): almost 11,000
- Number of presentations viewed per registrant: 7.3
- Time spent viewing all recordings, everyone combined: 338 days, 23+ hours
- Time spent viewing recordings, per registrant: 12 hours, 10 minutes

A Few Highlights from the Post-Conference Participant Survey

- 60% of respondents viewed 16-25 lectures/videos
- 92% had no technical difficulty with videos/chats
- 49% viewed more four or more "chats, completely or partially; 32% participated in zero chats
- 85% felt the $99 US price was very appropriate
- While several lecturers were mentioned frequently as stand-outs, every presenter was mentioned at least once as someone's favorite!
- Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Here are a few quotes: *First class; Perfect; World class online conference; A conference beyond compare!*

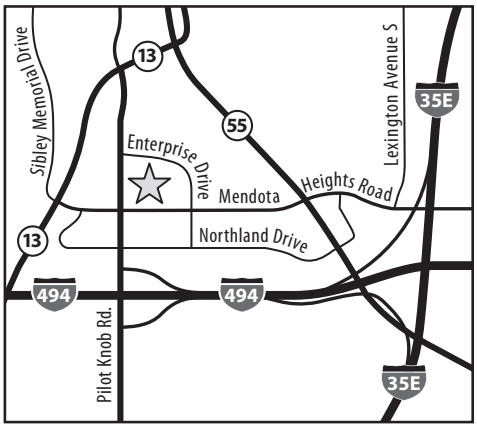
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Saturday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, & Friday

Hoffman Research Library

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During severe weather, or if traveling a long distance, please call before coming to the library to check if open.

The library is a self-supporting research library staffed by volunteers. If you are a member of the IGSI and are coming from out of town, contact Librarian@IrishGenealogical.org so we can have an Irish researcher available to meet you.

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APRIL (AIBREÁN) 2021 $10.00

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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Limited Research Hours at the Hoffman Research Library

The Hoffman Research Library is open for limited library service on Thursdays and Saturdays provided that two library volunteers are available for service in the building. Wearing masks, social distancing, and self-cleaning directions are other parts of the new rules for library use.

Admission is by advance reservation and is limited to 8 patrons for two hours at a time: Thursdays 4-8 PM and Saturdays between 10 AM and 4 PM. The library is available for use by members of IGSI and of all other genealogy societies located at the Minnesota Genealogy Center. Members of IGSI can make a reservation for a 2-hour slot by using the Minnesota Genealogy Center's Sign Up Genius website. To make a reservation, visit the IGSI homepage for the link or go to https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044BAFAE2FA1FD0-hoffman.

Please contact research@irishgenealogical.org in advance if you plan to visit the library and anticipate needing advice or assistance with your Irish research.

Note: Occupancy limitations and hours of service may change as Minnesota State COVID guidelines and regulations change. To check if the library is open, call 651-330-9312.

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The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the 28th of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editor at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc.

2021
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Write for *The Septs*

Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 — 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2021 | July | Irish Jurisdictions

Place as a key to research. Definition and use of various geographical and record keeping divisions; Poor Law Unions in depth; Workhouses; Baronies; Parishes.
Deadline for articles: May 28, 2021.

2021 | October | Genealogical Education

Why, where and how to learn to become a better genealogist: presentations, conferences, workshops, books, Internet sites, *FamilySearch* lectures and wiki.
Deadline for articles: August 28, 2021.

2022 | January | 1922 / 2022

Irish Independence, The Irish Civil War, the Four Courts fire: these events from 100 years ago set an imprint on Irish history, politics and families. Historical articles, family stories, current implications.
Deadline for articles: November 28, 2021.

2022 | April | Munster Province

Researching in the Irish counties of Clare, Tipperary, Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Kerry; stories about finding family in Munster locales.
Deadline for articles: February 28, 2022.

Cover Photo: Shutterstock image.

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Errata – In the January 2021 issue of *The Septs* (Volume 42, Number 1), we inadvertently printed a full-size reproduction of one page of Elizabeth Shown Mills' quicksheet, "The Historical Biographer's Guide to Cluster Research (the FAN Principle)" on page 7 in the article, "Branches, Clusters and FANs" by Lois Abromitis Mackin. We apologize to Ms. Mills and her publisher for the error. The page has been removed from the online version of the issue and print copies of the issue are no longer available.

Staying in Motion

by Ann Eccles

What's happening with IGSI in 2021?

Each of us individually and in community encountered the Great Pause of COVID 19 in early 2020. Its impact and our reactions to it varied widely.

With IGSI, we gathered resources to turn an in-person genealogy conference into a highly successful virtual event. With more than 600 attendees, we saw a larger profit than expected. With the experience of the conference webinars, we switched the remaining 2020 in-person classes to webinar format as the Minnesota Genealogy Center closed its doors during the pandemic.

The library closed and most research services stepped back as we heeded the medical advice to stay at home. Toward the end of the year, with just a couple of volunteers working at a time, we started a project of placing barcodes on all of the library books in the IGSI collection. Maureen Meier and Mary Showalter stepped in as volunteers for this project. Maureen saw it through to the end in March 2021. Thank you!

There's more that can be done with the library collection: adding newly published materials to keep the collection up-to-date and relevant and starting another project to recatalog the collection to the Dewey system. Other portions of the collection are already in this process. We Irish need to find the volunteers to work on our collection.

Onsite research opportunities returned to a degree when the library reopened for limited service on Thursdays and Saturdays late in 2020. It has maintained the same limited hours through the time of this article. A maximum of eight researchers are allowed in the library for a two-hour research period — and reservations are required. Check the IGSI website for the reservations link — and for any updates to library hours.

In early 2020, the IGSI Board considered options for increasing membership, particularly of electronic members, and moving away from higher costs for journal publication. We wanted to grow the organization and to promote the virtual option. Merely by rearranging the list of member options, our Electronic memberships increased by about 90 people while General memberships fell by 50. Overall, 2020's total membership increased about 6%. So, were we successful — or not? You decide. Society membership is up slightly, and we successfully directed members to a less expensive option for membership. We'll continue evaluating membership issues during 2021.

Throughout a difficult year, you remained generous in support of IGSI. Member donations totaled more than $5000 last year. Thank you! Check page 54 for a listing of everyone who made a donation during 2020 – whether it was a few dollars added to a renewal or a specific larger donation. We appreciate your support.

With the start of 2021, IGSI expanded the Board of Directors with a new member who lives in North Carolina — and started having Board meetings virtually. This also allows greater member representation on the Board. If you are interested in joining the IGSI Board, please contact me.

For 2021 — this will probably be a year with limited in-person activities but we look forward to meeting members and joining together again. In the meantime, the Education committee has developed a full year of genealogy-related webinar presentations. These are available to members both near and far and the topics are extremely popular.

The Minnesota Irish Fair, traditionally held the second weekend of August, will be a combination of onsite and virtual events in 2022. In past years IGSI has had a presence at the Fair. Check the website for an update in another month or so as we learn more about the event and what role we can take for this year.

For all — stay healthy and safe. And get ready to be more active again.



Ann Eccles is a retired librarian who has re-focused her research skills to family history and Irish genealogy. She has several Irish ancestral lines to trace as both of her parents descended from Irish families. Ann currently serves as IGSI President and continues to serve as the editor of The Septs.

Uncommon Resources

by Ann Eccles

It's been a long year. Many of you have been staying at home. Some may have taken the opportunity to do a little extra housecleaning, tackling dusty boxes that were set aside years ago. What's lurking in those forgotten boxes in the attic or basement? You know, the ones that belonged to your mother, father, or older aunt that you meant to go through later. Some might contain mementoes, old children's toys, long-forgotten books or china and glassware that had once been proudly displayed. While you may not find a family bible with lists of births and marriages, you may discover other genealogical treasure to help in your family research.

The contents may reveal hints of unknown family or flesh out the story of an ancestor. Photos in an old album may identify distant relatives or record a trip to an unfamiliar location (home of distant relatives?). A WWII flight log may illuminate an ancestor's war experience. An early history of your hometown may not mention your family but may conjure images of life styles and events 50 or 100 years ago. All of these can help set family history.

It's only those who are new to family research who expect to find their ancestors' names, photos, and life records at two clicks of a cursor. Those who have been researching longer know that while some records are easily found, other data is buried in repositories of paper records. Many want to write the story of a family or family member. If you want to craft the life story of an ancestor or ancestral family, the search for information generally goes beyond the recollections of older relatives. To flesh out the history or background of an ancestor's town of residence, occupation or education, and you may need to check other sources.

This issue includes a wide variety of items that can lead to new family discoveries or flesh out the story of an ancestor's life. The authors describe a variety of resources for you to explore to learn more about your family. Mary Vidlak found a treasure trove of information and connections in her mother's old address book. Gigi Hickey explores the treasures for sale on eBay that may add historical relevance to an ancestor's place of residence or time period. Sue Kratsch explains how some old business records added insight into an ancestor's worklife. Tom Armstrong delved into Civil War records and military histories to reveal his ancestor's story. With more contemporary records, Lois Mackin looks at the DNA testing companies and projects in which her known relatives participate.

It's Spring and you're busy cleaning out the winter from your home. Take a few minutes, relax with a refreshing drink, and consider the articles in this issue before your throw out all of the old boxes from the basement or attic. There may be something beyond the vital records to learn about your family.

Looking for More Ideas?

There have been articles in earlier issues of *The Septs* that discuss less familiar resources to consider to set your family history. You can easily download these back issues from the website to read the listed articles.

Eaton, Patricia Cady. "Rigorous Research, a Fire Insurance Map, and a Photo Collection" — July 2006

Emery, Alison Clare. "Finding Leads in Small Town Newspapers" — January 2011

Fonkert, Jay. "Treasures in the Attic" — July 2009

Quinn, Damian. "I Lived in Paradise" — April 2006

Rice, Tom. "Mining Family Treasures for Genealogy" — July 2009

Roy, Michelle. "The Mehigan Family" — April 2010

Taylor, D. Joshua. "Uncovering County Histories: Their Location, Creation, and Uses for Genealogists" — April 2008

Toms, Gary R. "Newspaper Research" — January 2011

Check the IGSI website for these and other issues of the journal to help you with your Irish research – available free to members.

Using *eBay* for Genealogy

by Gigi Hickey

Those of us who are keepers of our family histories are also frequently keepers of the "family heirlooms." The items may or may not have monetary value; sometimes even sentimental value has faded because our memory of the item's significance is gone.

After our mothers passed away, my husband Bill and I found ourselves with a basement full of boxes and bins from our parents and other extended family members. What should we do with all that stuff? In mid-2017, I stuck my toe into the pool of *eBay* selling. Books, costume jewelry, sheet music, postcards, travel photographs — all with the word "vintage" at the top of the listing and relatively easy to ship.

It wasn't until November 2020 when *eBay* selling and my genealogy hobby intersected.

My latest discovery among family belongings was a booklet written in Swedish and titled *MINNESSKRIFT Svenska Salem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, 1895-1915*. 'Minnesskrift' translates to 'commemorative publication.' Bill's mother had attended the church with her Swedish-born parents while growing up in north Minneapolis. I described the *eBay* listing this way:

Written in Swedish, this 45-page commemorative brochure includes a history of the Salem (Swedish) Lutheran Church in north Minneapolis and many photos, i.e., early pastors, various classes and groups, most with captions identifying individuals' names. In excellent condition! An extraordinary resource for early Swedish family history research in Minneapolis.

Not much time passed before the booklet sold and I mailed it to a new owner in Olympia, Washington. The *eBay* message I received a few days later was heart-warming:

"The book came yesterday and I am so happy!!! My grandparents and possibly my dad are in the pictures. My grandmother died in 1918 and I have only one picture of her — so this is great. I went to the church pictured as a child and I remember the big stained glass windows. So sad when they tore it down for a new church…"

Before this experience, I hadn't considered using *eBay* in family history research. The response I received after selling the *Minnesskrift* showed me how *eBay* can be a powerful resource for adding context to genealogical research.

eBay Genealogy Sub-Categories

This may surprise you but *eBay* has a separate category for Genealogy. Sellers select the category and sub-category they think most closely describes the item they are listing for sale. These are Genealogy sub-categories:

- Births, Marriages, Deaths
- Census Records
- City, State Directories
- Coat of Arms
- County, State History
- Family Trees
- Immigration, Passenger Lists
- Maps
- Military Records
- Other Genealogy



When you're researching on *eBay* and click on a particular category, you might find a few — or thousands of items for sale. However a seller might not categorize the book or map or other document as Genealogy; they might call it a Book or a Collectible, which is why it's generally more efficient to query with specificity. At the top of the *eBay* page is a field directing you to SEARCH FOR ANYTHING. For genealogy items, you might enter:

1. Your family's surname
2. The name of the city or county or township where they lived
3. The name of the church or school they attended
4. Business or employer name

Possible results are endless. Here are some examples:

- Published genealogies
- Old photographs
- Letters or diaries
- Postcards
- Books about your family
- Books authored by someone with your surname

- Family Bible records
- County/church histories
- City/telephone directories
- School yearbooks
- Maps from different time periods
- Advertising memorabilia

You won't necessarily locate items that will break down your research brick walls. Frequently what you find is simply an enhanced view of your ancestor. For example, if you researched the surnames Arian or Gudal, you might find a 1908 calendar plate like this one. John B. Arian and Lars M. Gudal were grocers located at 2903 North Washington Ave in Minneapolis, according to a city directory. They likely gave these plates to their customers during the 1907 holidays.



Message on plate:
Merry Christmas
Arian and Gudal,
2903 No. Wash. Ave.

If the Arians or Gudals are part of your family, you might want to own the plate. Otherwise, saving the photo or just noting its message might suffice. (When you find a collectible item like this and decide you want to possess it, you may want to comparison-shop prices at Etsy.com. *Etsy* does not have a Genealogy category. Search with a more descriptive title of what you seek.)



Compare online sources, including e-Bay, when shopping for genealogy publications.

If you're looking for publications, keep Amazon.com in mind as a source for unusual, out-of-print or used books as well as newly-published editions. Compare prices and find what best suits your needs. As I write this, all three books above were offered for sale by both *eBay* and *Amazon*.

More about Postcards

Vintage picture postcards are relatively easy to find on *eBay*, and they provide an inexpensive way to illustrate your personal history. Look for postcards picturing your ancestor's church or school during the proper time period, or find postcards with old cars or other scenes that set the time and place. Even photos of individuals who aren't in your family might effectively portray an occupation.

Don't fail to look for postcards among your own family belongings, too. It's ideal when you discover a postcard written by a



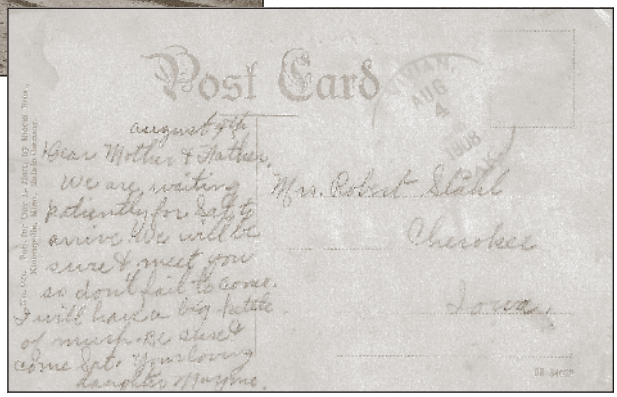
Switchboard operator, March 1911



Philadelphia business center, ca 1920

family member, like the one I found below, because both sides may reflect part of your family history.





Mayme writes:
"August 4th (1908)
Dear Mother & Father,
We are waiting patiently for Sat to arrive. We will be sure to meet you so don't fail to come. I will have a big kettle of mush. Be sure & come Sat.
Your loving daughter, Mayme"

Take note of the postmark and tie the postcard to events of the moment. In this case, the correspondence was directed to Mrs. Robert Stahl, my great-grandmother, who lived in Cherokee, Iowa. The writer, Mayme, was her youngest daughter and my grandmother's sister. The sisters were homesteading with their husbands on the remote prairie north of Vivian, South Dakota.

The Robert Stahls were planning a trip by train to Vivian. Presumably they arrived in time for the birth of my grandparent's first child, Henry, who was born 14 Aug 1908 — and perhaps to enjoy the kettle of cornmeal mush Mayme promised to prepare.

Tips for Searching *eBay*

1. If you have a common surname, try combining the surname and the location with quotation marks around each. Play around with different spellings and consider using a first name. While this approach may help you quickly identify family heirlooms, it won't confirm if your ancestor is actually listed in a county history or city directory.
2. You can also search for items that have sold on *eBay* within the last 90 days, which might help you identify a seller who previously had intriguing items in inventory.
3. You don't necessarily have to make a purchase, nor do you have to sign in to *eBay* to browse what's offered for sale. However some *eBay* features are only available if you establish an account and sign in. If you have an *eBay* account, you'll be ready to purchase immediately if you make a find. If you're signed in, you can contact sellers with questions or ask them to let you know if they acquire more items (e.g., with your family surname).
4. You can also set up alerts on *eBay* so you'll be notified when there's a new listing of potential interest to you, whether or not you've been in touch with the seller. This will ensure you're among the first to know when something is posted for sale. Be specific in setting up the alert by including the surname or location you're researching.
5. Sometimes taking a screenshot or looking closely at the *eBay* description/photos will give you all the information you seek.
6. The sellers are not likely related to you. Generally they're antique dealers or people who've purchased items at garage sales or flea markets; they're simply trying to make a little money while finding the vintage collectible a good home. Then again, there's a chance you could find a distant relative or learn more about the item and how it was acquired.

How far you go with your research is up to you, but if you haven't used *eBay* for genealogical research, I encourage you to give it a try. You might find unique items that illuminate your ancestors and their stories.



Gigi Hickey has twice served on the IGSI board and, since 2011, as IGSI blog editor. After co-chairing the Celtic Connections Conference 2020, she became one of the co-Managing Editors of The Septs. *In addition to genealogy research, she enjoys quilting and piano-duets and her DAR chapter.*

Upcoming IGSI Webinars

From the windswept Burren of Ireland to the Canadian provinces, learn more about your 19th century Irish ancestors in the next few IGSI webinars.

For details and registration, see the Activities tab on the IGSI website. Register now and put them on your calendar! Each one is guaranteed to give you some tips for finding your Irish roots.

Unable to join us on that date and time? Register anyway and you will receive a link to the recording within a few days of the live event. Don't forget that IGSI members have exclusive access to recordings of past webinars. One of the many member benefits.

Questions? Contact Kathleen Foley, IGSI Education Chair, at Education@IrishGenealogical.org.

June 12, 10:30am – Noon CDT | *The Burren Girl* (documentary film) and Discussion Rita Davern

A Minnesota woman searches for the place and people her grandmother left behind. The quest takes her to the Burren: a beautiful, windswept region of County Clare, Ireland. There she finds a clan – and its medieval legacy – that were scattered and lost during some of the most difficult centuries in Irish history. Participants will have the opportunity to view the film prior to the live, virtual discussion. Viewers will follow Rita on a forty-year journey to find the place and people she comes from in County Clare and learn about what everyday farm lives were like long ago as well as today. This webinar is free but you must register to receive the link to the film. (NOTE: We will not be able to share the film after the live event, but the discussion and handout will be available for later viewing on the Past Webinars webpage.)

July 10, 10:30am – Noon CDT (webinar) | The Unplanned Irish Immigration to Canada | Melanie McComb

Using published and online primary sources, uncover the story of the migration of the Irish to Canada before and during The Great Famine. This webinar will review the different immigration schemes including the Peter Robinson settlers to Ontario, the Monaghan Settlers to Atlantic Canada, and assisted immigration to Quebec. Learn how to find records about their departure from Ireland and arrival into Canada, including quarantine stations at Partridge Island and Grosse Ile. This webinar is co-sponsored by the Canadian Interest Group of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. *$15 IGSI/CIG/MGS members.*

August 7, 10:30am – Noon CDT (webinar) | Irish Genealogy 101 | Tom Rice, CG

Are you new to Irish genealogy or perhaps it has been a while since you dug into your Irish family roots? This is the webinar for you! Tom Rice will provide an introduction to the key tools for finding your ancestors in Ireland: most important record types, Irish geographic terms, Irish names, key Irish genealogy websites and books, and much, much more. *$15 IGSI members.*

Personal Address Books: An Overlooked Source for Family History

by Mary O'Brien Vidlak, CG

My father's family did not talk about their past. Or if they did, he and his cousins weren't listening. When I began serious research to uncover the history of my family, my grandparents were long dead. My father, their only child, was willing to share what he knew, but his knowledge was limited. Three of his four grandparents had died either before or shortly after he was born. As a result, although he knew all four of his grandparents — Patrick O'Brien, Anne Campbell, John Mulvey, and Mary Doherty — were born in Ireland and immigrated to the United States as young, unmarried adults, he could only identify the townland and county for John Mulvey, his maternal grandfather. The birthplace for each of the other three was simply "Ireland."

The birthplace of Mary Doherty, the mother of my grandmother, was relatively easy to learn. One of my father's cousins had done his own research and discovered where she was from. Patrick O'Brien and Anne Campbell, my grandfather's parents, have been far more challenging. At first it seemed their birthplaces would also be simple to find. After all, one of their widowed daughters had made her home for many years with her daughter. I expected that during that time she would have reminisced about her immigrant parents and their Irish families. Except she didn't. When I interviewed her daughter, she told me her mother never talked about the past. Cousin Marie knew nothing more than my father. And she had no records.

A search for any surviving records in my father's attic turned up almost nothing. There was no cache of letters or pictures from Ireland; no cherished citizenship papers; no small treasures brought from home. The only records of my great grandparents were a photograph and the death certificate of Anne (Campbell) O'Brien. The photograph of a mature Anne contained no identifying information. The death certificate provided her age at the time of her death, named her parents, and stated all were born in Ireland.[1] There was little to use as the basis for a search.



Anne (Campbell) O'Brien

A Personal Address Book

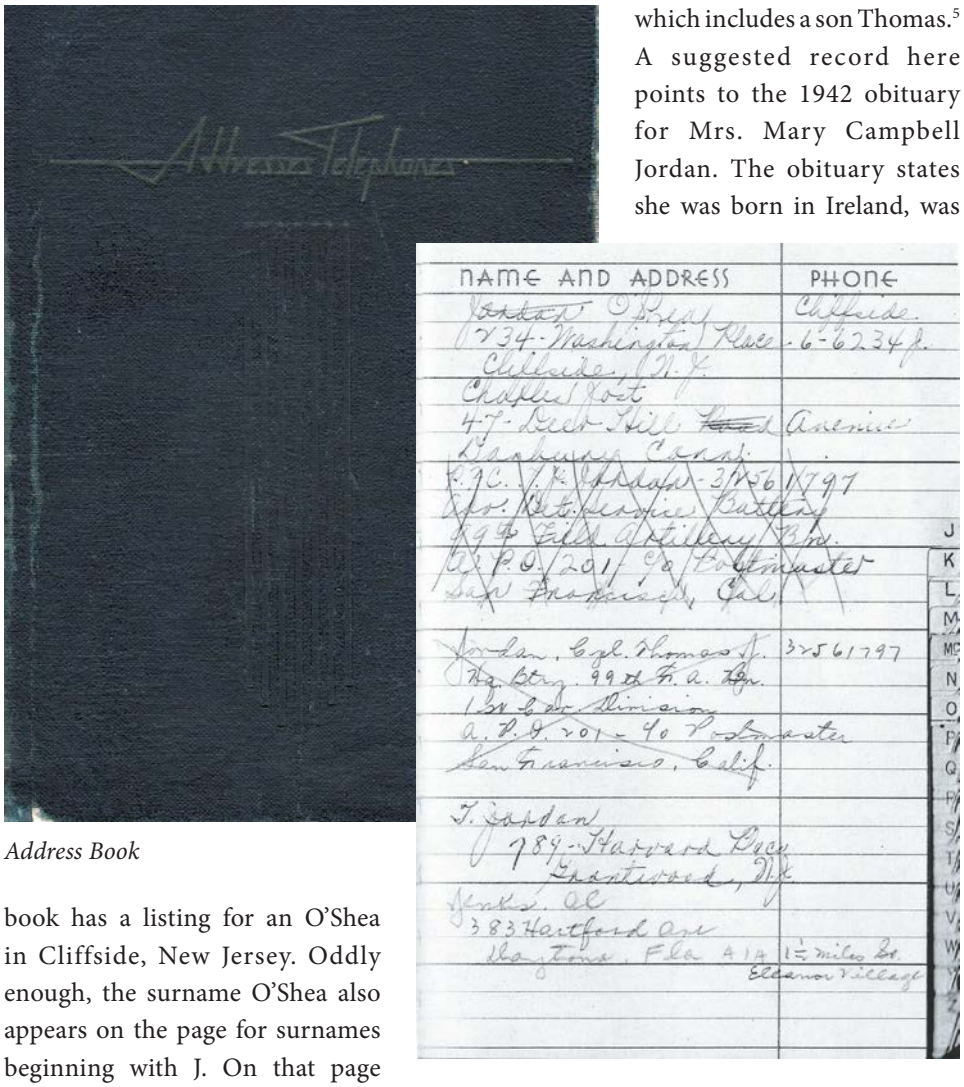
There was, however, an additional source which at first glance seemed unlikely to provide much help in discovering the information I was looking for. My father shared one other item that belonged to his parents: their personal address book. In their neat, Catholic-school cursive, they had carefully recorded the addresses of their families and friends, associates, and neighbors. As was the practice at that time, when someone moved, they crossed out the old address and added the new one. Women were often identified as "Mrs. [husband's name]" with the woman's given name occasionally included in parentheses. My grandmother used the back pages of the book as a sort of notebook. There she tracked some dates of births, marriages, and deaths. Without intending to do so, my grandparents had created a historical record of their FAN club.

If it was a perfect source, the book would contain names and addresses of family members in Ireland. It does not. The information it holds simply provides another piece of the puzzle, albeit a vital piece that has often been the bridge needed to build the connection to Ireland.

I knew some of the people in the address book. My father, of course, knew many more. As we went through the book together, I made notes identifying relationships. I created lists of which individuals were neighbors, business associates of his father, or family members we'd lost touch with. More often than I wanted, I heard two dreaded answers: "some cousin of one of my parents" or "I don't know." Those replies, which at first seemed so problematic, have turned out to be among the most useful.

Identifying the Birthplace of Anne (Campbell) O'Brien

After going through the address book, I had an opportunity to talk to Cousin Marie and my father together. In their collective memory they thought their grandmother had a sister Mary whose daughter married someone named Mike O'Shea. The address



Address Book

book has a listing for an O'Shea in Cliffside, New Jersey. Oddly enough, the surname O'Shea also appears on the page for surnames beginning with J. On that page the name Jordan is written next to that of O'Shea, who also lived in Cliffside. The Jordan had been crossed out. Further down the page are three addresses for a T. J., Thomas J., and T. Jordan.[2]

A search of the 1940 census revealed a record for Michael O'Shea with wife Lenore living in a town adjacent to Cliffside.[3] A suggested record from *Ancestry* points to the 1981 obituary for Michael who was predeceased by his wife, Lenore Jordan O'Shea.[4] In the same census, there is a household enumerated in Cliffside Park headed by Mary Jordan, which includes a son Thomas.[5] A suggested record here points to the 1942 obituary for Mrs. Mary Campbell Jordan. The obituary states she was born in Ireland, was predeceased by her husband Dennis Jordan, and was buried in Madonna Cemetery, Fort Lee, New Jersey. Among others, her survivors included a son, Thomas; a daughter, Lenore; and a brother, Ned, "in Ireland."[6]

This all appeared promising but there was still nothing to prove Mary and Anne were sisters and not simply cousins with a shared surname. The brick wall of "Ireland" was still firmly in place.

Digging deeper into the records for Mary, I found the record of her 1910 marriage to Dennis Jordan. Mary's parents were identified as John Campbell and Margaret Finn.[7] Although individuals with these same names had been named as the parents of Anne on her death certificate, still more research was needed.

As was noted in her obituary, Mary was buried in Madonna Cemetery in New Jersey. There is no memorial for her, but *Find A Grave* has a memorial for her husband, Dennis Jordan. It includes an image of a snip from his obituary which states: "The deceased was born in Knock, Co. Mayo. Surving [sic] are his widow Mary, (nee Campbell) Jordan, also a native of Knock, ..."[8]

All of these pieces of information when combined provided the clues needed to find the birthplace of Anne. The puzzle had enough pieces to be able to do a focused search in Irish birth records. There was a location, parents, and three children. Records in the Superintendent Registrar's District of Claremorris in County Mayo yielded a family in the townland of Shanvaghera (one of the townlands in the Civil Parish of Knock) with siblings Anne, Mary and Edmond/Edward (Ned) and parents John Campbell and Margaret Finn.[9] Further research identified other children: Honora, Pat, Bridget, and John.[10] Anne's birth record and family were found!

The address book continues to serve as an invaluable source. The sacramental record of Anne's marriage and the baptism of her oldest child suggested that her sister, Bridget, also immigrated to the United States.[11] Recent work in commonly used sources in conjunction with the information in the address book confirms this hypothesis and identifies the spouses from her two marriages and her descendants.

Patrick O'Brien

The birthplace of Patrick O'Brien has not yet been identified. It is probable the address book holds useful clues to further his family story. Those individuals who remain on the lists headed "some cousin of one of my parents" and "I don't know" may provide the missing piece of that puzzle.

Conclusion

This source, which might have been easily dismissed, has turned out to be an incredibly valuable item in finding and reconstructing my Irish family. Without the information it contains finding the birthplace and family of my great grandmother Anne (Campbell) O'Brien, might have been impossible.

Endnotes

1 New York County, Manhattan death certificate no. 1928-19954, Anna [sic] O'Brien; Municipal Archives, New York City.

2 Personal Address Book of William J. and Susan (Mulvey) O'Brien, created and used ca 1924-1966; in possession of Mary O'Brien Vidlak, Williamsburg, Virginia.

3 1940 U. S. census, Bergen County, New Jersey, population schedule, Fairview Borough, enumeration district (ED) 2-100, sheet 1-A, household 324, family 10, Michael O'Shea; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 1 February 2021), citing National Archives microfilm publication T627, roll 2307.

4 *The Record* (Hackensack, New Jersey), 27 July 1981, p. 36, col. 2, "Obituaries: Michael O'Shea"; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 1 February 2021.

5 1940 U. S. census, Bergen County, New Jersey, population schedule, Cliffside Park, enumeration district (ED) 2-37, sheet 7-B, household 234, family 144, Mary Jordan; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 1 February 2021), citing National Archives microfilm publication T627, roll 2305.

6 *The Record* (Hackensack, New Jersey), 22 June 1942, p. 2, col. 4, "Mrs. Mary Jordan"; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 1 February 2021.

7 St. John the Baptist Catholic Church (Fairview, New Jersey), Marriage Register, 1904-1923, page 44, Jordan-Campbell; FHL microfilm 1468657. Accessed at Library of Virginia, FamilySearch affiliate library.

8 *Find A Grave*, database with images (http://www.findagrave.com : accessed 1 February 2021), memorial # 167351265, Dennis Jordan (1876-1937), Madonna Cemetery, Fort Lee, Bergen County, New Jersey; obituary information added by Tony Chiofolo.

9 Claremorris District, County Mayo, Ireland, 1869: registration no. 8047382 page 186, no. 316, Anne Cambell [sic]. Claremorris District, County Mayo, Ireland, 1879: registration no. 10574535, page 197, no. 5, Mary Campbell. Claremorris District, County Mayo, Ireland, 1871: registration no. 11698968, page 179, no. 176, Edmond Campbell. All digital images, *irishgenealogy.ie* (www.irishgenealogy.ie : accessed 1 February 2021); General Registry Office, Dublin.

10 Claremorris District, County Mayo, Ireland, 1867: registration no. 7757441, page 191, no. 23, Honora Campbell. Claremorris District, County Mayo, Ireland, 1874: registration no. 11960433, page 202, no. 121, Pat Campbell. Claremorris District, County Mayo, Ireland, 1876: registration no. 10263786, page not shown, no. 373, Bridget Campbell. Claremorris District, County, Mayo, Ireland, 1882: registration no. 10931666, page 181, no. 107, John Campbell. All digital images, *irishgenealogy.ie* (www.irishgenealogy.ie : accessed 1 February 2021); General Registry Office, Dublin.

11 O'Brien-Campbell marriage certificate (1896 marriage); issued 2018, St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, New York, New York; privately held by Mary O'Brien Vidlak, Williamsburg, Virginia. Margaret Frances O'Brien baptismal certificate (1896); issued 2018, St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, New York, New York; privately held by Mary O'Brien Vidlak, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Mary O'Brien Vidlak, CG, was born and lived primarily in New York before moving to Williamsburg, Virginia, in 2006. At that time what had been a general interest in family history became a passion.



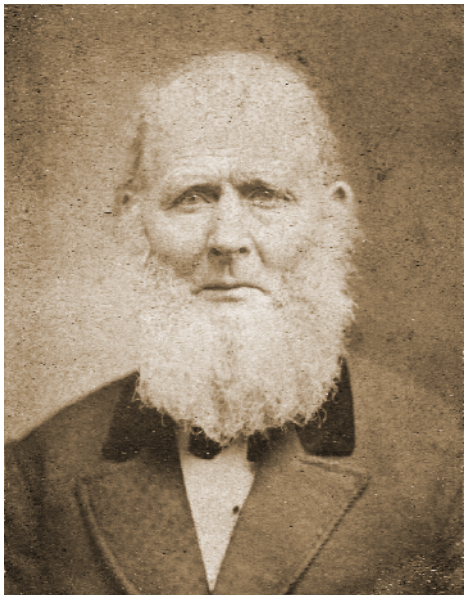
She serves the genealogical community as a trustee for the Board for Certification of Genealogists and as the president of the Virginia Genealogical Society.

James Mooney, Glass Factory Laborer

by Sue Hahney Kratsch

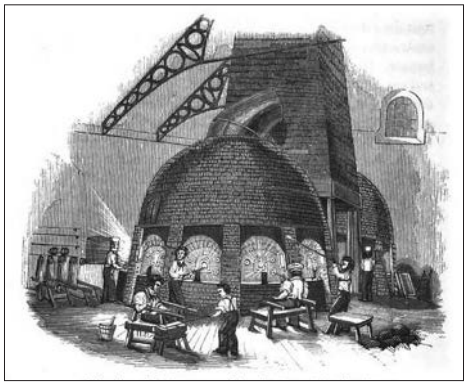
The most exciting and fruitful discovery I've made in 45 years of research were the business and company store ledgers of a small glass factory in the (now famous) town of Woodstock, Ulster County, New York. I've been an avid researcher of business records ever since.

During the family upheavals associated with World War II and then Korea, I lived with, and was partially raised by, my grandparents. I was blessed with a grandmother who, while caring for a four-generation household, found time to tell me the stories of her ancestors. Some of these tales seemed a little fanciful. In the 1970s I got serious about research; my goal was to find the truth, or lack thereof, behind the stories.



James Mooney

My grandmother told me that a Mooney ancestor was born in Ulster County, New York, and had owned a glass factory in Utica, Oneida County. Ownership of a factory seemed far removed from more recent Mooney generations, who had been poor tenant farmers in Illinois. But it was an odd idea to have persisted in the family for 200 years; maybe there was a grain of truth.



Elevation of the furnaces, and interior view of the Glass-house and working operations.

I read books on antique glass and where it was made. The 1810 census revealed a James Mooney in Woodstock, an early glass-making village. After learning that New York counties and towns are required to have a historian, I wrote to Woodstock historian Alf Evers asking for any information on the Mooney family, adding as an afterthought that he may have worked in a glass factory. Yes, replied Alf, the old records still existed, and James Mooney was an employee. I began planning a trip to Woodstock.

Research in Woodstock, long an arts colony, is a story in itself. But I did get permission to search the ledgers. Each employee's ledger page gave an occupation, such as cutting wood to feed the glass furnaces, and their wages; skilled glass-blowers made the most. Wages became credits at the company store. Workers might visit the store together, or purchase goods on each other's accounts, hinting at a relationship. They often treated each other to a glass of rum. Workers' family members charged goods to the account and children made deliveries, helping to fill out the family.

The factory closed about 1820; the forest had been depleted. Workers moved to other factories; their migrations again described by antique hunters. Two more glass factories, with a few records, filled out the Mooney migration story. But no source was as rich in detail as those in Woodstock.

Some forty years of research went into finding James Mooney, my Irish immigrant ancestor, and his family. Likely born in North Tipperary about 1771, he immigrated around 1800. His oldest daughter, born in Ireland, married a Woodstock glass-blower. Four more daughters and likely two sons completed the family. My great-great-grandfather, James Wesley Mooney of Will County, Illinois, was the youngest child. He probably worked at one of the glass factories along the way.

Sue Hahney Kratsch is a retired computer professional who has spent 40 years researching and writing about her ancestors in New York, New England, Illinois, Ireland, and Sweden. Her articles have appeared in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Minnesota Genealogist, *and* The Septs. *She is currently president of the Yankee Genealogical Society.*



Setting Family History with DNA

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

Are you looking for material to flesh out your family history? Why not include information on DNA testing that's been done by family members or DNA results?

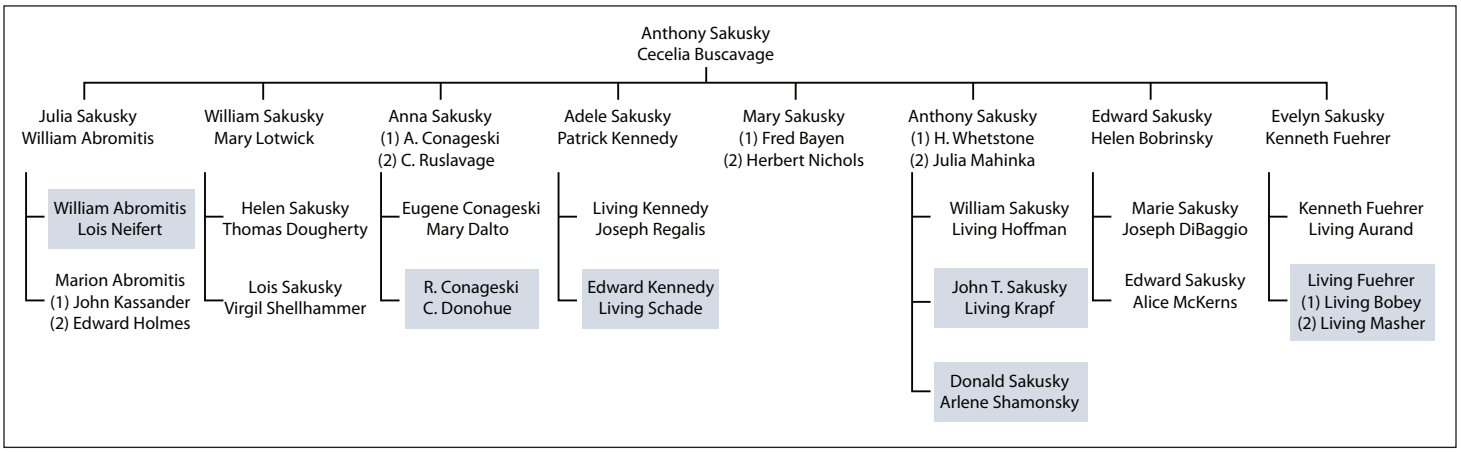
What you choose to include might vary depending on the purpose and scope of the family history you're writing. Here are some ideas.

Highlight DNA Testing Coverage Within the Family

Mention the branches of the family whose family members have tested. If you can obtain their permission, list the testers. You can even indicate the kinds of tests they have taken (autosomal, Y, mitochondrial) and tell which testing sites they used. (This could have the effect of encouraging family members reading the history to test!) Below is an example from the introduction to a family history I am working on.

Include Interesting Test Results

If your family's DNA testers are willing, you might include their ethnicity results in your family history. A descendancy chart with ethnicity results table like the ones shown on page 39 for my husband and his



DNA Testing *Along with my siblings William Drew Abromitis and Gail Lynne (Abromitis) Ponte, I took DNA tests at* Ancestry, FTDNA, 23andMe *and uploaded test results to* MyHeritage *and* GEDmatch. *Other Sakusky cousins whose children or grandchildren have tested (as of February 2021) are shown below as colored boxes. No male-line descendant of Anthony Sakusky has yet taken a Y-DNA test; if we had a tester, it might be possible to connect with other Sakusky families and even find a Polish/Lithuanian place of origin.*

siblings is one way to do this. If you decide to do this, you could highlight any genetic communities of particular interest that show up in your testers' results. For Ireland, *Ancestry* identifies 94 regions that might be highlighted in the DNA Story Ethnicity Estimate of its testers. *MyHeritage* has just introduced similar genetic groups.[1]

Feature Results from DNA Projects

Do your DNA-tested family members manage or participate in one or more DNA projects?[2] Results from these projects can potentially provide an interesting chapter for your family history! Y-DNA surname projects could potentially associate your surname with one of the Irish clans, or identify and perhaps link your distinct branch to a particular geographic area.[3] James M. Owston provides excellent examples in his *Owston/Ouston One-Name Study* blog.[4] Maurice Gleeson's Gleason/Gleeson DNA project blog describes how the project identified four distinct groups or lineages of men named Gleason or Gleeson: Lineage I descended from Thomas Gleson of Cockfield, Suffolk, England, Lineages II and II descended from Irish groups in Tipperary and Clare, and Lineage IV whose origins lie within the U.S. A recent blog post described the history of the Lineage II Gleesons in North Tipperary over the last thousand years.[5] What a great prologue to your Gleeson history!

Show How DNA Helped Establish Family Connections

If you used DNA as part of your research, your readers might be interested in learning what you did, the results you received, what you learned, and how this contributed to your knowledge of the family.

In my own genealogical research, I needed to establish a connection between my great-great-great-grandmother Hannah



Looking at the great-great-grandparents of the Mackin siblings, we see a mixture of ethnicities: of the sixteen great-great-grandparents, four and a half are Irish, six are German, two are Scottish, two and a half are British, and one is unknown. The table below shows the ethnicity breakdown for each sibling at Ancestry. *It shows both the single-number value that is prominently posted In the DNA results and the underlying range of possible values.*

Ethnicity	Jere	Pat	Joann	Dick
England/NW Europe	34% (29–34%)	28% (27–31%)	41% (36–41%)	38% (34–38%)
Ireland	30% (2–35%)	36% (5–36%)	22% (0–29%)	29% (0–31%)
Scotland	9% (0–13%)	28% (0–29%)	25% (0–27%)	15% (0–19%)
Sweden	6% (1–10%)	2% (0–5%)	–	10% (0–15%)
Germanic Europe	19% (0–32%)	6% (0–17%)	2% (0–12%)	4% (0–13%)
Norway	2% (0–4%)	–	7% (0–7%)	2% (0–4%)
The Balkans	–	–	–	2% (0–5%)
Eastern Europe and Russia	–	–	3% (0–7%)	–

(Lutz) Frantz (1818–1890) and her parents. The connection was asserted by a number of very good researchers, but evidence was lacking. After searching the records of Hannah, her husband, and her children, I branched out to the records of the man I thought was her father, and the records of alleged and proven siblings. I found no direct evidence until I extended my search to DNA matches. I matched a descendant of my candidate for Hannah's father on *Ancestry* at 6 cM and two segments — a very small and quite possibly false match.[6] Reaching out to the manager of the test, I received an 1896 newspaper article from an undigitized newspaper that provided direct evidence of the relationship between Hannah and her father. The article also identified additional siblings, one of whom wrote a will naming all of her siblings and providing the married names of the female ones. DNA matching led to the evidence I needed of the father daughter connection, even if it did not provide the evidence itself, and I included the role played by the DNA match in my case study.[7]

Endnotes

1 To learn more about AncestryDNA Communities, check the "AncestryDNA Communities" article in *Ancestry* Support: https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/DNA-Genetic-Communities. For MyHeritage Genetic Groups, see "*MyHeritage* Launches Genetic Groups," 24 December 2020, in the *MyHeritage* blog: https://blog.myheritage.com/2020/12/myheritage-launches-genetic-groups/.

2 DNA projects are a unique feature of *FamilyTreeDNA*. DNA projects include haplogroup-based projects, surname-based projects, and national or regional projects.

3 See Maurice Gleeson, "Toward a Methodology for Confirming the DNA Signature of an Irish Clan," 7 April 2020, *DNA and Family Tree Research* (https://dnaandfamilytreeresearch.blogspot.com/2020/04/toward-methodology-for-confirming-dna.html : accessed 22 February 2021).

4 See, for example, "Using DNA Painter in a Descent Study," 14 March 2019, *Owston/Ouston One-Name Study* (https://owston.wordpress.com/2019/03/14/using-dna-painter-in-a-descent-study/ : accessed 22 February 2021).

5 For the project, see "About us," Gleason/Gleeson, *FamilyTreeDNA* (https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/gleason/about : accessed 22 February 2021). See also Maurice Gleeson, "Overview of the Mutation History Tree V4 for Lineage II," 14 May 2020, *The Gleason/Gleeson DNA Project* (https://gleesondna.blogspot.com/2020/05/version-4-of-mutation-history-tree-for.html : accessed 22 February 2021).

6 For the risks of small segments, see Blaine Bettinger, "A Small Segment Round-Up," 29 December 2017, *The Genetic Genealogist* (https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2017/12/29/a-small-segment-round-up/ : accessed 22 February 2021).

7 The case was presented in Lois Abromitis Mackin and Shirleen Hoffman, "Jumpstarting Your Problem Solving," Minnesota Genealogical Society North Star Conference, Edina, Minnesota, 2016.

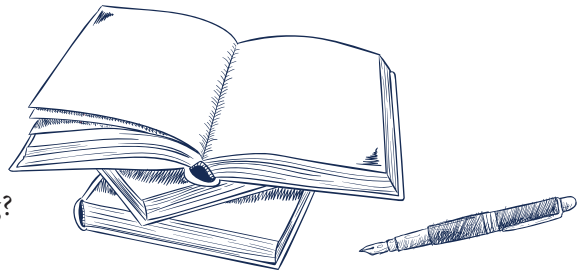
Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*



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Finding Uncle Jack – John Mahoney, 1833-1917

by Tom Armstrong

Every family has secrets and mysteries. As I was leaving for the Army in December 1970, my uncle, Raleigh Armstrong (1903-1977), asked if I would be going through Tennessee or Kentucky. I told him I wasn't sure. "Maybe you might be able to visit Uncle Jack's grave." "Who is Uncle Jack?" I asked. John Mahoney (May-hah-knee is the pronunciation) was my Great-Grandmother Margaret Mahoney Rawleigh's brother and a soldier in the Confederate Army. (Rawleigh was shortened by the next generation to Raleigh.)

My family, the Armstrongs and the Raleighs, left Ireland in the Famine and have resided in Minnesota since the mid-1850s. How did we get a relative in the Confederate Army? After many years of research, I was able to find my Uncle Jack.

Starting the Search

Uncle Raleigh said that John Mahoney had been conscripted into the Confederate Army while visiting in Kentucky at the time the Civil War began, and that Uncle Jack had lost a finger at the Battle of Mobile Bay. He had died in a Confederate Old Soldiers' Home in Kentucky or Tennessee. Raleigh remembered that the family had received a telegram about Uncle Jack's death asking for burial expenses. The money was sent. Uncle Jack was laid to rest, and almost forgotten. Uncle Raleigh had no photograph of Uncle Jack, no letters or documents — just the story he told me.

A cousin, Helen Armstrong (1889-1973), told me that Margaret (1828-1896), her grandmother, had been "a Southern sympathizer." Margaret saw the South as a people wishing to be free from political connection with the North. Just like Ireland wished to be free of England. Slavery was not an issue to these people. The cause was independence from a powerful neighbor. Helen knew about Uncle Jack but had no details.

We have all heard of "brother against brother" as divided families took up arms for or against the Old Flag. I thought this was something that occurred in the border states, but even faraway Minnesota was not spared from conflicting loyalties.

I found John Mahoney on the 1875 Minnesota State Census of Oakdale Township. He was living with John and Margaret Rawleigh, and their children, including my three-year-old grandmother, Anna (1872-1930). No other census listed him living with the Rawleighs.

In 1993, I was in Washington, D.C., on military orders and had a free weekend. I visited the National Archives and located six possible John Mahoneys in various Confederate units from Tennessee and Kentucky, but I only had time to look up the Kentucky possibilities. Before coming to Minnesota, the Rawleighs had lived in Covington, Kentucky, in 1851. The Confederate military records are organized by name and by unit. I looked for a John Mahoney who had been at Mobile Bay in August 1864. I later bought a book on Kentucky Confederate units. None with a John Mahoney had been at Mobile Bay.

I went on the Internet in 1997 to find Confederate Old Soldiers' Homes. I wrote the Kentucky Historical Society and inquired about the Pee Wee Valley Confederate Home. On July 21, 1997, I found out that no John Mahoney was listed as having lived there.

I then wrote to the Tennessee State Library and Archives about the Hermitage Old Soldiers Home near Nashville. They sent me John Mahoney's application for admittance to the Home. From this form I learned that this John Mahoney had been in two regiments, the 2nd (Walker's) Tennessee Infantry and the 21st Alabama Infantry. He had been wounded in the foot at Belmont, Missouri, and in the hand at Shiloh, Tennessee. Did he lose his finger at Shiloh? This John Mahoney became a prisoner of war (POW) on August 8, 1864, when Fort Gaines, at the entrance to Mobile Bay, was surrendered. As a POW, he had been transported to Ship Island, Mississippi, and then to Elmira, New York, and held until May 1865.

Further correspondence located his death certificate showing that he was buried in Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Nashville. I wrote for information and received a plat showing exactly where his unmarked grave was located.

I then ordered his military records from the National Archives. On April 26, 1861, two weeks to the day that the first shot was fired on Fort Sumter, Uncle Jack volunteered at Memphis for one year in the 2nd Tennessee, known as "the Irish Regiment." John Mahoney was never conscripted — that was a story told up north. The June 1860 Census showed a John Mahoney living in Davidson County — Nashville — with six other Irishmen; all were "R Road Labor." Did his railroad work take him to Memphis in April 1861? Was this even the right John Mahoney?

Irish Records

Information in the Confederate Soldiers' Home application pointed the way to

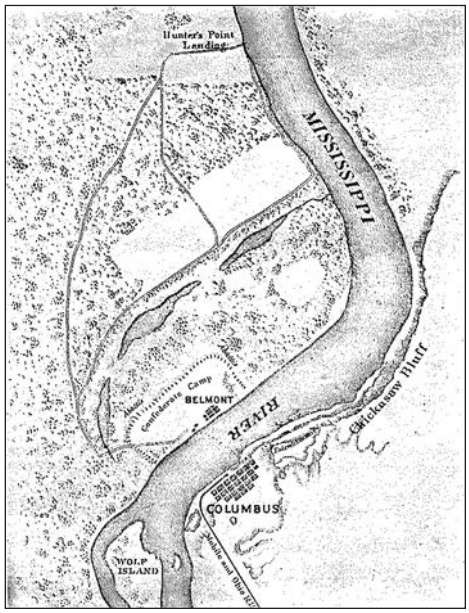
County Limerick. Each piece of information opened doors to further research. In 1998, I wrote to the Limerick Regional Archives. "John Mahony" was baptized on August 25, 1833, at the Roman Catholic Parish of Bruff. This makes him a year older than his year of birth as shown on other records.

His older sister Margaret, my great-grandmother, was baptized on February 14, 1828, at the parish of Dromin/Athlacca. John and Margaret had two brothers, Patrick (1827, who must have died as an infant) and Patrick (1831). They also had three sisters, Mary (1836), Ellen (1839), and Johanna (1842). This is the first I had known of any siblings. The children were baptized in four different parishes located south of the City of Limerick.

Sometimes the best method to use in tracing the life of an ancestor is to put everything you can find in chronological order. I did this for Uncle Jack. When you know a military unit you can trace its movements through history books, unit histories, and on maps. With information from the National Archives, you can find pay records, muster rolls, and many more facts — all with dates. You can begin to see and understand the life that a Civil War soldier led.

The Battle of Belmont

On orders of the Corps Commander, LTG Leonidas Polk, the 2nd Tennessee was sent from Memphis to Fort Wright, then to Fort Pillow, and then to Columbus, Kentucky. On November 7, 1861, Uncle Jack was in action. His regiment saved the day when General Grant landed his forces at Hunter's Landing and attempted to capture the Confederate camp at Belmont, Missouri. The 2nd Tennessee crossed the Mississippi River from Columbus, and with a "wild bayonet charge" recaptured a lost battery of artillery, helping to force Grant's withdrawal back to Hunter's Landing. Grant re-boarded his steamboats and left the field to the Confederates. John Mahoney was wounded in the foot at Belmont, but he recovered and continued his service.



Map of Columbus and Belmont area, 1861

Shiloh

On February 20, 1862, the 2nd Tennessee received orders to join General Albert Sidney Johnston at Corinth, Mississippi. Columbus, Kentucky, had been outflanked when Grant took Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. There was a direct rail connection from Columbus to Corinth.

There were two regiments named the 2nd Tennessee at Shiloh. Uncle Jack was in Walker's 2nd Tennessee, Polk's Corps. The other regiment was known as Bate's 2nd Tennessee, Walker Legion (named to honor L. P. Walker, the Confederate Secretary of War), was in Cleburne's Brigade, Hardee's Corps. History books note that COL Walker's 2nd Tennessee regiment suffered heavy casualties in the battle of Shiloh where the Tennesseans suffered severe losses from an enemy artillery barrage.

After Shiloh the 2nd Tennessee was reduced from eight to four companies and consolidated with the 21st Tennessee to form the 9th, also called the 5th, Confederate Infantry. (Yes, this can be very confusing.)

John Mahoney was wounded in the hand at Shiloh. He was in the hospital as of April 30th and discharged at the expiration of his enlistment on May 11, 1862. COL J. Knox Walker, commander of the 2nd, resigned his commission and returned to Memphis where he died in 1864. (In reading further about COL Walker, I discovered that he was the nephew of President James Knox Polk and had served his uncle as personal secretary for four years at the White House from 1845 to 1849. Yes, an Insurrectionist had lived in the White House!)

The 9th Confederate Infantry records show that Uncle Jack had volunteered a second time for a one-year enlistment on May 11, 1862. On July 24th he is listed as discharged "by reason of overage." John Mahoney was 28 years old, not "over age."

The 21st Alabama

Uncle Jack volunteered for a third time for "three years or the war" on September 10, 1862, "For Bounty" with the 21st Alabama Infantry at Mobile. His mark "X" on documents told me he couldn't read or write. The family story was that his sister Margaret had left Ireland in a hurry because there was a warrant out for her arrest. She had written pamphlets against the British. Margaret had been educated in a convent school. Jack never learned to read.

Uncle Jack was assigned to B Company. The 21st had been at Shiloh and suffered heavy casualties. The 21st had a hospital and perhaps Uncle Jack had been a patient in the hospital of this regiment. I don't know what bought him to Mobile, but he was now a soldier assigned to the defense of Mobile Bay. John Kent Folmar's *From That Terrible Field, … Twenty-first Alabama Infantry Volunteers*, follows this unit's service.

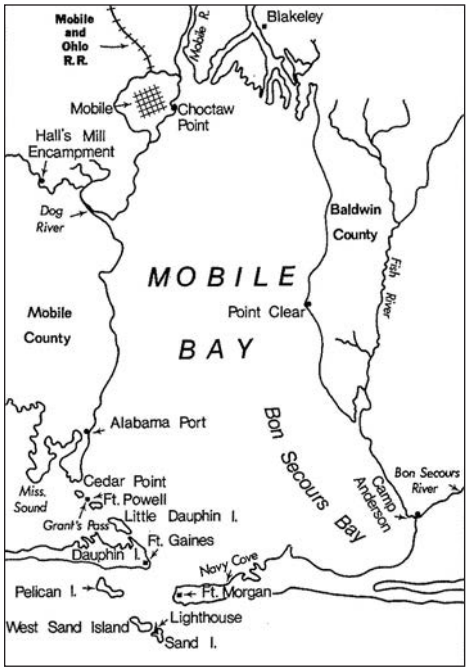
On October 6, 1862, four companies, including B Company, were ordered north to garrison two forts located at Choctaw Bluff on the Alabama River and Oven Bluff on the Tombigbee River. The Company Muster Roll for March-April 1863 shows John Mahoney "Under arrest at Choctaw Bluff. To forfeit 3 mons. Pay by sentence of a GCM."

After 31 years in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, I know that the term GCM is still used today. It means General Courts Martial, a trial convened by a general officer. Maybe someday I might find the record of the courts martial of Private John Mahoney and determine what exactly he did. The offense must have been minor since he was not confined and lost "only" 3 months' pay. They shot deserters. The term "under arrest" doesn't mean confinement; in the military, it can be a restriction to the limits of a fort or some other area.

The Battle of Mobile Bay

On July 20, 1863, the 21st Alabama was ordered back to Mobile Bay with companies detailed to Fort Gaines and to Fort Morgan. The two forts guarded the entrance to Mobile Bay. At first, B Company was at Fort Morgan, and then it was reassigned to Fort Gaines.

Admiral David G. Farragut attacked Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864. As the Federal fleet passed near Fort Morgan, torpedoes (mines in today's terminology) sunk the *Tecumseh*, the first in the line of iron ships. Only 20 of the 114-man crew escaped. The *Brooklyn*, a wooden ship ahead of Farragut's *Hartford*, hesitated and signaled to Farragut "Torpedoes ahead." Admiral Farragut was lashed to the rigging 20 feet above the deck so he could see the action and give direction. His reply was quick, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead." John Mahoney, at Fort Gaines, might have had a great view of this naval action three miles across the bay.



Map of Mobile Bay area

On August 6, Fort Gaines was shelled by the monitor *Winnebago*. Major General Granger, with 1,500 troops, was preparing to attack the fort by land, but on August 8 Colonel Charles Anderson surrendered the fort with 818 men. For Uncle Jack the war was over; he was now a POW.

Fort Morgan's commander was Brigadier General Richard L. Page who bore a strong resemblance to Lieutenant General Robert E. Lee, his first cousin. Page held out as the Union forces poured shells into the old brick fort. Finally, on August 23, 1864, BG Page surrendered. A total of 546 prisoners were taken, including a private named William H. Welch, Company A, 21st Alabama.

Uncle Jack and William Welch would cross paths as POWs. Only after I obtained Welch's military records was I able to determine that these two soldiers had switched identities.

Welch Becomes Mahoney

John Mahoney was shipped with other POWs to the Parish Prison in New Orleans. At some point he made a bargain with William Welch. Both men were in the 21st Alabama, but Welch, in Company A, had been captured when Fort Morgan fell. The men from Fort Morgan were to be shipped north and the men captured at Fort Gaines were to be exchanged and returned to Alabama. The difference in treatment may have been because Fort Morgan only surrendered after weeks of bombardment.

Uncle Jack didn't want to go back to Alabama and Welch didn't wish to ship north. William Welch was not a healthy man. His records show that he had spent considerable time on two occasions in Confederate hospitals and recently, as a POW, had spent almost a month in St. Louis Hospital in New Orleans. Welch would not have survived captivity. Mahoney might be lucky enough to get a parole and to go to Minnesota. In October both men were among 1,229 POWs transferred to Ship Island.

John Mahoney – Chronology

August 14, 1833 – March 21, 1917

August 14, 1833	John Mahoney, born in "Limerick, Ireland," Wednesday, August 14, 1833. The parents listed on his sister's death certificate, Margaret Mahoney Rawleigh, December 30, 1896, are "Michael Mahony and Johannah." The date of birth is from John Mahoney's Confederate Soldier's Home application in 1895. John Mahoney's death certificate lists the year of birth as 1835, but the baptism record lists the date of baptism as August 25, 1833.
August 25, 1833	John Mahony, son of Michael Mahony and Johanna English, was baptized on Sunday, August 25th at the Roman Catholic parish of Bruff, Limerick County, Ireland. His Godparents were Patrick Mahony and Margaret Flynn.
April 26, 1861	Enlisted by CPT R. E. Chew for one year as a Private at Memphis, Tennessee, in Company H, (CPT R. E. Chew, Comdr.), 2nd (Walker's) Regiment Tennessee Volunteers, (COL J. Knox Walker, Comdr.)
May 11, 1861	The regiment was organized at Memphis, Tennessee, for state service. "The regiment was composed principally of Irishmen from Memphis and was sometimes referred to as the 'Irish Regiment.'" Quotes and unit history from Tennesseans in the Civil War, Civil War Centennial Commission, Nashville, Tennessee, 1964.
July 31, 1861	The regiment was at Fort Wright, Randolph, Tipton County, Tennessee, with 541 men armed with flintlock muskets. Fort Wright is on the Mississippi River at First Chickasaw Bluff, across the river and southeast of Osceola, Arkansas. Memphis is down river from Forts Wright, Pillow and Randolph.
August 10, 1861	The regiment was mustered into the service of the Confederate States. Previous to this time it had been a state militia unit.
August 17, 1861	LTG Leonidas Polk orders the regiment to Fort Pillow, on the Mississippi River, near Fulton, Tennessee, about seven miles south of Fort Wright. LTG Polk was a West Point classmate of Jefferson Davis, and a 2nd cousin of President James K. Polk. He was also an Episcopal Bishop. KIA June 14, 1864.
August 22-October 31, 1861	Company Muster Roll dated January 27, 1862. Present. Last paid by C. Delash on August 22, 1861.
October 24, 1861	The Regiment is at Columbus, Kentucky to re-enforce BG Gideon J. Pillow and the Confederate camp across the Mississippi River from Columbus at Belmont, Missouri. Columbus is about 20 miles down river from Cairo, Illinois, which was the headquarters of BG Ulysses S. Grant.
November 7, 1861	The Battle of Belmont. John Mahoney is wounded in the foot. The regiment was ferried across the Mississippi River to support BG Pillow. "It helped turn the tide of battle, and recaptured a battery which had been lost." General Ulysses Grant was the Federal commander who was driven off. Grant inflicted heavy casualties on the Confederates.
January 14, 1862	The Confederate camp at Columbus is shelled by three Union gunboats.
February 6, 1862	Fort Henry is captured by the Union Army.
February 16, 1862	Fort Donelson surrenders to General Grant.

February 20, 1862	Because of the loss of Forts Henry and Donelson, the Confederate position at Columbus, Kentucky is "extremely vulnerable." General Polk's command is ordered to evacuate Columbus and join the Confederate Army massing at Corinth, Mississippi. There is a direct rail connection south to Corinth.
March 2, 1862	The last Confederate unit leaves Columbus. Union Forces occupy the town on March 3rd.
March 9, 1862	The 2nd Tennessee is reported in Colonel Preston Smith's Brigade, Brigadier General B. F. Cheatham's Division of Polk's Corps, at Corinth.
April 6-7, 1862	The Battle of Shiloh. John Mahoney is wounded in the hand – he may have lost a finger. According to Raleigh Armstrong, Uncle Jack had lost a finger due to a wound. Raleigh thought it had happened at the Battle of Mobile Bay, but John Mahoney was not listed as wounded at Fort Gaines, Mobile Bay. "During the course of the battle, the regiment, along with the 11th Louisiana Regiment, was used by Brigadier General A. P. Stewart to re-enforce his brigade, which was running short of ammunition. The regiment suffered heavy casualties in the battle…" Confederate forces retreat back to Corinth, Mississippi.
March-April 1862	Company Muster Roll. (April 30, 1862) "Absent. Wounded & in hospital."
May 11, 1862	2nd (Walker's) Regiment Tennessee Volunteers consolidated into four companies as a battalion under LTC James A, Smith, and placed in BG D. S. Donelson's Brigade, of Cheatham's Division. On a Company Muster Roll, Co. H, 2nd Tennessee, undated, John Mahoney is listed as "Discharged at reorganization."
May 11, 1862	John Mahoney re-enlisted at Memphis by COL A. Campbell for 1 year.
July 21, 1862	"The 9th Regiment Confederate Infantry (also known as the 5th Confederate Regiment Tennessee Infantry) was organized July 21, 1862, with eight companies, A to H. It was formed by consolidation of the 2nd (Walker's) Regiment Tennessee Infantry and the 21st Regiment Tennessee Infantry per Special Order No. 101, Headquarters Dept. No. 2, dated July 1, 1862. Companies A, D, E, and F were formed of members of the 2nd (Walker's) Regiment Tennessee Infantry." National Archives Company Muster Roll – see next entry.
July 24, 1862	Company Muster Roll, Company F, 5th Regiment Confederate Infantry, July-August 1862, dated August 31st 1862. John Mahoney, PVT, Enlisted May 11, 186_, at Memphis by COL A. Campbell for 1 year. Last paid by CPT Boswell on June 30th 1862. "Discharged July 24, by reason of overage." John Mahoney was three weeks shy of his 29th birthday. This can't be the reason for discharge. Or did it just mean overage as too many men in the unit?
September 10, 1862	John Mahoney enlisted by CPT Johnston for "3 years or war," as a Private, at Mobile, Alabama, in Company B, 21st Regiment Alabama Infantry. Enlisted "For Bounty."
September 24, 1862	Company Muster Roll. Present.
October 6, 1862	"The first Battalion (Companies A, B, C and F), Charles D. Anderson, commanding, ordered by Special Order No. 236 up to Choctaw Bluff (Fort Stonewall Jackson) and Oven Bluff (Fort Sidney Johnston) on the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers, respectively." *From That Terrible Field, Twenty-first Alabama Infantry Volunteers*, John Kent Folmar, 1981.
March-April 1863	Company Muster Roll. Last paid by CPT Voss to October 31, 1862. Absent. "Under arrest

	at Choctaw Bluff. To forfeit 3 mos. pay by sentence of GCM." (General Courts Martial)
May-June 1863	Company Muster Roll. Last paid by CPT Voss to October 31, 1862. Present.
July 20, 1863	Operations at Choctaw and Oven Bluffs were suspended and units returned to Mobile Bay.
August 10, 1863	First Battalion, including B Co. are assigned to lower bay defenses, Forts Morgan, Gaines and Grant.
September-October 31, 1863	B Co. is at Fort Morgan.
September-October 1863	Company Muster Roll. Last paid by CPT McVoy to August 31, 1863. Present. "Due for clothing not drawn in kind $60.63."
March 31, 1864	Receipt Roll. For clothing for the first quarter, 1864. Date of issue March 31, 1864. Signature "By mark."
April 16, 1864	Receipt Roll. For clothing for the second quarter, 1864. Date of issue April 16, 1864. Signature "His mark."
June 1, 1864	Receipt Roll. For clothing for the second quarter, 1864. Date of issue June 1, 1864. Signature "his mark."
August 3-23, 1864	Battle of Mobile Bay. Three forts guard the harbor entrance: Fort Morgan, a walled fort with 60 guns on the east side of the channel; Fort Gaines, a walled fort with 30 guns on Little Dauphin Island, four miles from Fort Morgan, on the west side of the channel; and Fort Powell, 98 guns, a small work commanding Grant's Pass to the west of Little Dauphin Island. B Company and John Mahoney are part of the garrison of Fort Gaines. Admiral Farragut commands the Union Naval forces.
August 3, 1864	General Gordon Granger joins Farragut with 1,500 men, who are landed on Dauphin Island near Fort Gaines.
August 4, 1864	Union Infantry under Granger entrench one half mile from Fort Gaines.
August 5, 1864	Fort Powell attacked by Union Navy. The Confederates blow-up Fort Powell at 10:30 p.m. and retreat. Fort Gaines and Morgan attacked as the Union Navy enters Mobile Bay through the channel under heavy fire from Fort Morgan.
August 6, 1864	Union *Monitor*, USS *Winnebago*, attacks Fort Gaines at close range.
August 7, 1864	BG Granger has artillery in place ready for the land attack on Fort Gaines.
August 8, 1864	At 9:00 a.m., Fort Gaines is surrendered to BG Granger by COL Charles D. Anderson, its commander, with 818 men. Seven companies of the 21st Alabama, including B Company and John Mahoney, are captured. (Companies B, C, E, F, G, H, and I)
August 23, 1864	Fort Morgan surrenders. Company A, 21st Alabama, including Private William H. Welch, is captured.
September 10, 1864	W. H. Walsh, Private, Co. A, 21st Regt. Ala., admitted St. Louis, U.S.A. General Hospital, New Orleans, La. From Military Prison. Diagnosis – Scurvy. Age 21. La. Reg. No. 38, Hos. No. 4410; Page 85. Pay documents in the military record show the actual signature of William H. Welch. Name is spelled as listed on each record.
October 5, 1864	W. H. Walsh, returned to duty from hospital. John Mahoney would have been 30 years old at this time. It is doubtful he could have passed for a 21-year-old. It must have been Welch in the hospital.

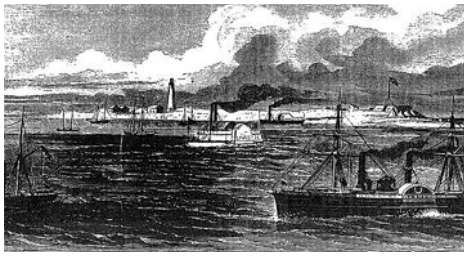
October 7, 1864	Roll of rebel prisoners of war received at Ship Island, Mississippi, October 7, 1864. Listed as W. H. Welsh, Private, Company A, 21st Ala. Inf., captured at Fort Morgan, August 23, 1864. Remarks: "Sent to New York Nov. 5, 1864, order Capt. M. R. Marston."
	Ship Island is 95 miles from the mouth of the Mississippi, 65 miles from New Orleans, and 50 miles from Mobile. At the time of the Civil War it was a low bank of shifting sand, seven miles long and three quarters of a mile wide. "On the eastern end, a few groves of stunted oaks and pine find sustenance; at the western end is an excellent harbor, capable of sheltering a fleet of the largest vessels. The island possesses, also, the prime advantage of an abundant supply of water. Sink a barrel any where, and it is filled with pure water filtered through the clean white sand." The island was the base of operations for the Union fleet against New Orleans and Mobile. Fort Massachusetts was built on the island. *Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War*, May 1866, page 261.
October 25, 1864	Roll of rebel prisoners of war received at Ship Island, Miss., from New Orleans, La., Oct. 25, 1864. Listed is John Mahoney, Private, Co. B. 21st Regt. Ala. Captured at Fort Gaines August 28, 1864. Remarks: "Applied to take the oath." Roll 3; sheet 11. Was this John Mahoney – or did he arrive on October 7th? Did John Mahoney and William Welch switch names in New Orleans prior to October 7th and after Welch was released from the hospital on October 5th or at Ship Island after October 25th when the second man arrived?
November 5, 1864	Roll of Prisoners of War at Ship Island, Mississippi, sent to New York, November 5, 1864. Listed is William H. Welsh, Private, Company A, 21st Ala. Inf., captured at Fort Morgan, August 23, 1864. This was actually John Mahoney.
November 16, 1864	Roll of Prisoners of War received at Fort Columbus, New York Harbor, from Ship Island, Mississippi, November 16, 1864. Listed is William H. Welsh, Private, 21st Ala. Inf., captured at Fort Morgan, August 23, 1864. John Mahoney posing as Welch.
November 19, 1864	Appears on a roll of Prisoners of War received at Elmira, N.Y., November 19, 1864, from Fort Columbus, New York Harbor; transferred from New Orleans, La., to Ship Island, Miss., Oct., 1864, thence to New York Nov. 5, 1864." Listed is W. H. Welsh, Private, Company A, 21st Ala. Inf., captured at Fort Morgan, August 23, 1864. Remarks: "Released May 19/65." Elmira, N.Y., Register No. 3; page 278.
November 30, 1864	Roll of Prisoners of War at Elmira, New York, "desirous to take the Oath of allegiance to the United States." John Mahoney, captured at Fort Gaines on August 8, 1864. "Was conscripted August 1, 1862. Came to Elmira in the name of William Welsh, 21 Ala. Inf. Co. A, having exchanged places with him for the purpose of getting North. Desires to go to Stillwater, Minn." Roll 92; part 3.
December 25, 1864	Roll of Prisoners of War at Ship Island, Miss., who applied to take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States. Not dated, but endorsement shows "Rec'd (O.C.G.P.) Dec. 25, '64." Listed is John Mahoney, Private, Co. B. 21st Regt. Ala. Captured at Fort Gaines August 8, 1864. Remarks: "Has made application to take the oath." This was actually William Welch. Roll 31; sheet 1.
January 4, 1865	Roll of Prisoners of War, C.S.A., exchanged at Ship Island, Miss., Jan. 4, 1865. Roll dated Ship Island, Miss., Jan. 5, 1865. John Mahoney captured Fort Gaines, August 8,

	1864. Roll 36; sheet 12. This was William Welch. This is the last record in the files which really denotes William Welch. I have no further information as to what happened to him or if John Mahoney ever saw him again.
May 19, 1865	J. Mahoney ("signed by mark") appears as a signature to an Oath of Allegiance to the United States, subscribed and sworn to at Elmira, New York, May 19, 1865. Place of residence listed as Huntsville, Alabama; complexion Light; hair Light; eyes blue; height 5 ft. 8 in. "Released May 19, 1865, under the order from the office of the Com'y Gen'l of Prisoners dated May 8, 1865." Roll 56; sheet 4.
May 1, 1875	Minnesota State Census, May 1, 1875. John Mahony, age 40, born in Ireland, living with John and Margaret Rawleigh, household 81, Oakdale Township. The age of 40 doesn't match the August 14, 1833 birthdate. He was actually 41 years of age.
July 5, 1895	Letter from C. W. Frazer, Memphis, Tenn. "Dear Captain, I am compelled to trouble you, as I do not know how to get in without it. This man Mahoney is in a bad fix; and I have no money to help him. I wish you would put him through as soon as possible. I do not know him, but am satisfied he is a good man." This letter must have accompanied the application. Application to Confederate Soldier's Home, near Nashville, County of Davidson, State of Tennessee (undated). States that he was released from Barracks No. 3, U. S. Army Prison at Elmira, N.Y. on May 29, 1865. Address is "Care John Walsh, No. 84, Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee." Occupation; "Laborer," "Never had wife or children." Signed John (his X mark) Mahoney. Witnessed by C. W. Frazer and John Dwyer. "We know the statements to be true as set forth. We further certify that he is unable, on account of REAL PHYSICAL DISABILITY, to make a living for himself. /s/ P. J. Kelly."
July 22, 1895	Received as Inmate #147 at the Confederate Soldier's Home, Hermitage, Tennessee.
March 14, 1896	Dismissed from Soldier's Home.
October 11, 1906	Reinstated at the Confederate Soldier's Home. Remained a resident until he died.
February 5, 1916	Soldier's Application for Pension. Signed "X" "His Mark" by John Mahoney on February 5, 1916. Application states that he has never been married, occupation laborer, born in Limerick, Ireland. Enlisted "May 1861 Co. H, 2 Tenn. Inf., and after being wounded joined 21 Ala. Inf." Served in the battles of Belmont and Shiloh. "Shot in the foot at Belmont and in the hand at Shiloh." He was incapacitated by his wounds "only a few months in each case." Captured August 8, 1864 at Fort Gaines, Ala. "Released from Elmyra, N.Y. May 29, 65." He denied taking the oath of allegiance to the United States. Claimed to be a resident of Tennessee "Since after the war." "Been in Soldiers' Home since 1895." His medical condition was listed as "Arterio sclerosis, vericos veins of lower extremities, vertigo & general disability from old age."
March 24, 1916	Pension Application filed, No 14,936 assigned to application.
March 25, 1916	Letter from Tennessee Board of Pension Examiners, W. H. Coley, President, to Gen. Geo. Andrews, Adjutant General, Washington, D. C., requesting the records of John Mahoney.
March 30, 1916	Letter from The Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, to the President, Tennessee Board of Pension Examiners, Nashville. Verifies John Mahoney's service in Co. H, 2nd (Walker's) Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A., enlisted Apr. 26, 1861, to April 30, 1862; and in Co. B, 21st Alabama Infantry, C.S.A. Sept. 10, 1862, captured

	at Fort Gaines, August 8, 1864, released from Elmira, New York, on May 19, 1865 upon taking the oath of allegiance.
Undated	The Pension Application is stamped "REJECTED." This may have been because he was a resident of the Soldier's Home or that he had taken the oath of allegiance.
March 21, 1917	"Jack Mahoney" died at 11:00 a.m. at the Confederate Soldiers' Home, Davidson County, Hermitage, Tennessee. Death certificate lists date of birth as August 14, 1835, Limerick, Ireland. Age 81 (83) years, 7 months and 7 days. Occupation laborer, parents unknown to informant, P. H. Dews (sp.), Hermitage Tenn. He is listed as a widower, but this is contrary to all other information. Cause of death "Suspicious case of Pellagra so possible ? by County Health Officer. W. A. Hargis (sp.), M.D." Attended deceased from 1906 until death. Last saw him alive on March 20, 1917. Undertaker listed as Soldiers' Home.
March 22, 1917	Buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery, a Catholic cemetery. Now listed as Calvary Cemetery, 1001 Lebanon Road, Nashville, TN 37210-2913, telephone 615-256-4590. He is buried in a single grave in Section A. Raleigh Armstrong remembered that the family received a telegram as to Uncle Jack's death and a request to wire money for the burial. The money was sent.
December 1970	Uncle Raleigh asked me to visit Uncle Jack's grave if I could locate it.
February 2007	Thomas P. and Thomas R. Armstrong visit Uncle Jack's unmarked grave. TGA had e-mailed cemetery and they had put up a small temporary marker.
2013	A stone is placed on Uncle Jack's grave.
August 2018	Thomas G. Armstrong visits Uncle Jack's grave — as he promised his Uncle Raleigh Armstrong in December 1970.

Ship Island

Located 95 miles from the mouth of the Mississippi, 65 miles from New Orleans, and 50 miles from Mobile, Ship Island served as a prison for Confederate POWs. The island had "an abundant supply of water… pure water filtered through the clean white sand." The island was the base of operations for the Union fleet against New Orleans and Mobile.

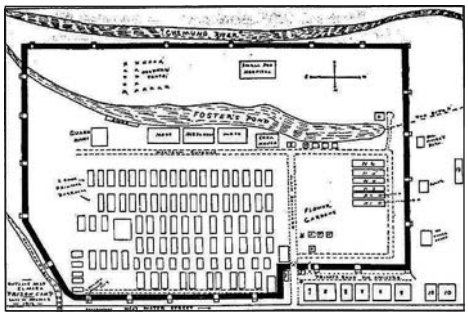


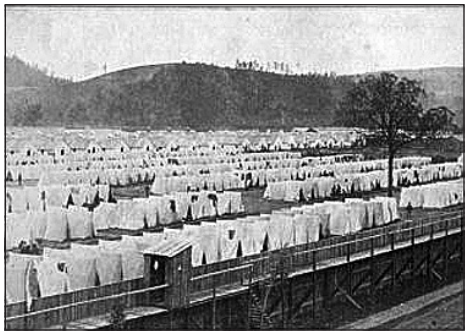
Ship Island, circa 1864

On November 5, 1864, Jack Mahoney, posing as William Welch, was shipped north to Fort Columbus in New York Harbor. After eleven days at sea, he arrived on November 16. His next stop was a POW camp at Elmira, New York. The next six months of John Mahoney's life are documented by only a few entries in the available records.

Elmira Prison

Uncle Jack arrived at Elmira on November 19, 1864. It was the deadliest Union POW camp. It was built to house 5,000 men. Of the 9,441 prisoners sent to Elmira, 2,933 died. The death percentage was 31.01%. The POWs called it "Hellmira." (Andersonville, Georgia, the infamous Southern POW camp was built to house 10,000 and received 32,899. The deaths numbered 12,919. This was 39.27% of those held prisoner).





Map and photo of Prisoner of War Camp at Elmira, NY, 1865

Uncle Jack revealed his true identity to the authorities at Elmira on November 30, 1864. This entry finally assured me that this John Mahoney was my Uncle Jack. He wanted to take the oath of allegiance and be released, stating that he desired to go to Stillwater, Minn. The Camp Commander was not persuaded. Uncle Jack remained at Elmira for the duration of the war.

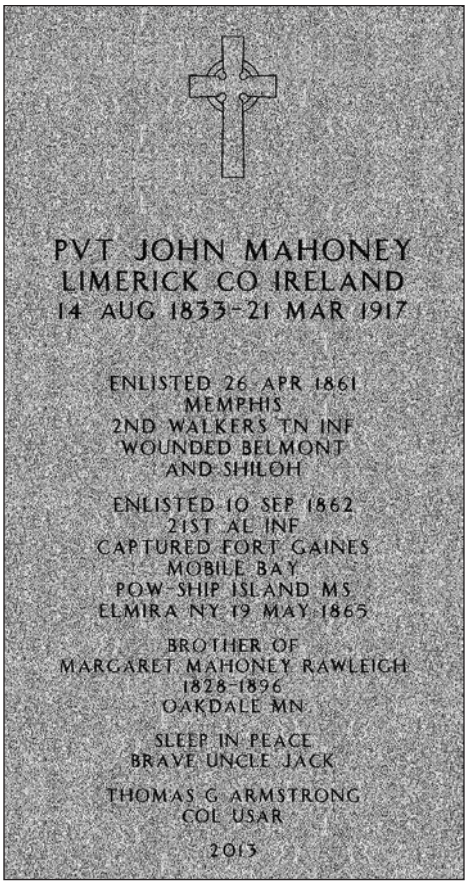
The real William Welch, whose records appear as John Mahoney, was still on Ship Island. On January 4, 1865, he was exchanged under the name of John Mahoney. Private Welch has no other entries in his record. Based upon Welch's poor health and the conditions at Elmira, the identity switch probably saved his life.

After the War

On May 19, 1865, Uncle Jack took the oath of allegiance to the United States. He was released, given a rail pass and some money. His home was listed as Huntsville, Alabama. His description was "complexion Light; hair Light; eyes blue; height 5 ft. 8 in." In a 1916 pension application, he claimed he resided in Tennessee since the end of the war, but he was in Minnesota in 1875.

What little I know about John Mahoney after the war comes from the Soldiers' Home records. He entered there for a second and final time on October 11, 1906. On February 5, 1916, he applied for a pension from the State of Tennessee and claimed to have resided at the Hermitage Soldiers' Home since 1895 when he first went there, but the records show he was absent from March 1896 to October 1906.

The pension application was stamped REJECTED with no reason given. The form asked, "Did you take the oath of allegiance to the United States Government?" Uncle Jack answered "No" but a letter from the War Department dated March 30, 1916, informed the Tennessee Board of Pension that John Mahoney took the oath of allegiance on May 19, 1865. This letter also verified his service in the 2nd Tennessee and 21st Alabama.



Gravestone purchased by author nearly 100 years after John Mahoney's death to honor his ancestor.

Honoring a Veteran

John Mahoney died on March 21, 1917. A telegram was sent to his nephews and nieces in Oakdale (Minnesota) Township. Uncle Raleigh was 14 years old and remembered the telegram requesting money to bury Uncle Jack. I know now that he could have been laid to rest in the cemetery at the Soldiers' Home at no expense, but he wanted a Catholic cemetery. Uncle Jack was buried on March 22, 1917, at Calvary Cemetery. That evening the *Nashville Banner*, on the front page, noted his funeral and detailed his "thrilling war record." My son, Tom, on the way to Florida in 2007, was the first family member to visit the cemetery.

Uncle Jack was a rebel; he fought for an unworthy cause, against the Army in which I later served, and against the Republic I have sworn to defend. But I could not leave a great-uncle, and fellow soldier, in an unmarked grave. In 2013, I purchased a gravestone detailing his life. In 2018, I finally visited Uncle Jack's grave as I had promised my Uncle Raleigh 48 years earlier. John Mahoney is not forgotten. May he rest in peace.

Resources and Readings

Folmar, John Kent. *From That Terrible Field: Civil War Letters of James M. Williams, Twenty-first Alabama Infantry Volunteers*.

Gleeson, Ed. *Erin Go Gray! an Irish rebel trilogy.*

Harper's *Pictorial History of the Civil War*, May 1866. (periodical)

Speer, Lonnie R. *Portals to Hell: Military Prisons of the Civil War*.

Tennessee. Civil War Centennial Commission. *Tennesseans in the Civil War: a military history of the Confederate and Union units with available rosters of personnel.*

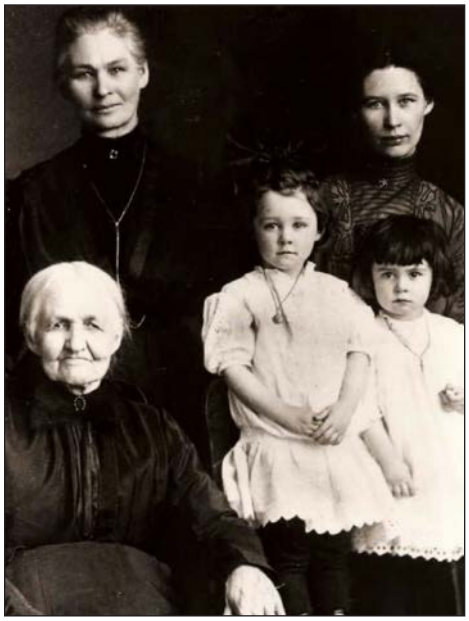
Tom Armstrong is a retired Colonel JAG, USAR, 1967 to 1998, and a retired Minnesota District Judge, first elected in 1980. The Armstrongs left County Tipperary in 1848, and in 1853 purchased a farm in Minnesota. Tom enjoys working on the family farm and researching family history.



Maternal Haplotype Study Yields a Viking Surprise

by David L. Trudeau, MD

I have a copy of a four-generation portrait taken of my matrilineal line. Comparing this portrait to another dated August 11, 1912, it appears to be from about the same date. Seated are my mother's sisters, Eileen Curry Connelly Searle (1907-1999) and Eleanor Curry Crossen (1908-2000). These girls are on the lap of their mother Mame (Mary Ellen) McDonnell Curry (1884-1939.) Standing on the left is Mame's mother, Ellen Doyle McDonnell (1857-1932). Seated is Ellen's mother Mary Byrne Doyle (1827-1916.) My mother, Constance Jean Curry Trudeau (1917-2009), had not yet been born at the time of this photo.



Matrilineal Four Generation Portrait of Author's Family

The Matrilineal Pedigree

My mother, Constance Jean Curry Trudeau, was born 19 June 1917 to Shirley Douglas Curry and Mary Ellen (Mame) McDonell in South St. Paul, Dakota, Minnesota, USA.[1]

Mary Ellen McDonnell was born to Michael McDonnell and Ellen Doyle 30 April 1884 in Warsaw Twp, Goodhue, Minnesota, USA.[2]

Ellen Doyle was born to Patrick Doyle and Mary Byrne (Burns) 21 September 1857 at St. Marys, Ontario, Canada; baptism registered at Stratford, Ontario, 8 Nov 1857.[3]

Mary Byrne was born to James Byrne and Sara (Sally) Rigney, baptized 20 Nov 1827 at Borris, Carlow, Ireland (Catholic Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin).[4] The family resided in the rural district of Rosdillig as indicated on the baptismal entry.

Sara Rigney is also named as the mother of Mary Byrne on her record of marriage to Patrick Doyle at Ingersol, Ontario, 30 January 1853,[5] and on her Wisconsin Death Certificate.[6]

In hopes of getting this line back further, I had an mtDNA test.

Mitochondrial DNA

The nucleus of a living cell contains chromosomes, which have been used to study genetic relationships through widely available chromosomal DNA tests. Chromosomes have the hereditable genetic material that comes from both parents and can be traced back with decreasing reliability over several generations. The 23 pairs of chromosomes recombine in a somewhat random order with each generation, with equal amounts of material from each parent. The Y chromosome, which determines male sex, is only passed from father to son and can be used to document patrilineal lines.

The cytoplasm of a cell is the stuff in the cell body and is passed on only from the mother, contained in the egg at the time of fertilization. Mitochondria are organelles in the cytoplasm of all living cells and provide the template for protein enzymes that are responsible for basic energy metabolism. Whereas chromosomal DNA mutates at a regular fairly predictable rate, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) has a very slow mutation rate and is stable over at least 20 generations.[7]

While broad mtDNA haplogroups can give information about very distant human migrations over five thousand years, mtDNA haplotype analysis gives more recent information about common maternal ancestry. mtDNA can be analyzed for variable regions that are known to show differences over hundreds of years. A complete sequence of the mtDNA genome is now able to be done at a reasonable price. Exact matches from the entire genome (a genetic difference of 0) are likely descendants from a common mother in the past 20 generations, or 500 years, with 95% confidence.

Using Sara Rigney, thought to be born in Borris, Carlow, Ireland, in about 1800 as my most distantly known direct maternal ancestor, I took the plunge at *FamilyTreeDNA* (FTDNA). I had a complete mtDNA analysis done. I check it from time to time to see who I match, that is to say, who else has descendency from a 500-year common maternal ancestor. Not as many people take this $159 test than take the more informative and cheaper autosomal DNA test. As far as I know, FTDNA is the only company that supports full mtDNA along with associated special interest groups and

projects. By way of disclosure, I have no relationship of any kind with FTDNA or any other DNA company. I took the test in hopes of linking back to maternal lines in Ireland before the 19th century, but what I found surprised me.

The Results

Out of some thousands of individuals who have had complete mtDNA tests at FTDNA, I have exact matches with seventeen. Not all of those tested provide information about their earliest known maternal ancestor; of my exact matches I saw the following names and dates and locations provided:

Marit Torbjörnsdotter, b1684 Fryksände, d after 1746 (Sweden)

Margareta Eriksdotter, b.1702 Västerlöfsta (C) (Sweden)

Cherstin Olofsdotter, b. 1717 (Sweden)

Rikmor Olofsdotter, b. 1575 (Sweden)

Britta Larsdotter, b. 1693 and d. 1743 (Sweden)

Ingeborg Olsdatter Aunet, 1768-1850 Snillfjord TRL (Norway)

Petra Jensdatter, b 1832 Våler HED (Norway)

Marit Persdotter, b. 1751 and d. 1812 (Sweden)

In fact, where origin information was provided, I had six matches from Sweden, two from Norway, two from England and one from Ireland. (Six of the exact matches had no origin or name information.) I was surprised, because I expected to see Irish rather than Scandinavian surnames linked to Sally Rigney's distant maternal ancestors.

Interpretation

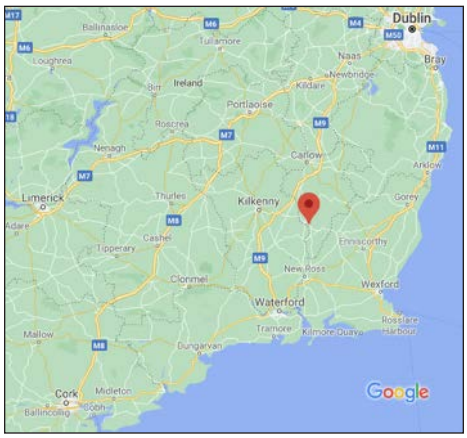
It is apparent that Sara Rigney is matrilineally related to eight Scandinavian women who lived within a time span of about five generations of her, and that these relationships suggest a common matrilineal ancestor within 500 years. This would place the time of this common ancestor somewhere around 1100 to 1300 AD. It is possible that Sara is a matrilineal descendant of a Viking woman settled in Ireland during the 9-11 century incursions. It is also possible that an Irish Celtic woman went to Scandinavia during this time and established a matrilineal lineage there.

While there has been a fair amount of study of Y and autosomal DNA[8] linking Norse-Gael heritage, I could find no research on mtDNA. As more people get mtDNA done, the databases will grow. There are 3092 members of the Irish mtDNA study project at FTDNA who have had tests done.[9] I have yet to find an identical link with any of them, but I am confident one will emerge. Looking at the chat page at Irish mtDNA, I am not the only one surprised with a Viking maternal haplotype.



Viking Settlements in South East Ireland in 1300

It seems likely that my 3rd great-grandmother, Sara Rigney, is distantly descended from a Norse-Gael woman. See *Wikipedia* article[10] for details of the history of Viking settlements in Ireland. The map from that article shows the dominant Viking settlements in Ireland in the 12th-14th centuries were located in Dublin, Wexford, Waterford, Cork and Limerick. An excerpt from a *Google* map shows the home (red pin) of the James Byrne/Sara Rigney family in 1827. The cities of Waterford and Wexford form a 50 km triangle with the village of Borris[11] (An Bhuiríos, formerly Buirgheas Ó nDróna), a good day's walk.



Location of Borris Today

Conclusion

I used to joke that a recently discovered Scandinavian rune stone was translated as "for a good time raid the coast of Ireland." If so, the advice was apparently not gender specific. Genetic studies may support that Viking women populated Ireland as well.[12]

Endnotes

[1] Web: Minnesota, Birth Index, 1900-1934 *Ancestry.com*

[2] Minnesota, Births and Christenings Index, 1840-1980 *Ancestry.com*

[3] Ontario, Canada, Roman Catholic Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1760-1923. *Ancestry.com*

[4] Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915. *Ancestry.com*

[5] Ontario, Canada, Roman Catholic Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1760-1923 *Ancestry.com*

[6] Vol. 7 of Death, page 268 State of Wisconsin Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

[7] https://learn.familytreedna.com/dna-basics/mtdna/

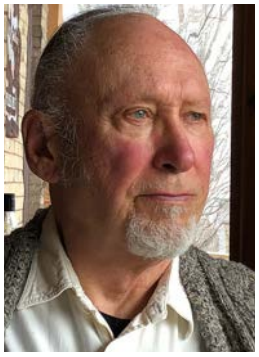
[8] http://www.khazaria.com/genetics/irish.html

[9] https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/ireland-mt-dna/about

[10] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norse–Gaels

[11] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borris,_County_Carlow

[12] Living in Wisconsin, I can now explain to my Packer friends that I root for the "Vikes" because I was born that way, however disappointing that experience often is.



David Trudeau is a retired physician who enjoys genealogy. He has published several articles in La Charpente, *the journal of Association Truteau Amerique, as well as a book about his family origins in Quebec. He has presented a Minnesota Genealogical Society Canadian Interest Group workshop "Finding Gabriel" on human remains and ancestry links; he will do another presentation this fall on Ontario Land Records, "Finding the Hollow."*

Changing Member Classification When Renewing

In early 2020, the IGSI Board decided to encourage electronic delivery of our journal *The Septs* through promotion of electronic memberships. Electronic memberships, priced $5 lower than general memberships, receive all the benefits of General IGSI membership, except they have online-only access to *The Septs*.

Would you like to switch from a General membership to Electronic? You could save $5 and reduce your stack of paper journals.

IGSI's membership system at this time does not support an easy change between membership types; however, our Membership chair, Kay Swanson, will be happy to assist you.

Instead of **renewing** as a General member, just join as an Electronic member. Let Kay know that you have made the change:

- If you make the change online, follow up your "Join" registration by sending an email to membership@irishgenealogical.org.
- If you make the change via paper mail and pay by check, enclose a note that you are changing classification.

Your anniversary date on your Electronic membership will be updated to match that of your previous membership.

The same holds true if you are changing to or from a Dual Membership. Send Kay Swanson a note to ensure the change is made.

Please note: When you create a new membership, you will need to re-enter your Surname Interests so please make note of them before your old membership record expires.

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Last year was a tough year for many people and organizations. Yet many IGSI members expressed support for Society through financial donations. We would like to offer thanks and acknowledge the 100+ members who donated a total of more than $7800 to the Society in 2020. Whether it was a few extra dollars added to a membership renewal or a larger amount — thank you for your generous support!

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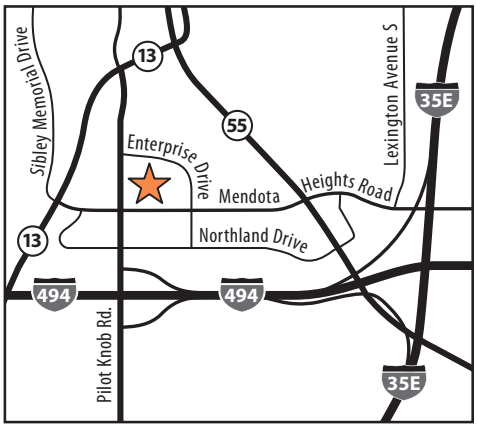
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During severe weather, or if traveling a long distance, please call before coming to the library to check if open.

The library is a self-supporting research library staffed by volunteers. If you are a member of the IGSI and are coming from out of town, contact Librarian@IrishGenealogical.org so we can have an Irish researcher available to meet you.

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JULY (IÚIL) 2021 $10.00

Place



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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Library Service Expanding

The COVID restrictions at the Hoffman Research Library in Mendota Heights were loosened in June 2021.

- Fully vaccinated persons are no longer required to wear masks in the building.
- Persons who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear a mask.
- Social distancing rules within the building are eliminated.

In June, the Hoffman Research Library expanded its hours of service:

Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All researchers — member or not — are now welcome at the Hoffman Library.

Thanks to everyone for your patience and cooperation during the past year. It is much appreciated! We hope that full service hours will be restored before the end of summer.

Stop by the library on the second Saturday of July for Irish research help — and on every "Second Saturday" starting in September. We hope to see you at the Minnesota Irish Fair on the second Saturday of August.

JULY 10, 2021
SEPTEMBER 11, 2021
OCTOBER 9, 2021
NOVEMBER 13, 2021
DECEMBER 11, 2021
JANUARY 9, 2022
FEBRUARY 12, 2022
MARCH 12, 2022

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Printed in the US.

The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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Layout/Design	Megan McLean	

The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the 28th of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editor at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc.

2021

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Write for *The Septs*

Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 — 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2021 | October | Genealogical Education

Why, where and how to learn to become a better genealogist: presentations, conferences, workshops, books, Internet sites, *FamilySearch* lectures and wiki.
Deadline for articles: August 28, 2021.

2022 | January | 1922 / 2022

Irish Independence, The Irish Civil War, the Four Courts fire: these events from 100 years ago set an imprint on Irish history, politics and families. Historical articles, family stories, current implications.
Deadline for articles: November 28, 2021.

2022 | April | Munster Province

Researching in the Irish counties of Clare, Tipperary, Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Kerry; stories about finding family in Munster locales.
Deadline for articles: February 28, 2022.

2022 | July | Online Books

Finding and using online sites for accessing research publications, e.g., NUCMC, InternetArchive, GoogleBooks, WorldCat, etc.
Deadline for articles: May 28, 2022.

Cover Photo: *Old style road signs near Mullagh, County Clare, Ireland. Pointing toward Mullagh, Milltown Malbay and Kilmihil.* Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Netherlands license. Author: Night of the Big Wind.

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Looking Forward, Opening Doors

by Ann Eccles

How has your life changed in the last few months?

For most of us it's been a positive experience — perhaps even a reward for getting vaccinated. For me, it's been a feeling not unlike "school's out for the summer" of years ago when the burdens of tests and worries about grades were lifted. Yes, there are times and places to still wear a mask and some times that I may choose to do that.

In the last month or so, I've gotten together with friends in a restaurant, returned inside a church for Sunday worship, and done some research in a library (mask required in that library). There have been many changes and adaptations of services over the last year — restaurant patio dining (even here in Minnesota and some during winter); livestreamed church services and cultural programs; virtual visits with doctors. IGSI switched to monthly webinars rather than in-person classes and reached a larger audience. There have been benefits as we evaluate what and why we do something.

In early June, the genealogy library in Mendota Heights opened to full service two days a week. See page 58 for latest information on library hours and watch the website for updates.

Volunteer Opportunities

Minnesota Irish Fair — August 13-15

The Minnesota Irish Fair recently announced that "Shenanigans Resume" and plan a full live-access event the weekend of August 13-15 on Harriet Island — though there will now be a fee for the event. Come visit the Fair and stop by the IGSI table. We'll be located close to the Welcome booth. Or consider signing on to help at our table as a volunteer on Saturday or Sunday! (More information on page 80.)

Surnames and Library Support

You may have looked at the Surname List that can be found on the IGSI website or even added your family names to it.

We are looking for one or two volunteers to edit the list to increase its research usefulness. We have realized that a few individuals who know the specific area of origin within a county have entered — e.g., Kinsale, County Cork — in a space meant to include only the county. If another member is seeking to sort the list (alphabetically by county), this entry will appear among the K's and not with surnames from County Cork.

This project can be done from home and will have training/direction provided. If interested, contact either the webeditor or volunteer coordinator. We'd like to start this project in the next few months.

We're also looking for a couple of volunteers to help in the library in Mendota Heights — either as a research volunteer or with a project to re-catalog the collection to Dewey classification. Again, training and support will be provided. Contact the president for more information.

Ireland Tour in 2022

The Board recently approved sponsoring a trip to Ireland for late 2022; it's in the planning stages right now. While offering it as an introductory experience to Ireland, we hope to include a bit of time for a visit to a research site in Dublin and/or in Belfast. As more information is available, we'll post it to the website and keep members informed.

As I return to projects and activities put on hold for 18 months, I've noticed a change in my attitude and priorities for some of them. Perhaps you have also. With IGSI, a small team is reviewing the research pages of the website for the addition of new material. A few months ago, the Board met to revision Society activities and priorities given that the pandemic pushed us into changing service provisions in 2020.

As we grow as a Society, change, create and improve, we need to better promote our organization. We'll continue to seek a balance and focus in this post-pandemic world. Please keep strong with Irish genealogy and IGSI.



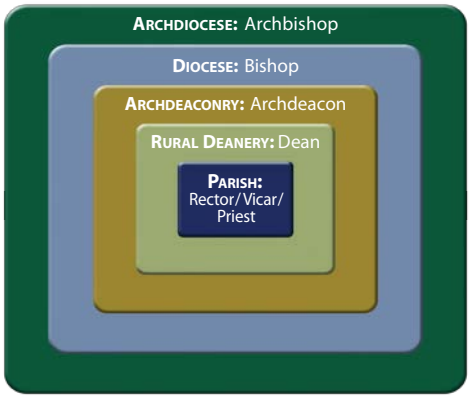
Ann Eccles is a retired librarian who has re-focused her research skills to family history and Irish genealogy. She has several Irish ancestral lines to trace as both of her parents descended from Irish families. Ann currently serves as IGSI President and continues to serve as the editor of The Septs.

Location, Location, Location

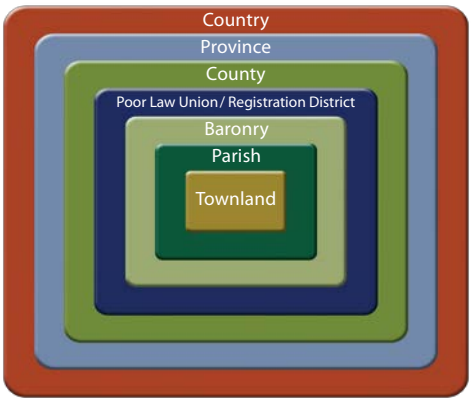
by Gigi Hickey

Location is key to genealogical research. At the heart of most Irish family history inquiries is a desire to identify the townland where an ancestor lived. The theme for this issue, Irish Jurisdictions, may help you reach that goal.

The pictographs below clearly explain Irish civil and church jurisdictions. "A picture is worth a thousand words." One can more easily understand the relationships of various entities by examining the layers of boxes within boxes.



Ireland Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions



Ireland Civil Jurisdictions

If you're reading this column via the digital version of *The Septs*, we suspect you're enjoying the colorful imagery not visible in a printed black-and-white journal. We experimented with the April 2021 issue by providing a full-color electronic issue. Readers shared positive feedback, prompting us to continue offering this enhancement. We encourage all IGSI members who receive *The Septs* by snail-mail to take a look at the digital version. You may find the colored graphics, combined with earlier delivery by email and annual savings of $5, sufficiently appealing to consider converting to an Electronic Membership.

We are fortunate in this issue to publish articles from several experts on jurisdiction aids such as maps, gazetteers and place name guides. Brian Mitchell authored the indispensable book for Irish research, *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*, 2nd Edition. He has kindly allowed us to reproduce the chapter on "Irish Administrative Divisions and Placenames" from his latest book, *New Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy*, published in 2020.

Tom Rice, longtime Managing Editor of *The Septs*, returns to this issue to share a bevy of resources for Irish place research. His advice may give you new ideas about how to find locations and place them properly within the hierarchy of jurisdiction. You'll find the live links in Tom's article to be particularly handy in the digital version of the journal..

In her article, Pamela Guye Holland, our TIARA friend and a Celtic Connections Conference presenter, demonstrates how to find and use the correct jurisdiction when conducting Irish research. She provides a helpful example of jurisdictions from her Holland family history research in County Cork, complete with (colorful) maps.

Rounding out our July issue are other articles on multiple topics of interest. Lois Mackin's column again complements the journal's quarterly theme, this time with tips tying DNA and place. IGSI member Sharon Martin shares three old letters found in a family bible which helped locate her husband's relatives in Ireland. IGSI President Ann Eccles writes about her persistent search for an ancestor known to be living in Ireland at the time but not listed in Griffith's Valuation.

We welcome member-written stories and will include in *The Septs* as space allows, whether or not related to the issue's theme.



Gigi Hickey has twice served on the IGSI board and, since 2011, as IGSI blog editor. After co-chairing the Celtic Connections Conference 2020, she became one of the co-Managing Editors of The Septs. *In addition to genealogy research, she enjoys quilting and piano-duets and her DAR chapter.*

Irish Administrative Divisions and Placenames

by Brian Mitchell

The key to unlocking Irish family history lies in knowing your ancestor's place of origin.

From a family historian's perspective, the most effective way to view Ireland is as a country that is subdivided into counties, which in turn are subdivided into parishes, and which in turn are subdivided into townlands. There are 32 counties; 2,508 civil parishes; and 60,642 townlands in Ireland.

Realistic genealogical research, in the absence of indexes and databases, generally requires knowledge of the parish in which your ancestor lived. Church of Ireland parishes normally conform to the civil parish, though Roman Catholic parishes do not, as they are generally larger. The Roman Catholic Church, owing to the Reformation of the sixteenth century, had to adapt itself to a new structure centred on towns and villages. The Presbyterian Church doesn't have a parish structure, with the congregations generally forming where there was sufficient demand from local Presbyterian families.

Researchers can identify Ireland's network of civil parishes at <www.johngrenham.com/places/civil_index.php> and Roman Catholic parishes at <www.johngrenham.com/places/rcmap_index.php> by selecting a county of interest on the displayed map of Ireland.

By using *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland* (2nd edition, Brian Mitchell, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 2002) civil parish locations can be translated into Church of Ireland parishes, Roman Catholic parishes and Presbyterian Congregations (in province of Ulster). Presbyterian congregations in Ireland are very much associated with the nine counties of the northern province of Ulster.

A driving force among most people tracing their family history is to identify an ancestral home; to stand on land where the family house would have stood centuries ago. In Ireland this, in effect, means identifying the townland your ancestor lived in.

The single most important tool in identifying Irish place names is the *Townland Index*, full title *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland* (Alexander Thom, Dublin, 1861; reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1984). It is a record of townland names, their size and location — by county, barony, civil parish, poor law union and 1st edition Ordnance Survey map number — as recorded in the 1851 census and as they have been officially spelt and designated ever since.

You can also search the *Townland Index* online, together with street listings from Dublin, Cork and Belfast cities, to pinpoint county, civil parish and poor law union locations for more than 65,000 place names in Ireland, by using the "placename" search option at <www.johngrenham.com/places>.

Between 1829 and 1842 Ordnance Survey Ireland completed the first ever large-scale survey of an entire country. These maps were surveyed on a county basis. Hence, a record of townland names, shapes and sizes for all Ireland exist in these maps at a scale of six inches to one mile.

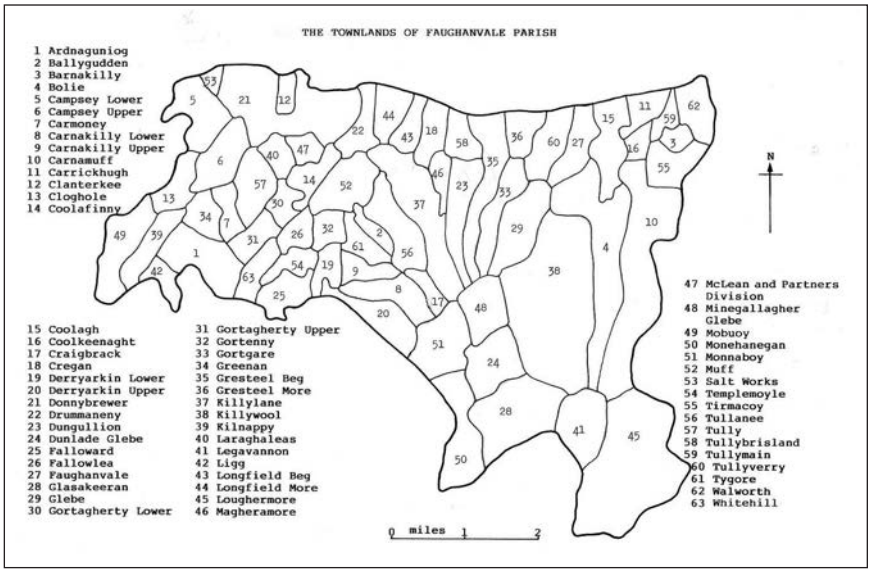
The Counties of Ireland



The Civil Parishes of County Derry



The Townlands of Faughanvale Parish, County Derry



Townlands vary greatly in area as their size was generally based on the fertility of the land. In Faughanvale parish, which contains 66 townlands, the fertile lowland townland of Muff is some 318 acres in size, while Killywool which extends into the Loughermore Hills contains 1,471 acres. The townland was loosely based on the ancient Irish land measure called the ballyboe, which means cow townland. As a ballyboe was based on the area that could support a fixed number of cattle, it is not surprising that their size varied depending on land quality.

The administrative divisions, shown in the table below, form the geographical basis for genealogical research. Records of value to the family historian were gathered by one or more of these divisions.

Table of Irish Administrative Divisions

Administrative Division	Description
PROVINCE	The largest geographical division. Ireland is divided into 4 provinces: Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster.
COUNTY	Ireland is divided into 32 counties. This division, begun in the 12th century, reflected the imposition of the English system of local government in Ireland. Their boundaries reflected the lordships of the major Gaelic families.
BARONY	This subdivision of a county is now an obsolete division, but in the 19th century it was widely used. Ireland was divided into 327 baronies which tended to reflect the holdings of Irish clans. Baronies and counties became established in the government land surveys of the 17th century.
PARISH	From the 17th century the so-called civil parish, based on the early Christian and medieval monastic and church settlements, was used extensively in various surveys. There are 2,508 civil parishes in Ireland. Most record sources, both civil and church, of value to family historians were compiled and recorded by parish. Ecclesiastical parishes were grouped into **dioceses**.
TOWNLAND	The smallest and most ancient land division in Ireland. Parishes were, in effect, subdivided into townlands, a few hundred acres in extent. There are 60,462 townlands in Ireland. In identifying a townland address you have effectively identified the ancestral home.
POOR LAW UNION	Districts, centred on a large market town, created in 1838 for the financial support of the poor. Ireland was originally divided into 130 Poor Law Unions. In 1898 the poor law union replaced the civil parish and barony as the basic unit of local government. Poor Law Unions were subdivided into 829 **Registration Districts** (to gather civil birth, marriage and death details) and 3,751 **District Electoral Divisions** (to gather census returns).
ESTATE OR MANOR	In 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, until they were finally broken up in the latter years of the 19th century under the Land Acts, the majority of the population of Ireland lived on large estates. The administration of these estates by landlords and their agents produced a large quantity of records, including maps, rentals, account books, leases, title deeds and surveys.
PROBATE DISTRICT	Created in 1858 for the purpose of proving wills. There were 12 probate districts in Ireland.

You can view modern, satellite, and historic maps — including 6-inch maps (1837–1842) and 25-inch maps (1888–1913) — of townlands of Ireland with Ordnance Survey of Ireland Map Viewer at <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html>.

For the townlands of Northern Ireland, you can view historic maps — including first edition (1832–1846), second edition (1846–1862), third edition (1900–1907), and fourth edition (1905–1957) Ordnance Survey maps — together with modern maps and aerial photographs with Public Record Office of Northern Ireland's Historical Maps viewer at <www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-proni-historical-maps-viewer>.

Irish Placenames

A database of administrative placenames (townlands, parishes, names of urban centres, etc.) for Ireland, in both Gaelic and English, can be searched in *The Placenames Database of Ireland* at <www.logainm.ie>.

At <www.placenamesni.org> you can identify the location, origin and meaning of over 30,000 placenames from all over Northern Ireland.

Inconsistency in spelling of placenames is well known to those who have conducted research into their Irish family history. An 'official' and standardised recording of townland names for all Ireland was established, by 1842, by the Ordnance Survey and published in the Townland Index and the maps of the Ordnance Survey.

Place names, originally in Gaelic, were anglicised from the 17th century by settlers with little knowledge of the Irish language. This resulted in a number of different spellings of the same place name. For example, in Clondermot parish, County Derry, the townland which was standardised as Coolkeeagh in the Townland Index and the maps of the Ordnance Survey was recorded as Killkeeraugh in the 1831 census and as Culkeeragh in the Tithe Book of 1834.

On the east bank of the River Faughan in Faughanvale parish, County Derry, there is an area that prior to the 17th century Plantation of Ulster was called by Irish-speaking inhabitants as *Camsan*, meaning 'the winding of a river'. It was anglicised as Campson Lower and Campson Upper by 17th century surveyors; and, in the 1830s, it was described as Campsie Lower and Campsie Upper (arising from a popular myth of a connection to 1689 Siege of Derry hero, Lieutenant Henry Campsie), and then mapped 'officially' as Campsey Lower and Campsey Upper by Ordnance Survey engineers!

It must also be pointed out that there are many placenames in Ireland (some of which appear on maps and others that don't) which are even more localised than a townland name. In 1991 the Federation for Ulster Local Studies published *Every Stoney Acre has a name: a celebration of the Townland in Ulster*.

Seoirse Ó Dochartaigh, a Gaelic-speaking musician, artist and genealogist, has spent many years talking to local people (and listening to how they pronounce placenames) and viewing old maps to compile a comprehensive list of placenames and their derivation, by townland, in Inishowen, County Donegal. The results of this research were published in 2011 in *Inis Eoghain: The Island of Eoghan: The Place-Names of Inishowen*.

Seoirse, for example, identifies 452 placenames within the 30 'official' townlands and one island (Glashedy) that make up the civil parish of Clonmany! Gaelic society was highly complex and organised. English administrators from early 1600s divided Inishowen into a collection of quarterlands (which became the new townlands) and grouped them into parishes, ignoring larger Gaelic land units such as ballybetaghs or tuatha and smaller ones such as ballyboes and sessiaghs.

An examination of Valuation maps and 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps confirms that, in the mid-19th century, in many rural areas and, in particular, in marginal areas less suited to profitable farming, the population was still living in small village clusters that had not yet been broken up into the dispersed farm dwellings which dominate the Irish landscape today. Such clusters of farmhouses in 'farm towns' without church, shop or public house were called clachans. Historically, clachans were the nuclei of Ireland's network of townlands.

Seoirse records that older people in Clonmany still call a townland a quarterland and refer to the smaller clusters within it as the townlands. Bally (Baile), found in place names all over Ireland, derives from a cluster of houses; it doesn't refer to a town in the modern sense. Baile means a homestead or gathering of people. Clusters of houses, i.e., clachans, were part of ancient communal farming systems involving 3 or 4 generations of one family, and the land around the clusters was further subdivided into 3 or 4 ballyboes or grazing shares, sometimes called townlands. Ballyboes were sometimes further subdivided into 6 sessiaghs or plough shares.

It is clear from an examination of 19th century maps that the townland of Tullagh (711 acres in size) in Clonmany parish at one time consisted of 7 'townlands' with village settlements named as Ballynagolman, Drumshee, Fallbane, Hilltown, Kindrohid, Norway and Tullagh. Prior to the breakup of these clachans into dispersed farms, residents of Norway, for example, would have considered Norway as their 'townland' not Tullagh.

Seoirse records that Norway is derived from Gaelic *An Fharaire*, meaning the stony shore. The fact that Norway is named in first edition Ordnance Survey map (completed by 1842) dispels a lovely story I was once told about the origin of this placename: in the 1850s a Norwegian ship was wrecked off Tullagh Point and some of the crew settled here, hence that part of townland of Tullagh became known as Norway!

If you can't find an Irish placename you are looking for, there are two major reasons for this:

1. The placename you seek is spelt differently to the 'official' spelling. It is only in comparatively recent times, i.e., from mid-19th century, that attempts have been made to standardise the spelling of Irish placenames.

2. Although the townland is the smallest and most ancient of Irish land divisions — there are 60,462 townlands in Ireland — and is effectively equated with identification of the ancestral home, it is quite possible that the placename you seek is even more localised than a townland name.

We thank Brian Mitchell for permission to include this chapter from his latest book, New Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy, *Genealogical Publishing Co., 2020.*



Brian Mitchell has been involved in local, family and emigration research in Derry and North West Ireland since 1982. The database whose construction he supervised, containing one million records (dating 1628-1930) extracted from major civil and church registers of County Derry, can be accessed at www.derry.rootsireland.ie.

Brian is a Member of Accredited Genealogists Ireland (MAGI) and the author of a number of Irish genealogy reference books. As genealogist with Derry City and Strabane District Council he provides free genealogy advisory service by email at genealogy@derrystrabane.com to anyone tracing roots in North West Ireland.

Beyond 2022 — A Digital Research Project

June 30, 2022, marks the centenary of the terrible explosion and fire at the Four Courts, Dublin, which destroyed the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI) and, with it, seven centuries of Ireland's collective memories. While incomparable with the loss of human life, the destruction of the Record Treasury at the PROI was one of the great tragedies of the Irish Civil War.

Beyond 2022 is an all-island and international collaboration to digitally reconstruct the Public Records Office of Ireland building and its collections as they were on the morning of 30 June 1922. The five major archival partners are Trinity College Dublin, The National Archives (UK), National Archives of Ireland, the Public Record Office of Ireland and the Irish Manuscripts Commission. They are working together with more than 40 other participating institutions in Ireland, Britain and the USA to launch a Virtual Record Treasury for Irish history.

The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland will be an open-access resource, freely available online to all those interested in Irish history at home and abroad. It will launch on the centenary of the Four Courts blaze next year. You can learn more about this project at their website <beyond2022.ie>.

Resources for Irish Place Research

by Tom Rice, CG

Place in all of its aspects is central to genealogy. Those aspects include finding out where a place is located, what it is or was called, and its physical, economic and social characteristics. This article will focus on resources available to the Irish genealogist to assist in learning more about the first two of these place issues — location and name.

The issue of location has two aspects the genealogist needs to be aware of:

- Where this place is in relation to other places and geographic features. This is best addressed through the use of maps.
- Setting the place in relation to the relevant jurisdictions – whether civil or religious. This jurisdiction aspect is best illustrated with an example: the birthplace of Ellen Mary Kilkenny is in the Township of Kilcooly, found within the Civil Parish of Kilcooly, found within the Barony of Leitrim, within County Galway, within the Province of Connaught and governed by the Poor Law Union of Loughrea. From a church jurisdiction viewpoint, Kilcooly was located within the Roman Catholic Parish of Leitrim and Ballyduggan within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Clonfert. From the Church of Ireland perspective, it fell within that denomination's Diocese of Clonfert.

But how does one find this information online or on paper? And where does one find what this/these place(s) might have been called over time? Resources to find locations, place them properly within the hierarchy of jurisdiction, and learn of alternate names are what this article provides.

Dr. Eamon Lankford, director of the Cork and Kerry Placenames survey (1966), tells us, "Placenames identify us as a people, they give us a sense of history, culture, heritage … they tell us the way we viewed and used the landscape over the centuries … they are hugely important."

This article's focus is on learning about places in Ireland. The issue of what place to study — as in where did an ancestor come from — is a totally different issue. This article assumes the researcher already has identified the place(s) their ancestor(s) came from.

NOTE: This reference article delivers a long list of Irish place related resources to the reader. For the most benefit, have a browser open and visit each Internet site when described. If the site is of value to you, bookmark it so you can easily revisit it as you pursue your research.

Maps

There are few tools better than maps for dealing with locating places and tying them to the relevant jurisdiction. Irish genealogy is blessed with a resource that does that quite well, Brian Mitchell's *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*. It is a collection of several maps arranged by county. For each county it provides a map of the civil parishes within the county, a map showing the Baronies of that county, a map of Church of Ireland parishes which are generally concomitant with the civil parishes.. There is a map of the Poor Law Unions of each county showing what civil parishes fall within the county and a map of the county divided according to Roman Catholic parishes, noting the relevant Roman Catholic Dioceses that govern which parishes. For counties in Ulster, a map of each county is divided by civil parish and notes the location of Presbyterian Congregations.

Books

Based on the above, Brian Mitchell's *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland* is obviously the first and essential book relating to place that all Irish genealogists should own. Besides the maps, a key reason to have Mitchell's *Atlas* is its discussion of the Administrative Divisions of Ireland. Much of this same material can also be found online at *Administrative Divisions of Ireland* <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~fianna/guide/land-div.html>, a part of *Fianna's Guide to Irish Genealogy*. (Note: some of the links on this website may be outdated.)

If a genealogist prefers books to online databases, the next purchase would be the ponderous *General Alphabetical Index To The Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland, Based on the Census of Ireland for the Year 1851*. Alternatively, as explained below, this is available much more conveniently via at least two websites.

A 1904 index to townlands prepared to aid in processing the 1901 census is *General Topographical Index Consisting Of An Alphabetical Index Of The Townlands And Towns Of Ireland And Indices To The Parishes, Baronies, Poor Law Unions (Or Superintendent Registrar's Districts), District Electoral Divisions, Dispensary (Or Registrar's) Districts, County Districts, County Electoral Divisions, And Parliamentary Divisions Of Ireland*. It can be searched in several different ways at the Irish Genealogical Research Society's webpage, *Index of Townlands,*

1901 <https://www.irishancestors.ie/resources/unique-resources/index-of-townlands-1901/> or a PDF version can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/yfh5k4tz>.

Another index to townlands was prepared based on the 1871 census. Titled in part, *Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns of Ireland*…, it can be read online or downloaded from the *Internet Archive* <https://archive.org/details/op1250564-1001>. There does not seem to be an online searchable database available for this version.

While not available as an online searchable database, *Joyce's Irish Names of Places* in three tomes can be downloaded and read on a computer at *Ask about Ireland* <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/digital-book-collection/digital-books-by-subject/geography-of-ireland/joyce-irish-names-of-plac/>. This may be the definitive work as to the Gaelic origin of Irish place names. *Ask about Ireland* gives the author's purpose in compiling these books:

> The author's aim in writing the first two volumes of this book was to explain the phonetic laws under which Irish place names were anglicised. Volume three was a natural sequel and P.W. Joyce has endeavoured to include names which you would not find in the previous two volumes.
>
> The third volume of *The Origins and History of Irish Names of Places* has a vocabulary of the root words from which Irish place names are most generally formed. The book also contains a selection of better known names in the country, to help explain the root words.

Online Resources

IreAtlas. Basically, *IreAtlas* <http://www.thecore.com/seanruad/> is an online searchable database of townlands, Poor Law Unions, civil parishes and baronies by county as taken from the publication *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland Based on the Census of Ireland for the Year 1851*. You can search by any of the jurisdictions listed above. You can search by full placename or a portion of a name and sort by any of the search fields. It also has a tool for searching for all of the PLUs, baronies or civil parishes within a specific county. For each townland it provides the acres, county, barony, civil parish, PLU and province.

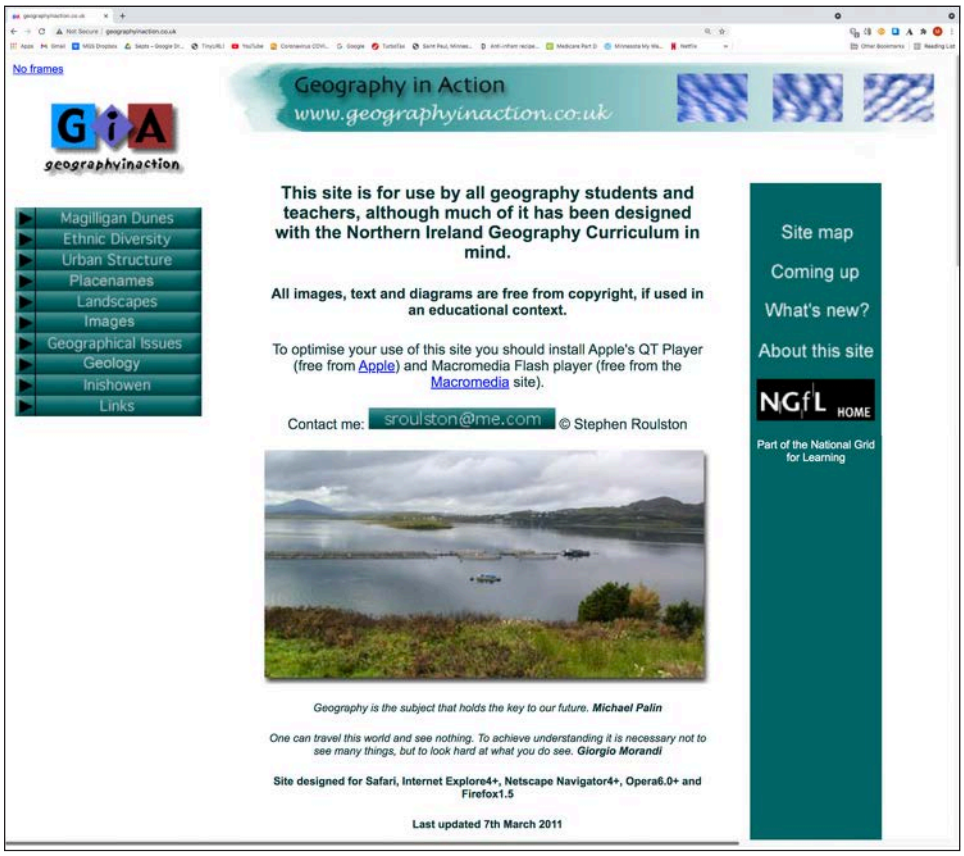
You must use the correct spelling in your placename search. If not certain, use the tools for searching for a portion of a placename whether at the beginning, middle or end of the term. Wildcards cannot be used, however.

Shane Wilson's Townland Index and Database – 1851. This is the *IreAtlas* on steroids. Wilson has added several improvements and features to better search the 1851 townland database. The key improvement is the ability to use wildcards for single or multiple letters in the name of a townland.

Index of Townlands, 1901. Because the spelling of townlands sometimes changed over the years, it is wise to search for the same place in different databases that relate to different time periods. This section of Shane Wilson's database <https://www.irishancestors.ie/resources/unique-resources/index-of-townlands-1901/>, is based on the *Index of Townlands* used as a basis for the 1901 census (see above description). This database allows for a general search for a townland with the ability to filter the search by county, barony or County District / Superintendent Registrar's District. There are also tools for searching within a specific civil parish or within a particular District Electoral Division.

Geography in Action. This is a portal to a vast amount of geographic information with a special focus on Northern Ireland <http://geographyinaction.co.uk>. The Placename tab expands on the topic of placenames in Ulster with tabs labeled Introduction to land units, Sources of Placenames, Research into Placenames, Some Placename Meanings and Threats to Placenames.

Logainm.ie. This is a key go-to place for research on the origins and variations of placenames in the Republic of Ireland. Logainm.ie is also known as the Placenames Database of Ireland developed by Dublin City University (DCU) and the Placenames Branch, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. It is available in Gaeilge and English. It covers almost all geographic and jurisdictional place names in the country from 61,118 townlands and 2,563 civil parishes to 17 reefs and 12 canals. Enter a placename and find filters that limit a search by such choices as county, category of feature or jurisdiction type. When identifying a specific place or feature, the site sets the placename within its hierarchy of jurisdictions, provides the Irish and English names along with their pronunciations, a glossary of parts of the name, scanned records showing name variations over the years, and a permanent link for return to the specific placename page.



Geography in Action *website*

used that can be searched either by title or abbreviation.

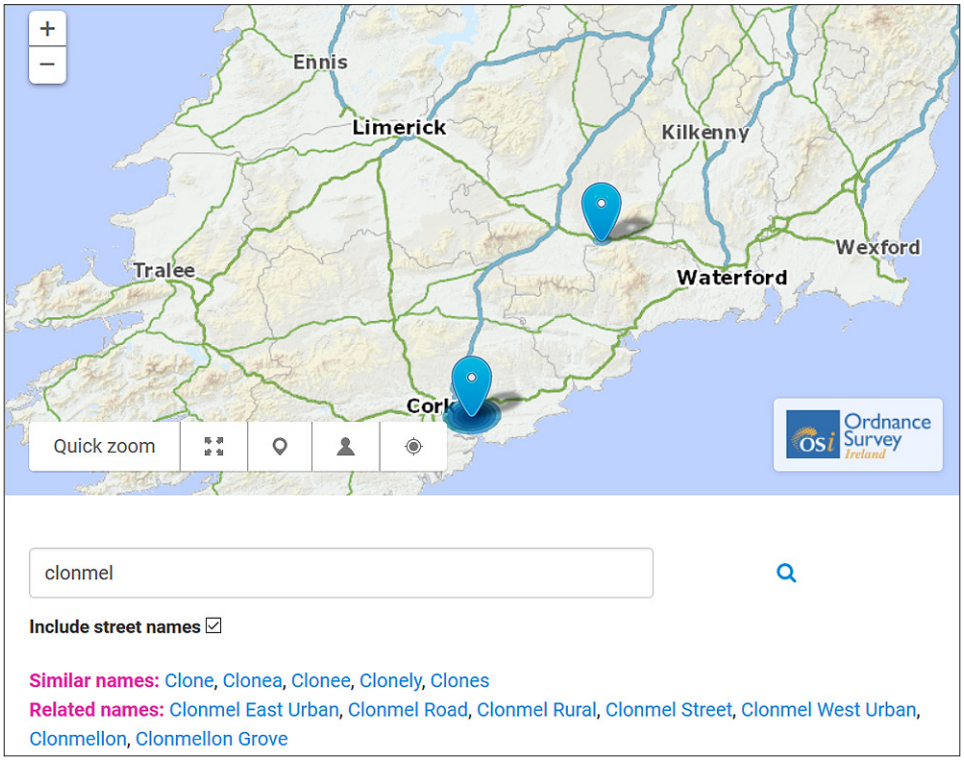
The educational resources section is rich with downloadable documents: a list of sources, an introduction of placenames, the influence of Christianity on placenames, the Anglicization of placenames, and so on — all in Gaelic.

Gazetteers of Ireland at FamilySearch.org. There are two key attractions on *FamilySearch* for the Irish genealogical researcher. First is the geography research lesson that explains both civil and ecclesiastical jurisdictions and a richness of links to online gazetteers. Second is the listings of trapdoor links to other geographically related websites that draws the inquisitive place-knowledge-seeking genealogist ever deeper into the subject. For example, clicking on a link labeled "Ireland Maps and Gazetteer" opens the *Irish Geneaography* website page titled

The maps are quite helpful. For a townland, it shows it in relation to surrounding townlands, all labeled and drawn out. For a civil parish, it shows the townlands within. The map feature allows for zooming in and out and for naming surrounding places to wherever you might place a marker.

Logainm.ie contains many placename tools and links to other resources. A glossary and distribution map feature show the island-wide distribution of the words more commonly found in Gaelic placenames.

Its resource links include toponymy resources, copies of the laws that established the legal names of places, a tool for translating places' names from Irish to English or vice versa, an archive of over 4,000 people pronouncing placenames, and a tool for locating sources



Logainm.ie *website*

just that, "Irish Maps & Gazetteers", which then leads on to key repositories of maps and their holdings either via their catalogs or online digitized map images.

It would be time well spent by and following the links on this webpage.

JohnGrenham.com. Put in a Civil Parish placename on his website and be brought to a page where there are links to that Civil Parish and also to its relevant Poor Law Union and Registrar's District. There are links to Help, Civil Parish maps, RC parish maps and Poor Law Union maps that contain the searched for civil parish. The Examples link shows the researcher how best to use wildcards.

Put in a placename found broadly across Ireland and be brought to a page that lists all of the occurrences of that name, arranged by county, showing the relevant civil parish, Poor Law Union and Registrar's District for that place within that county. These latter are all links to pages with a wealth of information about that place. Of course, you could limit your search at the start by using the County filter tools.

A Civil Parish page is rich with links to all sorts of information about that place: a list of townlands with sub-links to the relevant 1901 and 1911 census pages, a list of research sources for the parish, a list of adjoining parishes, a list of the most common surnames, a map showing the Civil parish within the County, a link to the Civil parish on *Townlands.ie*, and a link to a contemporary Google map.

Note: this is a combination free and pay site. You are allowed a small number of free searches per day but then you must pay to keep searching. There are provisions for subscriptions ranging from one day to a full year.

This site does not provide for searches for townlands.

Townlands.ie aka Irish Townlands. This is another geographical search tool to use when looking for Civil Parishes, Baronies, Electoral Divisions or Counties. A major difference is that the boundaries displayed here are based on modern input from the crowd-sourced OpenStreetMap project.

Put in a townland and it will show you occurrences of places with that name that are civil parishes, electoral divisions, or townlands. Each is a link to a webpage filled with information and added links about that place. There is, of course, a map. Other information is gathered under headings such as area, bordering townlands, sub-townlands, records search (links to the 1901 and 1911 census records for that place as well as the relevant Griffith's Valuation), and a link to the OpenStreetMap page for this site.

OpenStreetMap. This is a gem of a site for the Irish genealogy researcher <www.openstreetmap.org>. If you link to this from *Townlands.ie*, it presents a map of the townland under study noting nearby roads, all sorts of features, and the boundaries of neighboring townlands. It also provides a long list of tags, including a link back to *logainm.ie*.

Irish Geneaography. This in-depth collection of place-related information and links has a quirky cookbook theme. There is a vast amount of information here, or linked, if you can get past headings such as "Ingredients," "Recipes," "Cookbooks," etc. A real gem is the webpage on Townlands <https://www.irish-geneaography.com/townlands.html> where the author summarizes key websites for use in searching for, learning about and seeing maps relating to specific Townlands. For an in-depth discussion and links to sites relating to maps of Ireland, see their Irish Maps & Gazetteers page <www.irish-geneaography.com/irish-maps-gazetteers.html>.

Place names of Galway and the people who resided therein. While limited to County Galway places, this database <http://places.galwaylibrary.ie> is a stellar example of the vast amount of information that can be found relating to just one county in Ireland if all of the resources are tapped.

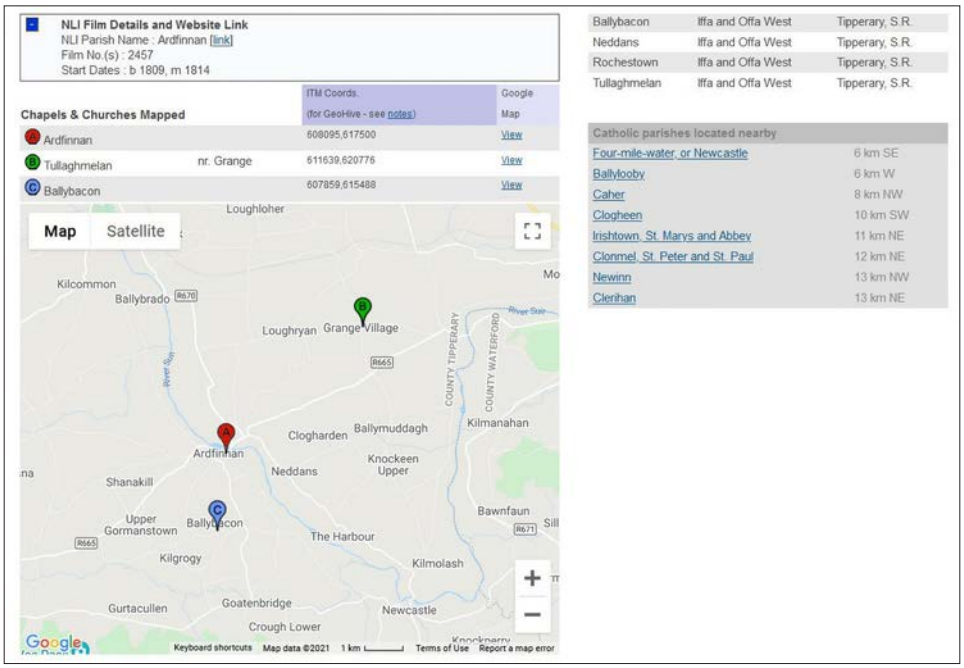
The depth of place information at this site extends to providing the original Ordnance Survey maps <places.galwaylibrary.ie/maps>, digital images of the Ordnance Survey Field Books <places.galwaylibrary.ie/field-books> and Donovan's Ordnance Survey Letters <places.galwaylibrary.ie/letters>. Scroll and click around to get full advantage of all that his here.

Irish maps c. 1558-1610. This page <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/irish-maps-c1558-c1610/> at The National Archives website is both a sort of help page and a search tool. Note that placenames are those used at the time of the map's creation. There is a charge for downloading these maps.

Catholic Parish and Church Search by Location. These pages are both to be found at Shane Wilson's website <www.swilson.info>. The Church Search by Location allows the researcher to place a map marker near the place where they are looking for the nearby Catholic church. The map will then display markers and the names of neighboring Catholic churches. The search can be limited to a distance of 10, 20 or 30 kilometers from where the marker is placed. The table of churches links to details about each

church identified in the search within the specified distance.

Catholic Parishes and Civil Parish Links – c1837. Also on Shane Wilson's site, the specific Parish page is rich with relevant details: a map of the area noting the chapels that fall within the parish, nearby Catholic parishes, linked civil parishes, the relevant NLI (National Library of Ireland) microfilm details with a link to the library's digitized images of the church records. Noted also are the relevant RC diocese, Poor Law Union, and Post Town. Another link leads to search tools for finding a searched-for Catholic parish directly rather than via a map search.



Shane Wilson's website. Results from a search for Ardfinnan Roman Catholic Parish in County Tipperary. Pins indicate nearby parishes (below left) and distances are provided to nearby Catholic Parishes (below right). A link to NLI microfilm digitized records is in the box at upper right. Since the map is built in Google Maps*, users can zoom and scroll the map.*

Is this all there is?

Is this the end of the list of Irish place-related resources? Not by a long shot! There is much more both in print and, ever increasingly, on the Internet about the names and locations of every inch of this small Island where people have lived well before history calling home in at least two evolving languages misunderstood by speakers of both.

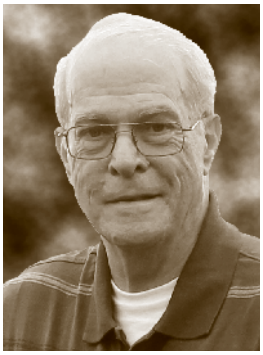
How do I use all of this?

Use these websites to learn about the place you have identified as the birth or home place of an ancestor.

- Enter the location into one of the 1881 placename databases to discover the type of jurisdiction it refers to and the related jurisdictions.
- If the place is of interest due to a later emigration, try the 1901 townland database.
- Use the Griffith's Valuation at *AskaboutIreland* and the 1901 and 1911 census links to see who lived there over the years.
- If the location refers to a Roman Catholic parish, go to Shane Wilson's or John Grenham's websites and search for it there.
- Also search on John Grenham's site to learn what resources might be available about that place and what vital and church records covering what dates are available and where.
- Look in Mitchell's *Atlas* to locate the place in relation to the county and other jurisdictions.
- Go to *Logainm.ie* to learn about how the name of that place changed over the years.

A placename need not be just a name; rather it can be a gateway to a vast amount of information that adds meaning to that place and the people who lived there. This is a golden age for Irish genealogy research. The many resources relating to place in Ireland is one of the biggest deposits of genealogically related information available and all for free. Remember, full rich genealogy is not just names and dates; it is vastly improved by added historical and geographical knowledge — now readily available.

Tom Rice, PhD, CG, is a professional genealogical researcher, writer and instructor. He is a past director of MGS and past officer and director of IGSI. He volunteers as a genealogy helper for the Minnesota Historical Society library. He continues to discover more about his Irish ancestors and the truth as opposed to the family stories.



Irish Jurisdictions: The Key to Finding Records

by Pamela Guye Holland

Do you have trouble finding Irish records? Do you know the correct jurisdiction to use when searching? Do you know how to locate jurisdiction information? This article will demonstrate how the different jurisdictions work. They may seem confusing at first, but once you understand them you can search confidently and thoroughly.

The classic Irish hierarchy structure starts with the four provinces of Ulster, Connacht, Leinster, and Munster. Then there are the 32 counties and within them 326 Baronies. A Barony is an ancient political area, but it is rarely used today. You may come across information on baronies during your research but will not need them when searching Irish records.

The next jurisdiction level is the civil parish. There are over 2500 of these parishes across Ireland. They were created when the Church of Ireland became the established church hundreds of years ago. At that point civil parishes and Catholic parishes diverged and evolved separately. As a result, there are now often name differences and geographic boundary differences between the two. Today there are about 1150 Catholic Parishes. Civil parishes are important because they became civil administration areas and are used to find many "governmental" records.

Finally, within each parish the area is divided into townlands. Today there are over 60,000 townlands. They are the smallest geographical land division and can be crucial to identifying your ancestor.

Another jurisdiction hierarchy to be aware of is that of Poor Law Unions (PLU). These generally covered a 10 or 12-mile radius around a market town where the workhouse was located. Because they defined a catchment area from the surrounding countryside, PLUs did not always conform to county or parish boundaries. Initially there were 130 PLUs, but after the Great Famine they were expanded to 163.

Poor Law Unions were used as registration areas when civil registration of vital records began in 1864. Because of this they became known as Registration Districts. Since they were overseen by a superintendent, they were also called Superintendent Registrar's Districts. You may see these three terms used interchangeably.

Each Superintendent Registrar's District was subdivided into local Registrar's Districts. This allowed someone to visit the closest registrar when reporting a birth, marriage, or death. Finally, Registrar's Districts were subdivided into District Electoral Divisions (DED). A DED is similar to our U.S. census ward or enumeration district. DEDs also contain their respective townlands.

Here is a recap of the two hierarchy structures.

- Province → County → Barony → Civil Parish or Catholic Parish → Townland.
- Poor Law Union (aka Registration District or Superintendent Registrar's District) → Registrar's District → District Electoral Division → Townland.

Depending on the type of record you are looking for, you will need to know different jurisdiction information. This table shows the jurisdictions used to locate the most commonly sought-after records.

Record	Jurisdiction or Administrative Division
Civil Registration of birth, marriage, or death	Poor Law Union (PLU)/Registration District/Superintendent Registrar's District. Note: RootsIreland uses the local Registrar's District.
Census	District Electoral Division (DED)
Church of Ireland	Civil Parish
Griffith's Valuation	Civil Parish
Tithe Applotment	Civil Parish
Catholic Church	Catholic Parish

There are a variety of ways to locate the correct jurisdictions when you want to search for these types of records. Here are some suggestions to try. Remember: not every website will give you all the jurisdiction levels, so you may need to try a couple of searches to get all the information you are seeking.

If you know the townland, search

- By place name at John Grenham's *Irish Ancestors* website (includes Registrar's District but no DED information) <https://www.johngrenham.com/places/>
- On *Irish Townlands* (includes DED but no PLU) <https://www.townlands.ie/>
- A townland index such as the 1901 Townland Index (includes DED) <https://www.irishancestors.ie/

resources/unique-resources/index-of-townlands-1901/ >

If you know the civil parish, try these searches. They will return a list of all the townlands in the parish (which can be useful for learning the standardized spelling).

- John Grenham's interactive civil parish map <https://www.johngrenham.com/places/civil_index.php> Once on the civil parish page look at the summary of research sources under
  - Church Records for Catholic parishes
  - General Register Office records for PLU and Registrar's District
- *Irish Townlands* <https://www.townlands.ie/>

If you know the civil parish and want to learn what Catholic parish or parishes it overlaps, search the following:

- John Grenham's interactive civil parish map <https://www.johngrenham.com/places/civil_index.php> Once on the civil parish page, look at the summary of research sources for Church Records.
- Shane Wilson's "RC Parish Browse and Search" by County and Civil Parish <https://www.swilson.info/rcparishbrws.php >

If you have a placename and are not sure what it is referring to, try

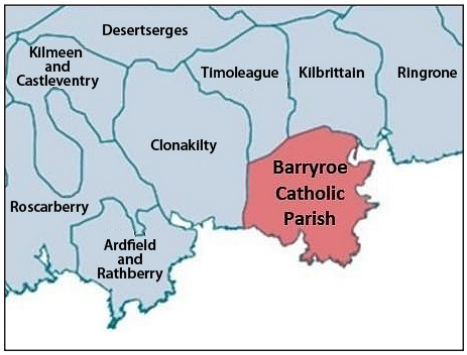
- Shane Wilson's "Placename and Land Division Search" at <https://www.swilson.info/placesrch.php>
- Shane Wilson's "Catholic Parishes and Civil Parish Links" searching with the Extended option: <https://www.swilson.info/rcparishlink.php>

Let's look at an example. One of my family's ancestors was named William Holland. He was born in 1869 in the townland of Lissycrimeen in County Cork.

If I want to find his civil birth record, I can search for it on <https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/>. However, I will not find it using Lissycrimeen as a search term. Instead, I need to know what Civil Registration District or Poor Law Union that Lissycrimeen is located in.

When I use the resources mentioned previously, I discover the following jurisdiction information.

Name	Jurisdiction or Administrative Division
Lissycrimeen	Townland
Butlerstown	District Electoral Division (DED)
Lislee	Civil Parish
Barryroe	Catholic Parish
Clonakilty	Poor Law Union or Civil Registration District











The jurisdictions for Lissycrimeen, County Cork, in the table above, can be seen on these maps.

Armed with this information I can successfully find William's civil birth record in the Clonakilty registration district and learn he was born on 18 October 1869 to parents John Holland and Mary Sullivan.

If I want to find his Catholic baptism record, I can look on <https://registers.nli.ie/> in the Catholic parish of Barryroe. This website will also give me variant parish names. In the case of Barryroe, the name my family always used, it turns out it was also called Lislee, the same as the civil parish. From the church record I learn William was baptized the day after he was born on 19 October 1869.

For the 1901 Census of Ireland <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>, I can find William by searching using the District Electoral Division of Butlerstown. In this census William was living with his wife Kate and his first-born son in the home of his father-in-law Patrick Sheehy. According to family information William and Kate's marriage was a "made match."

Kate was 4 years his senior and William married into the Sheehy farm.

Finally, I can find my Holland family on Griffith's Valuation <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/> in the civil parish of Lislee. In 1852 William's grandfather, also named William, leased 48 acres of land in Lissycrimeen townland. This is the same farm where William was born in 1869.

As you can see, it was important to know the different jurisdictions that Lissycrimeen was located in. Without them I would not have successfully found William Holland or his family in these different records. I encourage you to learn and understand the different jurisdictions for your ancestor's locality when you are researching.



Pamela Guye Holland has been researching family roots found in Ireland, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, and Germany for almost twenty years. She is co-president of The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA). Pam works at the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) and as the US-based genealogist in the Green Room <https://youririshheritage.com/>. Her research specialties are Irish and Genetic Genealogy. Her website is www.GenealogyByPamHolland.com.

Upcoming IGSI Webinars

Check IGSI website for program and registration information.

Saturday, July 10 | 10:30AM – Noon CDT
The Unplanned Irish Immigration to Canada
Instructor: Melanie McComb

Using published and online primary sources, uncover the story of the migration of the Irish to Canada before and during The Great Famine.

$15 for IGSI/CIG/MGS members; $20 for non-members.

Saturday, August 7 | 10:30AM – Noon CDT
***Irish Genealogy 101* | Instructor: Tom Rice**

Are you new to Irish genealogy or perhaps it has been a while since you dug into your Irish family roots? This is the webinar for you! Tom Rice will provide an introduction to the key tools for finding your ancestors in Ireland: most important record types, Irish geographic terms, Irish names, key Irish genealogy websites and books, and much, much more.

$15 for IGSI members; $20 for non-members.

Saturday, September 11 | 10:30AM – Noon CDT
Comparing the Irish-Rich Genealogy Databases
Instructor: Mary Wickersham

Most Irish genealogy databases are for-fee (*FindMyPast*, *RootsIreland*, *JohnGrenham*) and the major providers (*Ancestry*, *FamilySearch*) share much of the data. This session will focus on the content and differences among the major providers.

$15 for IGSI members; $20 for non-members.

Saturday, September 25 | 10:00AM – Noon CDT
Finding "The Hollow" — The McDonalds (McDonnells) and Doyles in St. Marys, Ontario
David Trudeau

Follow David Trudeau as he ventures to St. Marys, Ontario in search for his maternal McDonald (McDonnell) and Doyle ancestors.

Offered in conjunction with MGS/CIG. Details available late summer.

Searching Griffith's Valuation for Thomas Eccles of County Tyrone

by Ann Eccles

When I first started my Irish family research 15-20 years ago, a major resource for locating ancestors in 19th century Ireland was Griffith's Valuation. The same is true today even with a far greater number of online resources. Griffith's Valuation, the more common name of The Primary Valuation of Tenements, was a survey taken to establish the value of land and buildings in Ireland; it was carried out between 1847 and 1864, starting in the south and eastern counties and ending with counties Down, Armagh and Leitrim in the north. In the survey documents one finds the names of those who owned and who rented property in each townland. However, since it is not a census it only provides the name of the head of a household.

But still — it helps those of us seeking an ancestor in Ireland in the mid-19th century to identify counties and townlands where our surname could be found. We might not find the ancestor, but the presence of the surname indicates there could be other family members who remained in Ireland. It means more research, but at least it's a targeted area for the research.

What do you do if you don't find your ancestor in Griffith's — and other records indicate he should be living in Ireland at the time? Let me tell you about my research for one of my ancestors.

Thomas Eccles was a young Irishman from County Tyrone, about 20 years of age, who married a young Irishwoman named Catherine Daly of about the same age and origin in 1869 in New York City. On the marriage application, he named his parents (Julian Farnell and Thomas Eccles) and his place of birth (County Tyrone, Ireland) but did not give his age. Using contemporary census and immigration records and allowing a few years for discrepancies, that meant that Thomas most likely was born between 1846 and 1852. If his family used the Irish naming pattern, he was either the first-born son (named after the paternal grandfather) or the third son (named after his father). [Now this was just the start of a working theory — one that could change as new information was discovered.]

I did not find Thomas in the 1860 U.S. census so he most likely was living in Ireland with his family in that year (he would have been about 8-14 years old). That's also about the time when the Griffith's survey was done in County Tyrone (1858-60). Since my great-grandfather was so young, I knew that I should be looking for his father to be listed in Griffith's, who was also named Thomas. When checking Griffith's[1] for a Thomas Eccles residing in County Tyrone, I found not one or two people of that name, but eight!

Parish of Kileeshil / Townland of Farriter / Thomas Eccles occupies 8+ acres with a house, leased from Rev. Edward B.W. Venables.

Parish of Clonoe / Townland of Annagher / Thomas Eccles occupies 2 plots totaling 16+ acres, with a house on the 1-acre lot, leased from Reps. James Shiel. (John and James Eccles, given names in my family, also live in the area; John occupies land from Shiels which he rents in small parcels to others as homes only.)

Parish of Donaghamore / Townland of Drumhirk / Thomas Eccles occupies land, offices, and house on 27+ acres from Earl of Charlemont.

Parish of Drumglass / Townland of Creevagh, Upper / Thomas Eccles occupies 9 acres of land leased from Thomas S. Irwin, then leases it in smaller parcels to 5 people, including a Matthias Eccles.

Parish of Drumglass / Townland of Ross Beg / Thomas Eccles occupies 12+ acres of land with house and offices leased from Thomas S. Irwin.

Parish of Drumglass / Townland of Tullycullion / Thomas Eccles occupies 17+ acres of land with house and offices leased from Thomas S. Irwin.

Parish of Derryloran / Townland of Tullycall / Thomas Eccles occupies a small house from Daniel Kane, who occupiess 15 acres of land leased from the Earl of Castlestuart.

Learning More About these Families

As I had found more potential ancestors than I needed for one great-great grandfather my next step was to narrow down the options. And yes, that meant I researched all of these men and their families — at least to the point where I could eliminate them.

Since I was dealing with County Tyrone — the Valuation Revision books for the northern counties of Ireland are available online through PRONI (Public Records Office of Northern Ireland).[2] I followed the records for each of these parcels into

Occupier	Land/Buildings	Immediate Lessor	Townland	Parish	Barony	Poor Law Union
Thomas Eccles	8+ acres, w/ house	Rev. Edward B.W. Venables	Farriter	Kileeshil	Lower Dungannon	Dungannon
Thomas Eccles	2 plots – total of 16+ acres; house only on second plot	Reps. James Shiel	Annagher	Clonoe	Middle Dungannon	Dungannon
Thomas Eccles	27+ acres w/ house & offices	Earl of Charlemont	Drumhirk	Donaghamore	Middle Dungannon	Dungannon
Thomas Eccles	9 acres (leases as smaller parcels to 5 others - houses)	Thomas S. Irwin	Creevagh, Upper	Drumglass	Middle Dungannon	Dungannon
Thomas Eccles	12+ acres w/ house & offices	Thomas S. Irwin	Ross Beg	Drumglass	Middle Dungannon	Dungannon
Thomas Eccles	17+ acres w/ house & offices	Thomas S. Irwin	Tullycullion	Drumglass	Upper Dungannon	Dungannon
Thomas Eccles	house	Daniel Kane	Tullycall	Derryloran	Upper Dungannon	Dungannon

Summary of Griffith's County Tyrone entries for Thomas Eccles

the early 20th century. Whenever an entry was updated, the change was written in a different color of ink. I could see where the names of the occupier changed and it was a signal to look for a death record or such around that time. I also searched church and civil records for births and marriages of a Thomas Eccles in these areas.

Tullycullion in the Parish of Drumglass. This Thomas Eccles had a son named Thomas who remained in Ireland, stayed with the same land, and died in 1912 at the age of 40 (death record); he was a bachelor.

Ross Beg in the Parish of Drumglass. This Thomas Eccles married a woman named Ann Rocks from County Armagh. They raised a family of eight children, some which remained in Ireland, while at least two emigrated. One of the children who emigrated was a son named Thomas. For a time, I thought this could be my line — until I found the marriage, death and other records for Thomas and his wife. Using U.S. records, I learned that he lived in New York City and died there.

Tullycall in the Parish of Derryloran. This Thomas Eccles also held possibility. With no land and a tax rate of 5 shilling it had to be a small house. The marriage record for a Thomas Eccles to Mary Mulgrew in 1854 indicated that Thomas was a laborer. Most likely not well-off, is it possible that he could afford to rent a small house without land? Then, an email exchange with Eccles descendants who live in Australia indicated that the family who lived in the area of Cookstown (part of Derryloran Parish) all had migrated down under. (Tullycall is very close to Cookstown.) Also, church records for the baptisms of my great-great grand-parents' children in the Roman Catholic chapel at Dungannon (parish of Drumglass) noted that the family lived in Dungannon. So… probably not my ancestor.

The civil marriage record of Thomas Eccles (my great-great grandfather) and Mary Mulgrew in the Church of Ireland chapel in Dungannon in the Parish of Drumglass in 1854 noted the groom's occupation as "labourer" *[sic]* and the same for his father. So that suggests that my great-great grandfather was not the occupier named in the townlands of Anagher, Creevagh Upper, Drumhirk, or Farriter. I doubt that a laborer could afford the taxes for eight or more acres of land.

And that became a solid brick wall in my research. None of the Eccles in Griffith's in county Tyrone was my great-great grandfather. So where were they living, particularly if the baptismal information for his children born in the 1850s and 1860s mentions the place of residence as Dungannon?

Looking Beyond the Obvious

The 1862 baptism record of Thomas' son, James, notes that the family's residence is Dungannon.[3] The 1865 civil birth record of Thomas' son, William, notes a residence of "Kerr's Row, Dungannon". [The name of the street is near-illegible.] In both cases, the records indicate the family lives in the town of Dungannon. To confuse things a bit more — and emphasize the need to understand jurisdictions — the *town* of

Dungannon is located in the *townland* of Drumcoo, which is located in the parish of Drumglass in the barony of Middle Dungannon of the PLU of Dungannon.

I recalled that Griffith's Valuation surveyed the towns and the buildings in the towns, so owners and renters of houses within a town or city should be enumerated. Yet, for the occupier, it identifies just one person responsible for paying the tax on the building, the main resident, so to speak. Other renters living in a multi-family building remained anonymous. Since my ancestor was merely a laborer, he probably was not important enough to be considered the main resident of the building and therefore remained unrecorded by Griffith.

While thinking wider, I wondered if Thomas might be living with his wife's family in the 1850s. I checked Griffith's again, this time searching under his father-in-law's name (James Mulgrew). I found two entries of a James Mulgrew leasing property in the town of Dungannon.

On Scotch Street in the town of Dungannon, Parish of Drumglass, Townland of Drumcoo, a James Mulgrew and a Michael Loughgran were listed as occupiers of parcel 63 which was owned by William Lockhart. Loughgran paid a tax of 4 pounds, 10 shillings for the house and yard; Mulgrew paid tax of 1 pound, 5 shillings for the building's cellar.

On Milltown Street in the town of Dungannon, Parish of Drumglass, Townland of Drumcoo, a James Mulgrew occupied parcel 38 which is described as "house, office and yard" yet included no tax value for any land; only 4 pounds for the building(s).

So, are these two different men with the same name listed as the main occupant of these two living spaces — or one man making sure that his daughter and her family had a place to live?

Mary's father, James Mulgrew, also was a laborer (as indicated on his daughter's 1854 marriage record). Was the taxation amount of 4 pounds or one pound more affordable to him or was he the renter named as the main occupier of that space? In 1860, the household of my great-great grandfather would include Thomas, his wife Mary, and their children: Mary, James and stepson Thomas. [William was born in 1865.]

Now, I can't prove for certain that Thomas and his family were living with his in-laws at the time of Griffith's Valuation, but it's a possible explanation. I do know that he was not among Griffith's entries for Thomas Eccles living in County Tyrone. I've researched them and proved them invalid for my direct family line. Since he wasn't in the military and he had a family and was mentioned in other civil and church records of the early 1860s, he should have been living somewhere in the area. If not with his in-laws, he probably paid for his rooms in another of the residential buildings in the town of Dungannon.

So if you do not find your ancestor's name in Griffith's Valuation, take a breath and review everything you know about the family. Look for other documents to indicate their residence and to learn more about your ancestor's location, occupation, siblings, and extended family.

Endnotes

[1] When writing this article, I checked *AskaboutIreland* (http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/) which provides a free search of Griffith's and used that data for the list of Eccles as occupiers in county Tyrone. *Findmypast* is another option for searching *Griffith's Valuation*.

[2] After Griffith's survey, the properties were valued annually from 1864 until the early 1930s (the annual Valuation Revision Books (PRONI Reference: VAL/12/B)). The changes were recorded in different colors of ink each year, and the changes were usually dated. (https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/searching-valuation-revision-books)

[3] I found the 1862 baptism record for James on *RootsIreland* and the 1865 civil birth record for William on *irishgenealogy.ie*.

Ann Eccles is a retired librarian who has re-focused her research skills to family history and Irish genealogy. She has several Irish ancestral lines to trace as both of her parents descended from Irish families. Ann currently serves as IGSI President and continues to serve as the editor of The Septs.



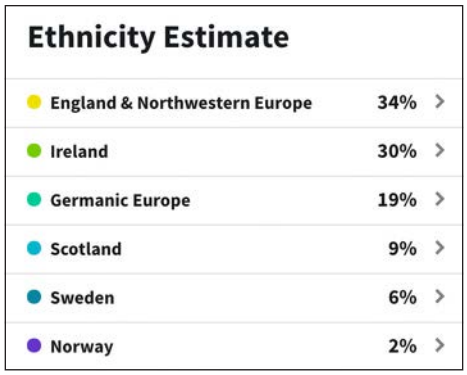
Can DNA Help with Irish Jurisdictions?

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

Can your DNA help find the jurisdictions where your Irish ancestors' left records? Absolutely! Your DNA test results won't tell you which poor law union your ancestor lived in, but they do offer two major avenues that can help localize your Irish origins to a county: your ethnicity results and your match lists.

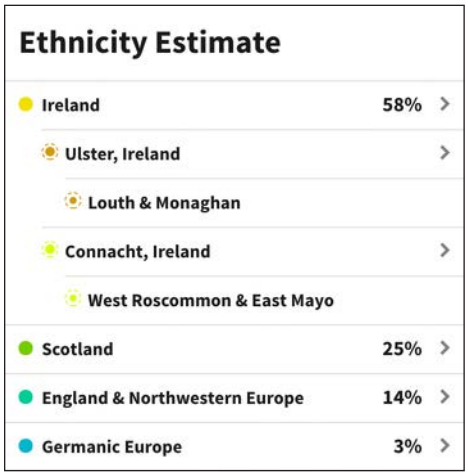
Your Ethnicity Results

The ethnicity estimate shown here is from a person with Irish ancestry who tested at *Ancestry*, my husband Jere Mackin.[1] You can see that *Ancestry* estimates that Jere's ancestry is 30% Irish. If you could click on the 30% figure, you would see that the 30% figure represents a range, from 2–35%. In Jere's case, *Ancestry* provides no imputed regional breakdown within Ireland.



Ancestry *ethnicity estimate 1 (JM)*

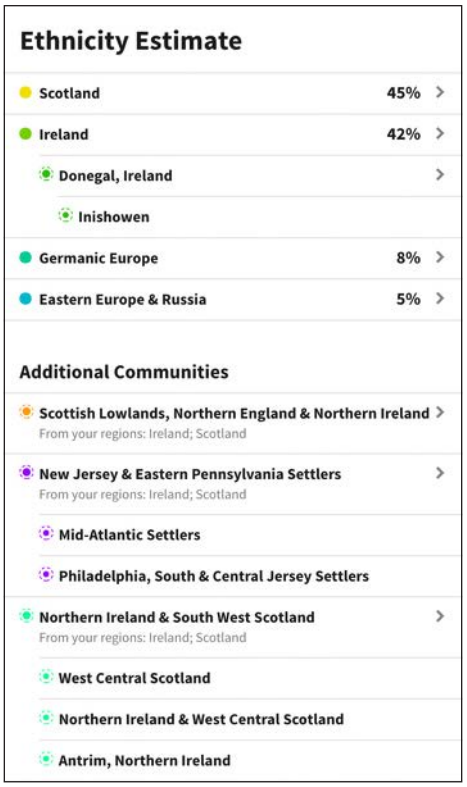
Our second ethnicity estimate, for Jere's cousin Elizabeth Hatle,[2] who is estimated to be 58% Irish (with the 58% figure representing a range of 43–65%), indicates that Elizabeth's connection to Ireland is most likely through ancestors linked to Ulster and Connacht. The Ulster portion is further linked to Louth and Monaghan, and the Connacht portion is further linked to West Roscommon and East Mayo. Clicking through to these locations within Ireland reveals "Featured matches" for each location, people on Elizabeth's match list that *Ancestry* thinks have links to the same location.



Ancestry *ethnicity estimate 2 (EH)*

A third *Ancestry* ethnicity estimate shows results for a tester estimated to have 42% Irish ancestry (range of 31–54%).[3] *Ancestry* thinks the third tester's Irish DNA is "most likely" through connection to Donegal, specifically Inishowen. This tester has further been assigned to two Irish-related genetic communities (shown below the regional-level estimates): Scottish Lowlands, Northern England & Northern Ireland, and Northern Ireland & South West Scotland.

All four major DNA testing companies (*Ancestry*, *Family Tree DNA*, *23andMe*, and *MyHeritage*), plus *LivingDNA*, provide similar percentage breakouts for ethnicity to their testers. Each company provides explanatory material on their ethnicity estimates and communities.[4] Only *MyHeritage* provides an additional level of breakdown, similar to *Ancestry*'s genetic communities, which they call Genetic Groups.[5] *23andMe* has an exclusive feature, accessed through the Scientific Details tab of a tester's Ancestry Composition page, where they paint segments they attribute to an ethnicity on a map of the tester's chromosomes. The chromosome painting of Jere Mackin's 56.1% British & Irish DNA estimate at *23andMe* is shown on page 79, at a 50% (speculative) confidence level.



Ancestry *ethnicity estimate 3*

If your Irish DNA percentage is broken down below the level of "Ireland," you may be able to use the suggested counties or locations as clues for zeroing in on Irish jurisdictions with records of your ancestors.

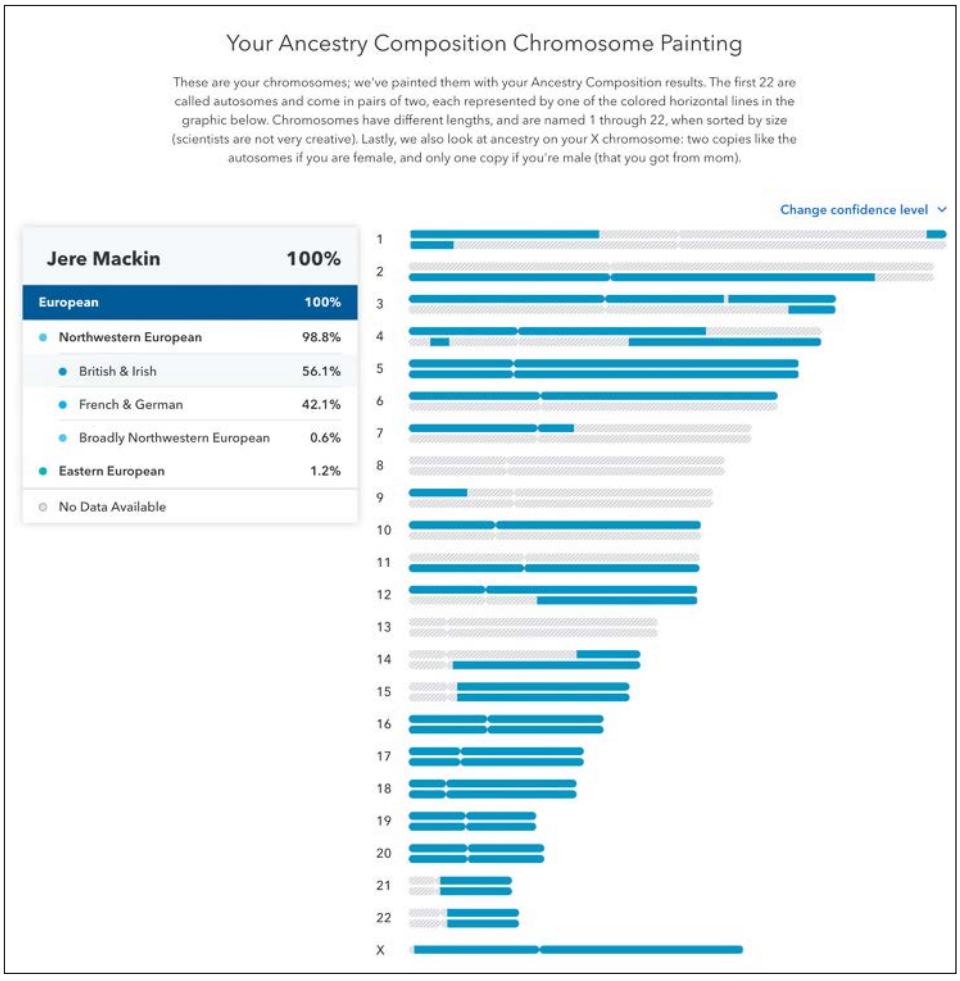
Your Match Lists

We have already seen that *Ancestry*'s ethnicity results may highlight regions, as well as countries, and may show featured matches sharing regional ethnicity. Your DNA match list provides a second means

of finding potential Irish locations. There are several approaches to using your match list to identify ancestral locations: working with individual matches and searching the match list.

Working with individual matches. When you click a match's name on your match list, the match page that appears has three tabs, Trees, Ethnicity, and Shared Matches.

- The Trees tab shows the match's tree and highlights names that appear in the tester's tree and the match's tree. If *Ancestry*'s algorithms have identified any common ancestors, they appear here, as do shared surnames (surnames that appear in your tree and your match's tree) and ancestor birth locations.
- The Shared Matches tab shows other matches who share DNA with both the tester and the match being examined. This tab is essential. When you use it with a match whose relationship to you is known (which means you know the ancestors you share), it identifies other matches who are related to both of you and probably share the same ancestry. When you use it with an unknown match, it can identify matches whose relationship you know and provide clues to your relationship with your unknown match.
- The Ethnicity tab shows a side-by-side comparison of the tester's ethnicity estimates and the match's ethnicity estimates. It contains a map highlighting shared geographic regions. If the tester and the match have shared communities, these are highlighted as well.

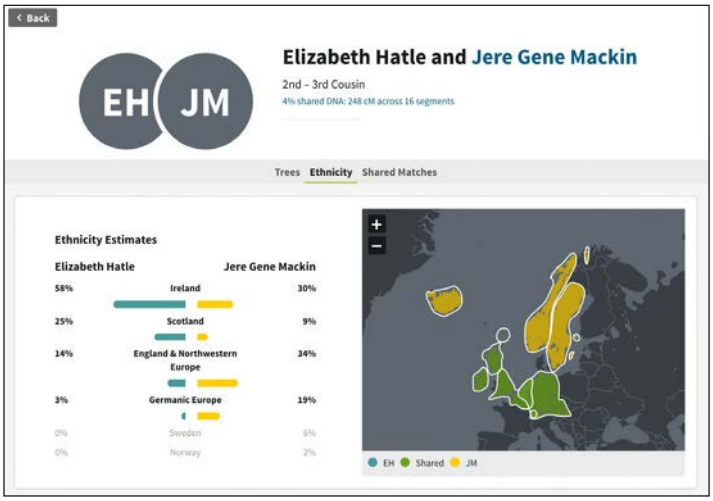


23andMe *ethnicity Jere B-I50*

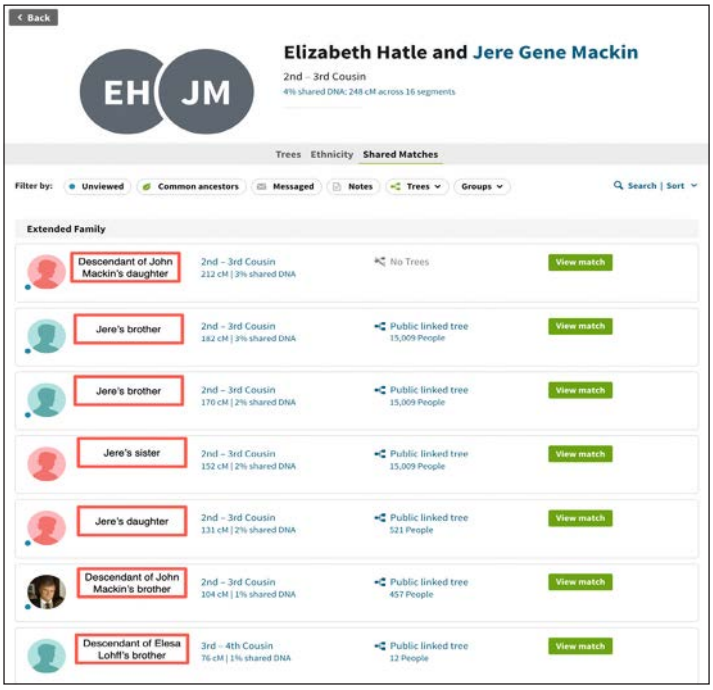
The illustrations on page 79 show the Trees, Ethnicity, and Shared Matches tabs for Elizabeth Hatle's match with Jere Mackin. Although Elizabeth has Irish regions, Jere does not, so the Ethnicity tab for their match shows only the community they share, "Upper Midwest Settlers." On the Trees tab, Jere's tree is shown, with a pointer to the ancestral couple shared by Elizabeth and Jere; because Elizabeth has not attached a tree to her DNA test, no shared surnames or birth locations are displayed. On the Shared Matches tab, other descendants of Elizabeth's and Jere's shared ancestral couple, John Mackin and Elesa Lohff, and their relatives appear.

Searching your match list. Your *Ancestry* match list is searchable by match name, surname in matches' trees, and birth location in matches' trees.[6]

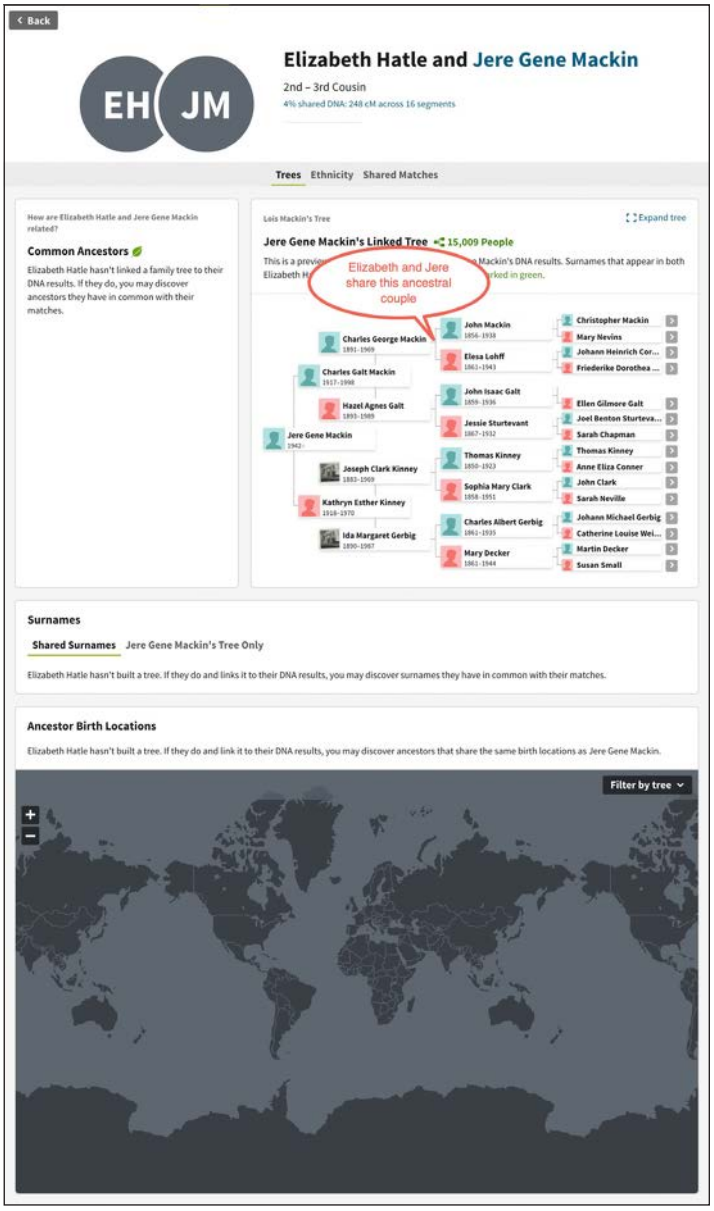
Combining birth location search with analysis of shared matches can be a useful way to identify clusters of matches with origins in a location where you know or suspect you have ancestors. For example, Jere Mackin's Kinney ancestors originated in County Tipperary. Searching his match list for birth location "Tipperary, Ireland" results in a list of matches, many already identified as descendants of Jere's Kinney ancestors. Combining birth location with a surname can also be useful. (See page 79.)



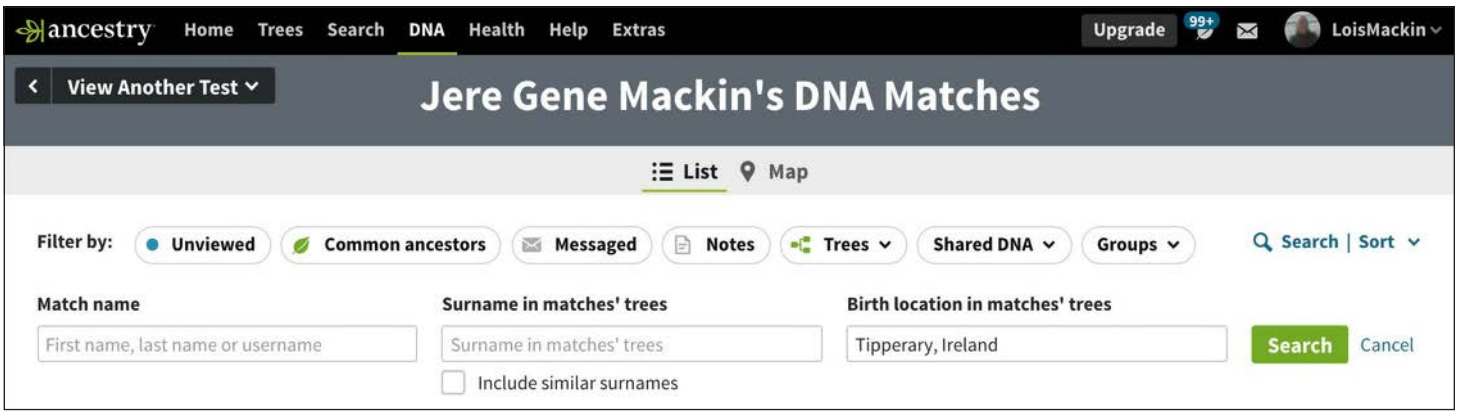
Ancestry *Hatle Mackin Ethnicity tab*



Ancestry *Hatle Mackin Trees tab*



Ancestry *Hatle Mackin Shared Matches tab*



Ancestry *Jere search matches*

Endnotes

[1] Jere's name and DNA test information are used with permission.

[2] Elizabeth's name and DNA test information are used with permission.

[3] This tester's results have been anonymized because I have not received permission to use them.

[4] For example, see "*AncestryDNA* Ethnicity Regions & Communities Tips," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/cs/dna-help/communities : accessed 9 June 2021).

[5] For a description of *MyHeritage* genetic groups, see "*MyHeritage* Launches Genetic Groups," 24 December 2020, *MyHeritage Blog* (https://blog.myheritage.com/2020/12/myheritage-launches-genetic-groups/ : accessed 9 June 2021).

[6] See "Searching *AncestryDNA* Matches," *AncestrySupport* (https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Searching-AncestryDNA-Matches : accessed 10 June 2021).

Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*





Have Fun While Volunteering!

The Minnesota Irish Fair is back August 13-15 at Harriet Island in St. Paul.

We're looking for friendly IGSI members who live in the Twin Cities area to share the word about IGSI programs and services at the Irish Fair. Sign on to help for 4-hour shifts:

Saturday 10am - 7pm

Sunday 10am - 7pm

Three to four volunteers per shift can

- Visit with IGSI members and the Twin Cities Irish community
- Share information about IGSI
- Enjoy food, music and everything Irish before or after your shift
- And maybe even connect with cousins and add to your family tree!

Email Volunteers@IrishGenealogical.org if you want to help!

NOTE: This year there is an entry fee for adults attending the Irish Fair — $15/day.

Volunteers who register with IGSI by July 24 to work 4 hours at the IGSI table at the Fair will be eligible for a free entry pass for the day(s) they volunteer.

*Sign up **now** to volunteer at the Irish Fair!*

Daniel's Letters

by Sharon Martin

These are 3 letters written to Maggie Driscoll from her cousin Daniel Driscoll. Maggie married Patrick Martin in 1892. The first two letters were written when Maggie was a spinster. Skeaf is a small townland outside of Timoleague in County Cork.

The letters were found in the Martin family bible and turned out to be the key in finding my husband's relatives in Ireland. Maggie (Margaret) Driscoll was my husband's grandmother. I have typed them out for easier reading.

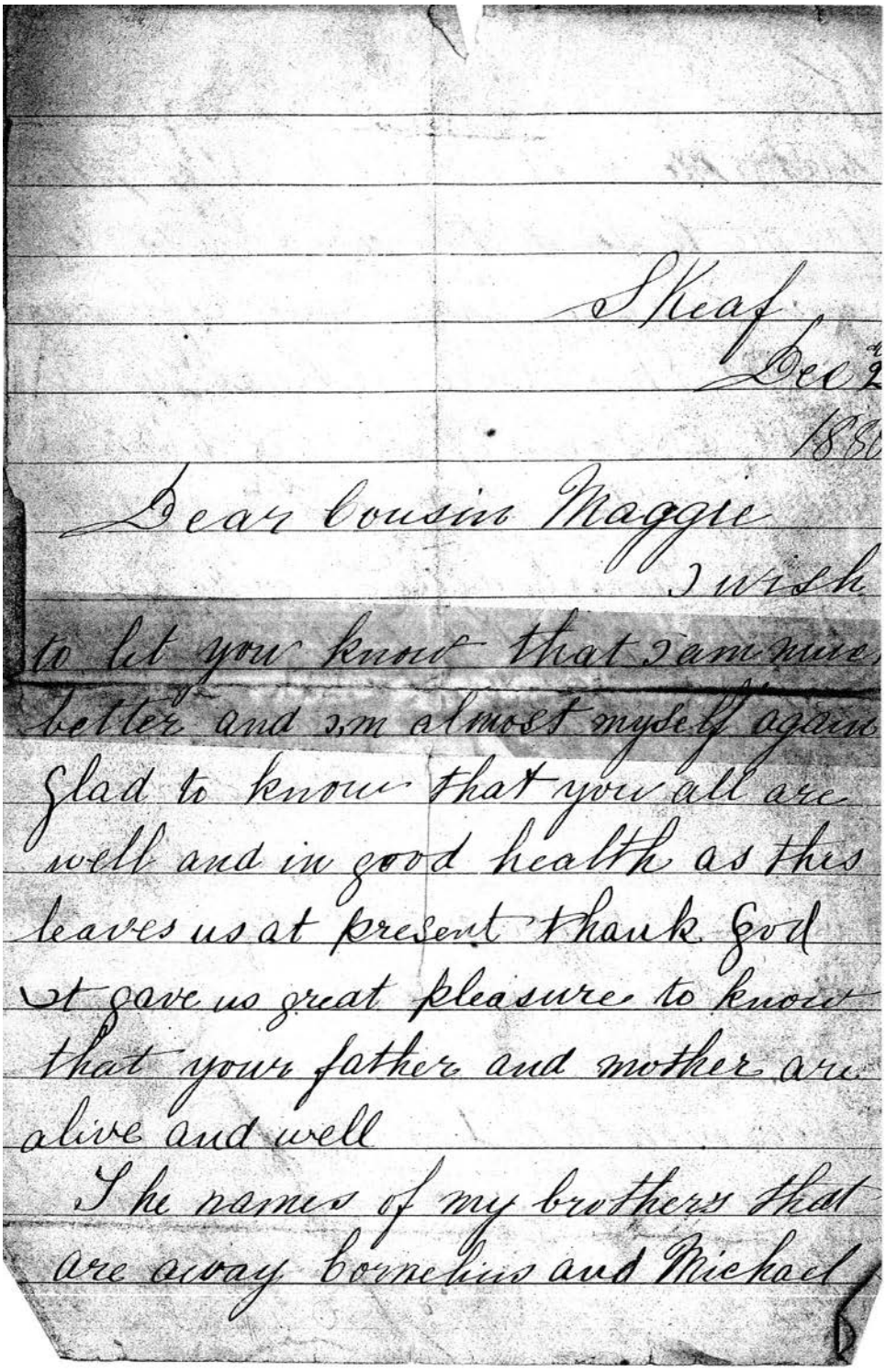
Skeaf
Dec 2, 1888

Dear Cousin Maggie,

I wish to let you know that I am much better and am almost myself again. Glad to know that you are all well and in good health as this leaves us at present thank God. It gave us great pleasure to know that your father and mother are alive and well.

The names of my brothers that are away Cornelius and Michael but think it would be out of place for me to send their address to you as I can hear they left the place they were in since they wrote last as some of our neighbors are there too, and some of the boys from Timoleague. Perhaps Uncle would like to know that there is a railroad going to Timoleague. Now it was made last summer and the work is commencing to bring it to Courtmacherry. The weather at present is cold and wet and is so with nearly two months. The harvest was generally fair and dry but the Summer was soft and wet. The crops are also pretty fair excepting potatoes which were blighted very early but they are by no means a poor crop. The Country is in a state of tranquility at present pending the "Parnell Commission Trials" which is going on in London against "The Times Newspaper". He is losing 400 Pounds a day with it, 3 Guineas a minute. The Commission consists of 3 judges.

I congratulate you on your new President. I hope you like him. Well I know he will be a good guide in the reins of government and comply with the wishes of the people.


Skeaf
Dec 2
1888
Dear Cousin Maggie
I wish
to let you know that I am much
better and am almost myself again
Glad to know that you all are
well and in good health as this
leaves us at present thank God
It gave us great pleasure to know
that your father and mother are
alive and well
The names of my brothers that
are away Cornelius and Michael

Dear Cousin, I would like to know what family Cousin's Maggies mother is of. Please tell me if you know and what is her name.

No more at present. We all miss join in sending you our best respects and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your affectionate Cousin, Daniel

To Miss Maggie Driscoll

(This letter was written in beautiful script and we have come to the conclusion that it may have been written by the parish priest.)

Letter 2

Skeaf
Sept 30th
1890

Dear Cousin Maggie,

I write these few lines to let you know we are all well and in good health at present as I hope this will find you all.

Dear Cousin, I hope you will excuse me for not writing to you oftener but I wish to let you know that I did write to you before but the letter was insufficiently addressed and it returned again so I delayed it for a few weeks until we got this last letter. So I hope to bring up my negligence in the future and to write oftener than I do but I could not write this letter any sooner for this is the time we are threshing the corn here. I was out from home everyday with the last fornight (sic) at machines and do not come home until midnight. Everyone do have a half tierce (?) of porter the day they are threshing but they do not drunk it till night and they do have singing and dancing over that until it is finished. It is about a week ago since we had the threshing machine. We had about ten acres of oats and about an acre of wheat. The Oat crops not good this year in the country and the grain is very light and brown.

The potatoes are very bad this year. They are small and wet and hardly fit for use at all. The blight set in very early and the stocks withered down before have grown so that the country will be in a bad state before spring.

Dear cousin, there were many tourists here for the summer from America and there are a lot of people leaving Ireland at the present owing to the uncertain state of the country and from want of employment.

Dear cousin I hope Cousin Maggie is enjoying herself well with you. I will send her a letter with this hoping that you both will forgive me this time but if I repeat this offense you may deal with me as you please.

Dear cousin I hope this will reach you before Cousin Maggie will leave for home but if not you can send her a letter to her by post. So no more at present.

Your affectionate Cousin, Daniel

Cousin Maggie Driscoll.

Dear Cousin give my love to all. We all join in sending our best respects to you all

Adieu

I would like to have your picture in full

(The penmanship on this letter was much different than the letter of 1888)

Letter 3

Skeaf
June 25th, 1916

Dear Cousin Maggie,

I am writing you these few lines to let you know I am married 14 years. I have 4 children – 2 boys and 2 girls. There is one brother living with me still Tom.

We are going through terrible times in this Country on account of the war prices for everything are double what they were before the war began. I just wrote a few lines inquiring about your father, There was an enquiry here about some friend that died in California. I gave in your father and uncles names and addresses. I did not hear any more about you since.

No more at present.

From your Cousin, Dan Driscoll



After retiring from her Nursing career, Sharon Martin started her quest to find out about her ancestors. Her research led her to find seven passengers on the Mayflower and Patriots that fought during the Revolutionary War. After 17 years, DNA research helped to identify her paternal great-grandfather.

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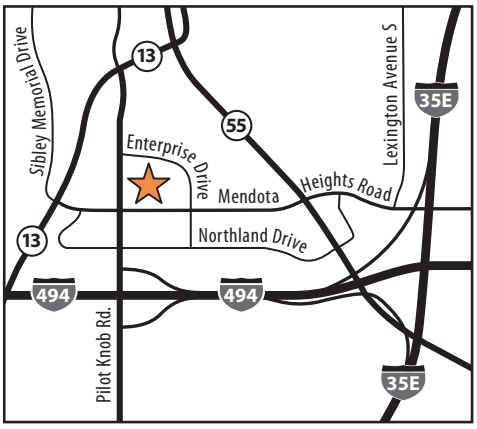
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Library Hours by Reservation

Thursday: 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm
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During severe weather, or if traveling a long distance, please call before coming to the library to check if open.

The library is a self-supporting research library staffed by volunteers. If you are a member of the IGSI and are coming from out of town, contact Librarian@IrishGenealogical.org so we can have an Irish researcher available to meet you.

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The Septs

OCTOBER (DEIREADH FOMHAIR) 2021 $10.00

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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Full Service at Library

The Hoffman Research Library in Mendota Heights fully reopened in early September.

Hours of service:

Wednesday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

All researchers – member or non-member – are welcome at the Hoffman Research Library. (Note: $10 fee for non-member use.)

- Fully vaccinated persons are not required to wear masks in the building.
- Persons who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear a mask.
- There is still a shortage of library volunteers on some days. The library will not be open if two volunteers are not available to staff the building. (Consider volunteering to ensure library service.)

Holiday Closings Through the End of the Year

The library will be closed the following days

Thursday, November 25	Thanksgiving
Saturday, December 25	Christmas
Saturday, January 1, 2022	New Year's Day

Irish Saturdays Return

Stop by the library on the second Saturday of the month between 10 AM and 4 PM for Irish research help from IGSI volunteers.

OCTOBER 9, 2021
NOVEMBER 13, 2021
DECEMBER 11, 2021
JANUARY 8, 2022
FEBRUARY 12, 2022
MARCH 12, 2022

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Printed in the US.

The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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Layout/Design	Megan McLean	

The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the 28th of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editor at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc.

2021

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Write for *The Septs*

Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 — 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2022 | January | 1922 / 2022

Irish Independence, The Irish Civil War, the Four Courts fire: these events from 100 years ago set an imprint on Irish history, politics and families. Historical articles, family stories, current implications.
Deadline for articles: November 15, 2021.

2022 | April | Munster Province

Researching in the Irish counties of Clare, Tipperary, Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Kerry; stories about finding family in Munster locales.
Deadline for articles: February 15, 2022.

2022 | July | Online Books

Finding and using online sites for accessing research publications, e.g., NUCMC, InternetArchive, GoogleBooks, WorldCat, etc.
Deadline for articles: May 15, 2022.

2022 | October | Maps

Understanding where your family lived in Ireland and in their new country; using historical maps and mapping software to solve genealogical problems.
Deadline for articles: August 15, 2022.

Cover Photo: *An explosion of assistance*. Courtesy of Quinn Dombrowski@Flickr.com.

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An Invitation

by Ann Eccles

Have you ever been part of an organization that always does the same thing year after year? It could be a tradition — but it could also be that no one has suggested or offered to help plan a new activity.

I'm not saying IGSI lacks innovation or excellent programs and activities. But we could be in danger of becoming static through an absence of new volunteers taking responsible positions in the organization. About the issue of volunteers — remember, IGSI is a *totally volunteer organization*.

IGSI bylaws allow the Board of Directors to have between 5 and 11 members. This year we have 6 members but are hovering at the low side for organizational governance. The Bylaws also limit the time of Board members' service to a maximum of five consecutive years. While there's always the option to ask past members to consider serving again after their required hiatus, that's just 'switching hats' again.

For those who want to learn more about the organization or contribute talent in a particular area, please step forward to and offer to help. Everyone has a number of talents, some of them are recognized and others are yet to be tapped. Almost every committee could use some help; while some in-person projects may be restricted to Twin Cities members, more work-from-home opportunities are opening up.

> *What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.*
>
> ~ Jane Goodall

Without the generosity of time given by a handful of current volunteers, the webinars, this publication and the bi-monthly newsletter, even the website would not exist or function. And the same people have been doing the same work for well more than two years. To them, I say *THANK YOU!*

But, having held this position as president for three years — I am aware that IGSI needs new faces around the leadership table. There are perhaps a half-dozen members of IGSI who repeatedly switch leadership hats to keep the organization functional and dynamic.

serve on committees; your action could provide new directions or services within a small group. For example, there wouldn't be the expansion of webinar classes without Kathleen Foley. She capably created and led the Education committee for three years and is now stepping down and away from this activity and her Board membership. Yet the committee will continue its work thanks to the others on the team.

IGSI needs to be an active, vibrant society if it is to remain vital to your needs as members and to changing information sources. For IGSI to remain FRESH in ideas, energy and activities — we need to have a new set of members to step forward

Regarding the Board, I believe we need more than 5 people to offer guidance and vision for IGSI. With the pandemic, we tried to make it easier for meetings and turned to virtual Board meetings, which allows members who live at a distance to be part of our group of decision-makers. We have space for another five people. If interested — or even curious — please contact me at president@irishgenealogical.org .

This is also the last issue of *The Septs* for the current year. It has sped along quite quickly. The next issue will be printed in January 2022 and this letter should be written by a new author (president). I don't know who. But please step forward to give her / him your support by becoming more active in our organization.

Ann Eccles is a retired librarian who has re-focused her research skills to family history and Irish genealogy. She has several Irish ancestral lines to trace as both of her parents descended from Irish families. Ann currently serves as IGSI President and continues to serve as the editor of The Septs.



We're Always Learning and Finding Something New

by Mary Wickersham

Devoting an issue of *The Septs* to the theme of Education is SO appropriate! Why? It matches our mission:

> IGSI's mission is to provide genealogical education and assistance to its members and to assist the community at large discover Irish history, culture and heritage.[1]

IGSI promotes educational opportunities to members and the public to create opportunities to develop strategies and the knowledge needed to unravel genealogical mysteries. With the Covid-19 pandemic, educational opportunities changed to adapt to a new world. Our emphasis turned to online offerings. IGSI's monthly "Irish Saturday" classes and the IGSI co-sponsored 2020 Celtic Connections Conference were replaced by webinars and a Virtual Conference.

In this issue of *The Septs*, we learn how each of us can improve our genealogical tool set: attending classes or webinars, conferences and workshops; reading books, journals and other education materials; visiting Internet sites, and viewing *FamilySearch* and other online lectures.

David Rencher and Craig Foster write about the Family History Library's (FHL) genealogical education. They describe their library closure, remodeling and movement of Irish materials within the Library, Classes and Webinars, the extensive (29) Irish topics in the online Learning Center, the *FamilySearch* Research Wiki, and RootsTech videos.

Fiona Fitzsimons writes from her perspective as a teacher about the difference between genealogy and family history, and her expectations of students: to learn about the date-ranges of key collections, privacy laws impacting access to vital records, and how to handle materials in archives.

Fiona's closing strikes home. "Even when you finish a course, your education won't be complete…We're always learning and finding something new."

Lois Mackin helps us decide how best to spend our money and time in genealogical education by conducting a thought-provoking genealogical self-assessment. Lois includes a mind map graphic which demonstrates connections among many facets of genealogical education.

Donna Jones of IGSI's Education Committee writes about how our educational efforts evolved through their efforts and those of the committee's chairperson, Kathleen Foley. They deserve thanks for accomplishing the switch from in-person classes to webinars. Our webinars are seeing attendance levels at three or four times the level of our previous in-person classes. 25 — 30% of IGSI members have attended at least one of the webinars. Webinar recordings are later available for viewing — by members — for a fee.

Sue Kratsch shares her story of reading past issues of *The Septs*, where a book review unraveled a family history puzzle in Canada and let her to Tipperary origins. Colleen Curran and cousins work to unite Connemara descendants in Minnesota.

Lois Mackin writes about DNA education: levels of education, deciding who to test, choosing testing companies, understanding and analyzing the results. She provides links to websites for helpful education resources, including many free resources.

Looking forward to 2022: the **Celtic Connections Conference** will offer learning opportunities for research in Irish, Scots and Welsh genealogy. Our friends at The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA) provide an update on the 2022 event.

Interested in learning more from some of this issue's contributors? Monitor IGSI's upcoming Activities page. Several of these writers appear in our webinars in 2021 and 2022.

Learn, and find something new!

We welcome member-written stories and will include in *The Septs* as space allows, whether or not related to the issue's theme. Please send articles and questions to septsmnged@irishgenealogical,org.

Endnotes

[1] Irish Genealogical Society International, About Us, Mission / Purpose. https://irishgenealogical.org/about.php

Mary Wickersham has served IGSI in several board positions and twice co-chaired the Celtic Connections Conference. A member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Mary gives genealogy talks on research tools and techniques. She became IGSI Web Editor in 2018 and one of The Septs *co-Managing Editors in 2021.*



Learning About DNA

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

DNA testing is a great way to augment, enrich, and target your "traditional" document-based family history research. However, using DNA comes with a fairly big learning curve. To get the most out of your investment in DNA testing, you'll also need to invest in learning about DNA results and how to use them.

The diagram below shows a progression of topics you'll want to learn about.

At the center is the first thing you need to know: basic information about the available kinds of DNA tests and when to use them. Moving outward, the next topics are choosing who to test and testing company options.

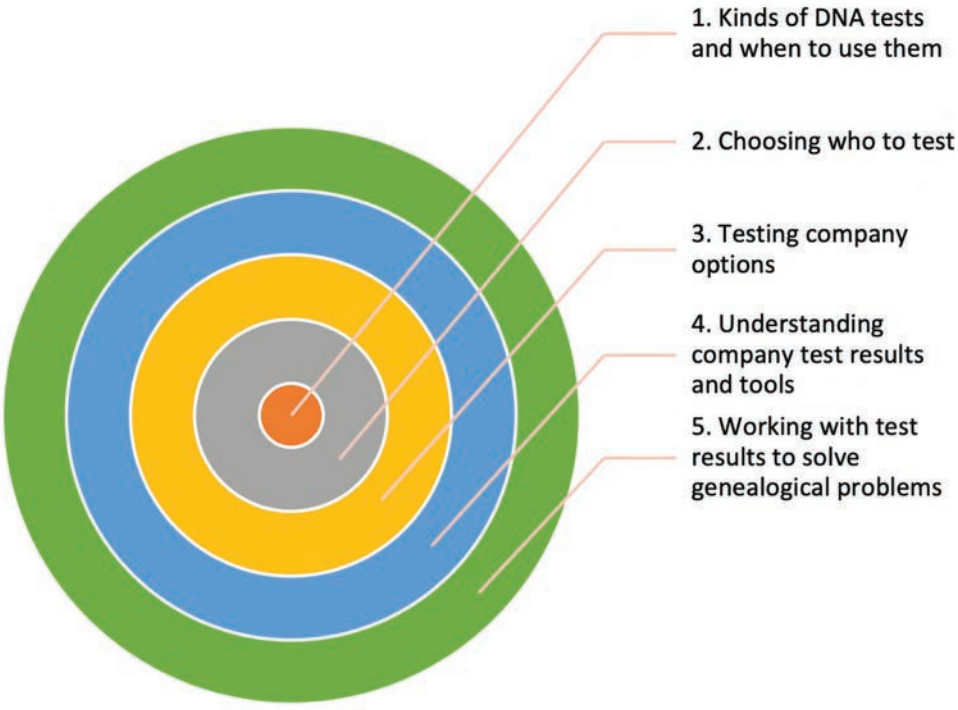
Once you've tested, you'll need to move on to more advanced topics, understanding the test results you've received from your testing company and learning the tools (such as chromosome browsers and messaging systems) your testing company provides.

Once you're conversant with those topics, you'll want to explore ways to work with your test results to solve the genealogical problems you're working on. This includes learning about more advanced tools such as triangulation, clustering, chromosome mapping, and visual phasing.

You have lots of learning options, starting with books, articles, live classes, and webinars, moving up in cost and time commitment to more extensive (and expensive) courses. Depending on the best way for you to learn, you can choose a self-coordinated approach of reading books and attending webinars or classes, dive into longer courses, or hire a personal DNA guide.

Books

If you're a self-educator, you'll want to build and learn from a DNA reference library.



As a starting place, I recommend Blaine Bettinger's *Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*. This guide explains the available tests, when to use them, and how to analyze and apply test results to genealogical questions.

> Bettinger, Blaine T. *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, 2nd ed. Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2019. An excellent introductory guide.

With Debbie Parker Wayne, Bettinger has also authored a next-level text, *Practical Genetic Genealogy*. This is a workbook-style book that takes you through basic genetics, genetic genealogy standards and ethics, the four kinds of DNA you can test (Y-DNA, mtDNA, atDNA, and X-DNA) and discusses ways to incorporate DNA testing in family studies and written conclusions.

> Bettinger, Blaine T., and Debbie Parker Wayne. *Practical Genetic Genealogy*. Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2016.

Wayne has also edited an advanced reference called *Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies*, featuring articles by leading experts on triangulation, visual phasing, X-DNA, Y-DNA, unknown parentage research, endogamy and pedigree collapse, ethics, and more.

> Wayne, Debbie Parker, ed. *Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies*. Cushing, Texas: Wayne Research, 2019.

Diahan Southard (https://www.yourdnaguide.com/) offers an easy-to-use do-it-yourself manual for DNA and also a series of eight four-page guides to major testing

companies and testing types, plus an overview guide.

Southard, Diahan. *Your DNA Guide: The Book*. N.p.: Your DNA Guide, 2020.

Southard, Diahan. *DNA Quick Reference Guides*. https://www.yourdnaguide.com/quickguides.

Webinars

In 2021, there are too many genetic genealogy webinars and webinar providers to single out specific ones! IGSI has a webinar series, with offerings highlighted on the Activities tab at https://irishgenealogical.org/. *GeneaWebinars* (http://blog.geneawebinars.com/) is a free site that lists upcoming webinars (though not all webinar providers list their webinars here).

A noteworthy site for DNA education is *Legacy Family Tree Webinars*. Live webinars are free, as are recordings for a limited time. They also offer a free trial. Their webinar library (free to subscribers) contains 205 DNA webinars at this writing, including a five-part Foundations in DNA course from Blaine Bettinger. You can see their DNA offerings at <https://familytreewebinars.com/dna>.

Conferences

Conferences with consistently strong DNA content include RootsTech, Southern California Genealogical Society's DNA Day, Institute for Genetic Genealogy, and Genetic Genealogy Ireland. You will also find DNA sessions at the National Genealogical Society conference (https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/conferences/) as well as state and regional conferences.

RootsTech is a free conference sponsored by *FamilySearch* with very good DNA sessions. In 2022 RootsTech Connect will provide free on-demand, livestream, and interactive sessions and demonstrations. Recordings from 2021 are now available; registration for 2022 opens in September, 2021. Go to <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/>.

Southern California Genealogical Society has offered a DNA Day in conjunction with its Jamboree. For recordings of past genetic genealogy sessions and information on future conferences, go to <https://www.scgsgenealogy.com/>.

Institute for Genetic Genealogy was a pioneering conference on genetic genealogy. For recordings of past conferences and announcements of future plans, go to <https://i4gg.org/>.

Genetic Genealogy Ireland has offered annual conferences since 2013. Recordings of past sessions, including basic and advanced topics are available free on the conference *YouTube* channel (https://www.youtube.com/c/GeneticGenealogyIreland/featured) and at *Family Tree* Webinars (https://familytreewebinars.com/ggi).

Courses

DNAAdoption, a non-profit organization focusing on teaching and guiding people searching for their biological roots, offers a series of courses. These include free, downloadable "First Look" classes for *FamilyTreeDNA*, *AncestryDNA*, *23andMe*, *GEDmatch*, *MyHeritage*, and *LivingDNA*, and also modestly priced Intro to DNA (101), Applied Autosomal DNA (201), and Y-DNA Basics courses. All courses are delivered online. For details, go to <https://dnaadoption.org/classes/>.

Diahan Southard offers several multi-week online workshops through her Your DNA Guide Academy (https://www.yourdnaguide.com/theacademy). Available now are a DNA Skills Workshop for those who have tested at *Ancestry*, *MyHeritage*, *Family Tree DNA*, *Living DNA*, or *23andMe*, and a YDNA Course. Most sessions are recorded and can be viewed at the convenience of attendees. For more information go to <https://www.yourdnaguide.com/theacademy>.

If you want a weeklong immersive DNA course, consider one of the offerings from the major genealogy institutes. Institute courses are a week of live instruction focused on specific topics, delivered by leading experts. Depending on COVID status, these may be offered in person or online during the institute's specific offering period.

Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, Wexford, Pennsylvania. Summer 2022 courses will be announced in October 2021. Past DNA offerings have included Practical Genetic Genealogy, Advanced DNA Evidence, and Who's Your Daddy?: Using DNA to Resolve Recent Unknown Identity. For more information, go to <https://www.gripitt.org/future-courses/>.

Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Athens, Georgia. Announced DNA courses for summer 2022 include Genetics for Genealogists: Beginning DNA, Genetic Genealogy Tools and Techniques: Intermediate DNA for Genealogy. For more information, go to <https://ighr.gagensociety.org/ighr-courses/>.

Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), Salt Lake City, Utah. SLIG offers fall virtual sessions and a January session (which in

2022 has been announced as a live session). Fall Virtual 2021 courses include Proving Your Pedigree with DNA. January 2022 DNA courses include DNA Dreamers in Action: Writing Proof Arguments. Note that January session registration opened August 14, 2021 — courses may be full by the time *The Septs* is published. For more information go to <https://www.slig.ugagenealogy.org/>.

DNA Interest Groups

Many genealogical societies offer DNA-focused special interest groups for members interested in DNA research. Programming varies, but these groups are a great way to meet and learn from others in your area who are interested in working with DNA. During COVID, many of these groups have been meeting virtually.

The *International Society of Genetic Genealogy* (*ISOGG*) *wiki* has a page listing DNA interest groups in Australia Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the U.S. at <https://isogg.org/wiki/DNA_Interest_Groups>.

Not all groups are listed on the *ISOGG wiki* page, so check your local societies too.

Personalized Coaching

Professional genealogists may offer personalized coaching or consultation. For example, Diahan Southard (https://www.yourdnaguide.com/thementor) offers several mentoring packages.

To find others offering DNA-related services, go to the directories of the Board for Certification of Genealogists (https://bcgcertification.org/directory/) or the Association of Professional Genealogists (https://www.apgen.org/directory) and do a keyword search for DNA.

Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*



Celtic Connections Conference Returns for 2022

by Anne Patriquin, TIARA

The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA) is happy to announce the upcoming 2022 Virtual Celtic Connections Conference.

A planning committee chaired by Janis Duffy and Greg Atkinson has decided to host a virtual conference from early July through September 2022. The conference was conceived and prodded into action by the late Mary Choppa, a former President of TIARA. Mary sadly passed away this past spring. TIARA will present CCC 2022 in Mary's memory.

In 2012, the Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI) joined in a successful partnership with TIARA to sponsor what became four Celtic Connections Conferences. The two organizations alternated in the leadership role of the conference through four biennial events (2014 - 2020).

The IGSI board made the decision in 2019 that the 2020 Conference would be the last one to which it would dedicate its limited volunteer resources. While IGSI opted to discontinue co-sponsorship of the 2022-and-beyond conferences, they fully support TIARA's continuation of CCC and anticipate other joint ventures in the future.



The 2022 Celtic Connections Conference will feature over 30 lectures from an all-star line-up of national and international speakers presenting on such topics as researching the Celtic diaspora, emigration and immigration patterns, unique research resources, DNA and others.

TIARA is thrilled to present Celtic Connections 2022 and looks forward to welcoming many of our past attendees to the virtual conference. Registration will be available next Spring. Please check our website www.celtic-connections.org for details.

A Genealogical Education

by Fiona Fitzsimons

The conkers [horse chestnuts] are ripening on the trees, the children are back in school, and we're at the start of a new academic year 2021-22. This year I will be teaching a series of short courses for Ireland's County Libraries and continuing with my signature course in Irish Family and Social History at Trinity College Dublin. In between, I've agreed to give a few one-off talks to Societies — it's going to be a busy year. In anticipation of all this activity, I've been thinking about what I need to do to provide a better learning outcome for all my students who want to learn about genealogy and family history.

Genealogy or Family History?

Genealogy and Family History are separate but related disciplines. "Genealogy is the study and construction of familial relationships, … tracing and proving ancestry and descent."[1] It draws mainly on the evidence of vital records (births, marriages, deaths; the census; and church registers).

Family history uses a wider lens, to look at the extended family including those that left no descendants. It draws on all surviving evidence including documentary sources, oral traditions, material culture and DNA evidence. We can use it to investigate how people lived, and how they responded to events and changes in their own lifetime; it allows us to understand our ancestors on their own terms.

My focus in the classroom is on teaching family history. Although it requires more skills and specialised knowledge than genealogy, it also delivers more complete results.

Set clear learning objectives. The fundamental question is, what learning objectives do I set for every class? In other words, what should students know or be able to do at the end of the class or course, that they couldn't do before.

Objectives vary depending on the level you're teaching at and the amount of time with any student group: whether it's a once-off talk for a Society, a workshop in a library, or teaching in a university. Teachers need to adjust to different learning environments, so that everyone who turns up to class has the opportunity to learn.

The members of a Society generally socialise around a common interest — family history; they will meet regularly throughout the year and hear other speakers. The learning objective set in any talk has to fit, like 'Cinderella's slipper', within the framework.

Individuals attending a library workshop or a short evening course are doing it as a leisure activity. Many probably work full time and have family commitments. They're often carving out time in an already busy schedule to attend class. I have to be able to retain their interest, whilst teaching the core skills and knowledge of the subject. Homework will always be optional for these students.

Teaching at university level allows the greatest amount of time (a semester, academic year, or degree) and commitment from the student, to explore the subject. Attendance at classes and clinics is of course important, but any teacher, ambitious for her students, will encourage them to take the time to read around their subject and to develop a bit of discipline.

In-person, 'Blended' or E-learning?

One of the unforeseen outcomes of the Corona virus pandemic, is that it sped up the process of moving education online. Before March 2020, all institutions had made some inroads towards online learning platforms. Many universities offered 'blended learning', combining in-person sessions with online materials and activities. Some of the national cultural institutions and the more active Associations also offered occasional live webinars; the recordings were afterwards made accessible to readers or members for a limited time.

During the pandemic, every institution that offered education had to adapt to exclusively online teaching and learning. It was, in effect, a massive experiment in how we make knowledge available: and we're still trying to make sense of it all. The main take-away is that online learning allows for a more student-centred educational system, but only when the correct supports are in place.[2]

The pandemic also has had a profound impact on societies and moved on public opinion, especially on issues of diversity and inclusivity. Online learning offers greater access to a larger, more diverse student body. Any university or institution that draws down public funding must take this into account. As I write this in September 2021, I don't foresee a return to a classroom-only model unless, like Muggletonians, we're content to consign ourselves to obscurity.

Adapt what you do for blended or online classes. Be flexible: adjust how you teach depending on whether it's a classroom IRL

or online. Brush up on your own technical skills. You don't have to know how to rewire a main-frame computer. Just know how to use the online platform you're using to teach (Zoom, GoToWebinar, Microsoft Teams, or whatever). Decide in advance whether you want to make a recording of the class to post online as a resource for students.

You should know how to upload documents; how to deliver a PowerPoint presentation online; and how to 'share presenter' with students so they can make their own presentations. You should also know how to use break-out rooms in a workshop or conference setting, and familiarise yourself with the chat-box, so that students can post questions and get answers in real time. One of the main advantages of learning online is that students work at their own pace, often outside classroom hours. This doesn't require you to be switched on 24-7, but you must be able to respond to questions in good time.

What supports do you need in place for the best learning outcome? The supports you choose to provide depend on how much time you have with each class. Be prepared to adapt, depending on whether you're teaching in a real or a virtual classroom.

- A syllabus and bibliography are the bare minimum. The syllabus is a guide for the teacher and class; it lets students know "what the course is about, where it is going, and what will be required of them to be successful in the course."[3]

  The bibliography sets out the required reading. Include more recently published articles and books, to encourage individual students to read more widely on those aspects of the subject (family history) they enjoy best.

- Since 2012 I have supplied revision notes (a summary of the main argument and supporting ideas) for evening classes. However, in practise, supplying revision notes has proved counterproductive. It seems to encourage passivity among students, some of whom reported they weren't worried if they missed classes, because they had the notes.

  Revision notes also seems to discourage active learning and to encourage breaches of copyright. This particular learning support is currently under review.

- Clinics are an excellent way to teach practical skills in a real-life or online classroom.

  Working with documents encourages students to think critically about the sources as they learn. It gives everyone the opportunity to contribute and moves discussion beyond the handful of confident students who might otherwise dominate. Students can hone communication and collaborative skills working together on case-studies.

- In an ideal world, every class or lecture would have a corresponding s allowing students time and space to explore new subjects in greater depth. In seminars, students get to discuss new ideas, express their own opinion, debate contentious issues, and present their own work in a supported environment. Unfortunately, the decision to schedule seminars is guided not by learning outcomes but by budgetary constraints.

- Where accreditation is offered on completion of the course, the lecturers and tutors will set written exercises, project-work and exams to evaluate the student's knowledge, skills and proficiency.

Developing Students' Skills and Knowledge

Family History is a very broad subject, because it has the potential to encompass all human behaviour and activity. In developing a course, we must ask, what are the key skills and knowledge students need to learn to practise proficiently.[4]

Archival knowledge of the main records used in research. The backbone of all genealogical education is an archival research method for historical documents. Students are taught which government department/ institution set up a system of governance; whether authority stayed within this office or was ever transferred to another branch of government. Knowing what department was responsible is useful when tracing what records were made, what survives to the present day, and where to find them.[5]

Students learn the date-range (start and completion dates) of key collections and whether there are any gaps in coverage.

They learn where to access the sources in the archives (manuscript) and online (digital). Where a digital copy is available, is it a complete or a partial surrogate? For example, the digital copy of the 1901 Census of Ireland is missing entire baronies, city-streets and villages. However, a complete manuscript copy survives in the National Archives of Ireland.

Based on my own practise, I can advise students when public access to sources is

restricted, and if there's any way around this. For example, Ireland's historic records of births, marriages and deaths are available online on <www.irishgenealogy.ie> with a cut-off date to protect the privacy of living people (births <100 years, marriages < 75 years, deaths < 50 years). As these are public records, however, researchers can attend the General Register Office to consult the index volumes and view records up to 2021.

Other records are only accessible to next-of-kin (Irish Defence Force, military service and pension records) or are permanently restricted by data-protection (hospital records and records of children in care).

Students must learn to research within the data-protection / privacy laws of the state. I'm most familiar with the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) which applies in all European states. In the U.S. there's a real patch-work of rules in place.

Archival guidelines for working with original material. An essential part of any genealogical education is to get students working with original documents and materials. Every archival repository has its own guidelines to access and use the collections. Some archives will ask for a note of recommendation before they admit researchers, for example, or they may have a mandatory 'gloves' rule for handling original material.

Students should learn simple archival guidelines designed to preserve the collections.

- When handling original material, wash and dry your hands, and do not apply hand-lotion. This is relevant even if you are wearing gloves.
- Don't bend or tear a page or document.
- Don't bring an ink-pen into an archive. Most repositories provide pencils, erasers and sharpeners.
- Don't lean on original records or books as you write — you don't want to damage the original by leaving a palimpsest.
- Don't make notations to original manuscripts or antiquarian books.
- Many archives allow photographs, within set guidelines for security and conservation. Always sign the permission slip first.
- Don't ever remove anything from an archival repository that you didn't bring with you. Historical collections are part of our cultural heritage. They should be preserved intact for future generations.

Reading widely about the society, culture and history of your ancestral home. Students should read widely about the culture, language, laws and history of the country they intend to research in. It's almost a cliché to describe the past as a different country, but in my own lifetime, new laws ushered in social norms and freedoms that were previously inconceivable.

Where students engage with the history, they find a deeper context for their own research. Students have reported they are more confident in interpreting the evidence in historic documents, as they have a keener sense of how people lived.

Here are a few examples, from the classroom, of how knowing more about the society can help you to avoid pitfalls in research.

Language, society and culture. The shift from Irish to English as the vernacular of the population was not complete until the early 20th century. By the 18th century however, the language of local and central govern-ment and of the courts was English. All of Ireland's official records are in the English language. After this time, there is no language barrier to working with Irish records. Researchers will, however, find relics of the Irish language / culture which, unless they understand what is intended, can sometimes 'mis-direct' research.

- Use of patronyms (Mac Meic and the family surname) survives in legal documents to about 1740s.
- In the 18th century, many Irish tried to better assimilate into English culture by dropping the 'O' and 'Mac' prefix in their surnames. It was always a personal choice, and it doesn't indicate a change of faith. From about 1890, some families influenced by the Celtic revival chose to re-insert the surname prefix. Others like Doyle, Kennedy, Murphy and Nolan (all of whom previously used the O prefix) didn't. When research-ing, always follow the 'root' or core of a family name.
- Irish people used different languages in different social situations: Irish for the everyday, English for formal/ legal use, Latin for church records. Researchers will often find a range of ostensibly different names used for one person in the records – e.g.: Darby / Jeremiah/ Demetrius.
- Irish Place-names: in Ireland a place may have more than one name derived from the English or Irish language. In 1837, the Ordnance Survey adopted place-names for official use. However, we still find older, unofficial names used in

records of local government, and by local people, down to the present day.

Laws concerning marriage, inheritance and land-title. There is greater evidence for some aspects of life than others. Most of the historical records that survive document land and property. Students should learn the history of the laws concerning marriage, inheritance, succession, and land-title in the country they are researching.

Again, taking an example from Ireland. After 1791, most of the Penal Laws that had restricted the civil rights of Catholics and Protestant Dissenters were repealed. However, the 1725 Marriage Act remained on the Statute Books for almost another century. Consequently, many inter-faith couples married their partners twice and practised dual baptism — a canonical nightmare but a practical remedy to ensure marriages were lawful, children legitimate, and inheritance secured.

Critical Thinking and Analysis

As family historians, we often work with conflicting evidence or evidence that has a high degree of ambiguity.

Critical thinking should be an essential part of a genealogical education. Students must learn to analyse and weigh up the evidence, using their background knowledge to read between the lines, using reason and logic to reach a conclusion.

At its simplest in a family history context, a woman's fertile years were between puberty (10 to 14 years)[6], and menopause (about 50). If you find a birth record for a date before your female ancestor had achieved puberty, or after she reached the menopause, the record is not germane to your research.

As part of this process of critical thinking, students should learn how to write up a coherent family history narrative, properly cited, so that the reader can follow the account and check the accuracy of any factual statement.

Teach your students early on to be copyright compliant. European copyright protects the author or creator, while U.S. copyright protects the rights-owner to commercially exploit the work. Family History experts will often write an article or give a webinar just to increase their profile. Plagiarism undermines their best efforts. In the digital age, plagiarism and breaches of copyright are a huge problem.

You can choose to include other subjects in your curriculum based on the number of teaching hours available and what you think is most important.

Genetic Genealogy

We are the first generation to create digital records of our DNA. We can compare our own DNA with the DNA samples of other people entered in public data-bases (*Ancestry*, *FamilyTree*, *MyHeritage*, etc).[7] It's a comparative study and relies on a critical mass of people from the relevant family group and geographic area signing up to the DNA sites. Genetic genealogy is an essential research tool for everyone who wants to learn how to practise genealogy and family history.

Advanced Research Methods

Students can learn advanced research methods to investigate specific questions or try to prove a hypothesis. Some methods, such as prosopography, are especially useful in Family History where the surviving evidence is very limited. Understanding how to practise oral history can allow us to work with oral traditions passed down through the family.

A course to train professionals should include business practice, communication and ethics.[8] Teaching these elements in a classroom setting is beyond my experience. However, I've managed the Eneclann / Irish Family History Centre research team for 25 years, and on that basis can offer some practical suggestions of what should be on the curriculum.

Business practice

- Learn how to adopt a disciplined business approach and put proper business principles in place. Make sure your fees cover general business expenses, your time, and allow you a reasonable profit margin.
- Implement proper time management systems, so you stick to the number of hours agreed with the client; be sure to regularly send out invoices, so you get paid. It's very easy to work in Family History and not make any money.
- Learn to organize your business operational records, so that you know what you have to do and when. A customer management system (cms) will allow you to stay on top of client work.
- Learn to market, so that you always have new work coming in.

Communication skills

- Be clear in terms of what you can do for a client; make sure they have realistic expectations.
- Put in writing what research has been commissioned, including the range of years or timeframe you will search the records, and what the deliverables are (a written report, a family tree, a personal biography) – an email will do.

- Set a realistic date to complete and present your research.
- If research is delayed, keep in contact with the client. Regular communication will reassure them of your competence and ability to complete the project.
- Research findings can sometimes include difficult or even distressing information. Learn how to communicate what you find without causing any more distress.

Business ethics

- Work within GDPR and data-protection laws. Don't present yourself as an academic researcher or as 'next-of-kin' to access records that are not open to the public.
- Complete all research that you have agreed to with the client. Don't record a 'negative search' for records you haven't examined.
- Don't steal other genealogists' client lists or poach their clients. It is however acceptable to contact potential clients through normal channels and pitch for their business.
- Don't defame another genealogist. A defamatory statement is one which injures a person's reputation in the eyes of reasonable members of society. A defamatory statement has three ingredients: it must be published (that includes online); it must refer to the aggrieved party; and it must be false.
- Respect client confidentiality. Our clients entrust us with information about their family that is often private and sometimes sensitive. We have an ongoing duty of confidentiality, from the first consultation, that covers all communication and research.

  More recently, confidentiality extends to clients' DNA samples. We should teach our students to think critically about who else their genes may be shared with, and for what purpose.

In a sense, Genealogy / Family History is such a broad subject, that you could keep adding units and modules indefinitely. Always keep in mind, as you design a course, who it's intended for, and how they will use it.

Remind your students, that even when they finish the course, their education doesn't end there. The proper environment for family history is a social space, not a classroom or library. They should take what they've learned and consistently apply it to a real-life situation. Samuel Beckett's imperative to 'fail better' could have been written with us [genealogists, family historians] in mind.

To conclude on a personal note, the more I learn, the more I realise how little I know. This isn't false modesty on my part. I know that I'm only a cog in a much larger wheel. The great pleasure in practising family history, and admittedly sometimes the great frustration, is that it commits the practitioner to life-long learning.

Endnotes

[1] Bruce Durie, *Scottish Genealogy* 3rd edition, p. 9 (The History Press, 2012).

[2] Coman, C.; Țîru, L.G.; Meseșan-Schmitz, L.; Stanciu, C.; Bularca, M.C. Online Teaching and Learning in Higher Education during the Coronavirus Pandemic: Students' Perspective. *Sustainability* **2020**, 12, 10367. (https://doi.org/10.3390/su122410367).

[3] Altman, H. B., & Cashin, W. E. (2003, May). Writing a syllabus.

[4] Tahitia McCabe asserts proficiency isn't just for professionals, and that hobbyists also want to be proficient. See The Expert Workshop series, June 2019, speaker: Tahitia McCabe, Strathclyde University. (The Expert Workshop Series, Irish Family History Centre and the Military History Archives).

[5] This is the system that professional archivists use; it was first explained to me by the late Gregory O'Connor, Senior Archivist in the National Archives of Ireland.

[6] Archaeological evidence suggests that children in medieval Europe entered puberty at the same age as today in the 21st century. Prof. Mary Lewis & Sharon N. DeWitte, "Medieval menarche" in *American Journal of Human Biology*, 33 (1275), (www.researchgate.net accessed 10.09.2021).

[7] Dr. Patrick Waldron, Genetic Genealogy, Introduction to Irish Family History, Trinity College Dublin, 8th Feby. 2021.

[8] Tahitia McCabe, University of Strathclyde, previously cited.

Fiona Fitzsimons teaches a two-year course in Irish Family & Social History at Trinity College Dublin. She is a founder of Eneclann and of the Irish Family History Centre at EPIC. She writes for History Ireland *magazine,* Irish Lives Remembered, *and has contributed to national newspapers and radio in Ireland and Britain. She lives in Dublin with her husband and three sons.*



Educational Self-Assessment

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

The theme of this issue of *The Septs* is Genealogical Education — why, where, and how to learn to become a better genealogist.

"Becoming a better genealogist" is a terrific goal, but it's not especially specific or measurable. Having specific goals points you toward work that moves you in the direction you want to go; having measurable goals lets you see your progress.

Each of us is unique in what we bring to family history research, and what we want to get out of our work. How do you need to rephrase the goal of "becoming a better genealogist" to make it more specific and measurable for your needs? The mind map at right shows areas where many "better genealogists" have developed competencies. There are lots of specifics you can review to see which ones resonate with you.

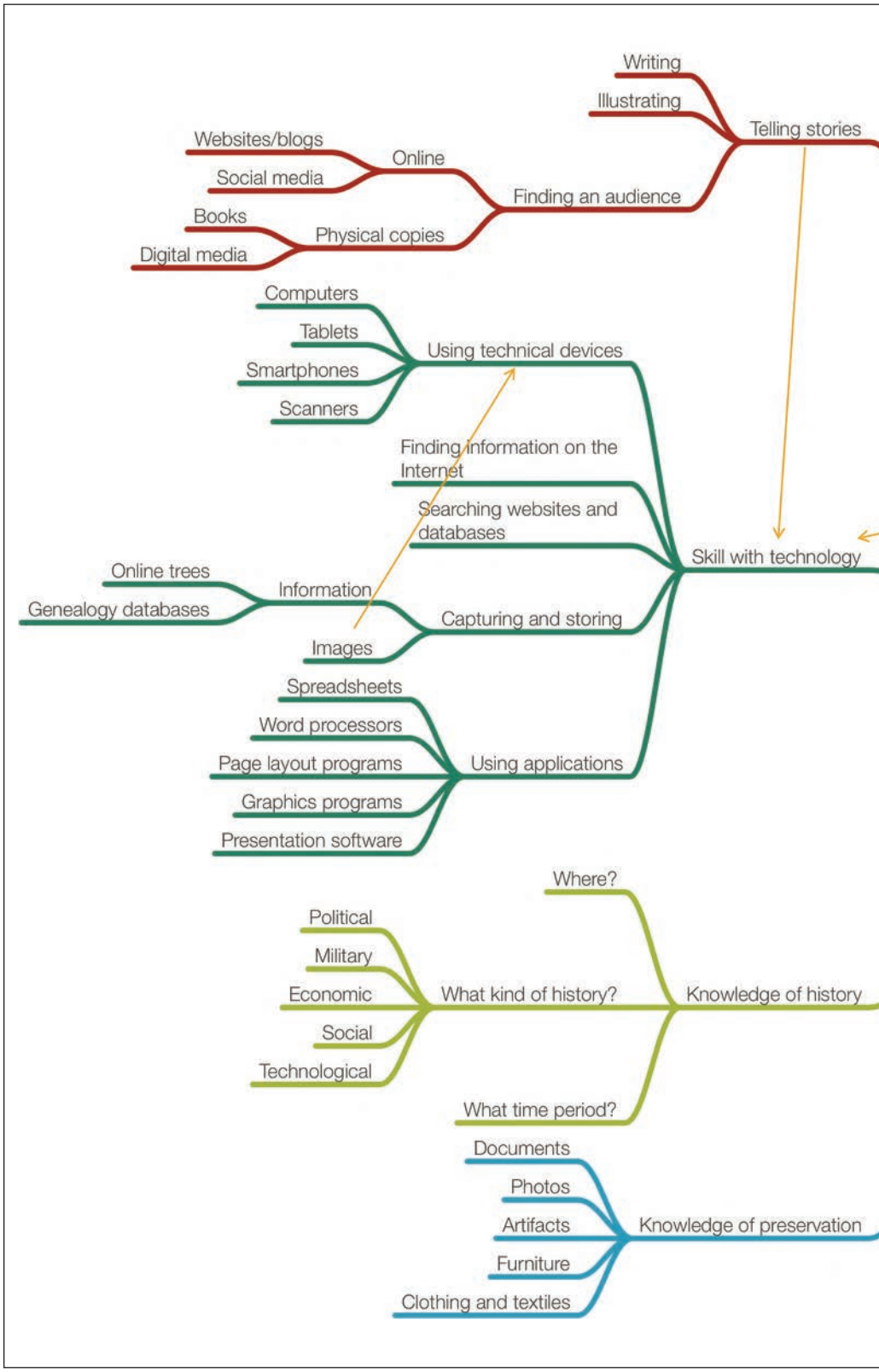
Before you plunge into education, you need to target your efforts. Steps for zeroing in on a target that's right for you are

1. Assess your current overall level of competency
2. Identify areas that would most enhance your ability to do better work
3. Decide how much time and money you have.

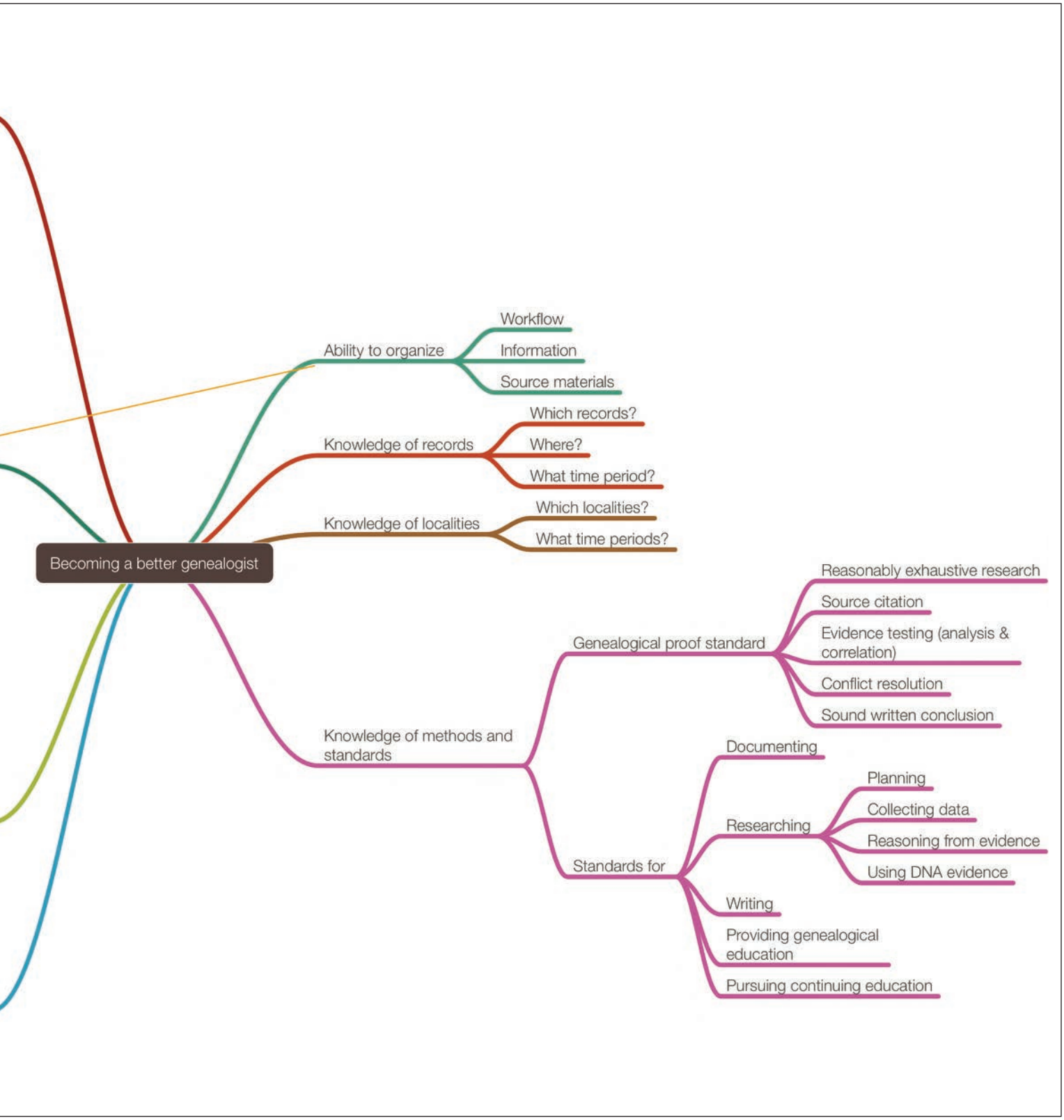
Following these three steps — assess, identify, and decide — puts you in the best position to get the most out of the time and money you put into your education.

Assess

The first step is to ascertain where you are now. Here are three freely available tools for assessing your current level.



Becoming a Better Genealogist — mind map created by author using MindNode.


Becoming a better genealogist
Ability to organize
Workflow
Information
Source materials
Knowledge of records
Which records?
Where?
What time period?
Knowledge of localities
Which localities?
What time periods?
Knowledge of methods and standards
Genealogical proof standard
Reasonably exhaustive research
Source citation
Evidence testing (analysis & correlation)
Conflict resolution
Sound written conclusion
Standards for
Documenting
Researching
Planning
Collecting data
Reasoning from evidence
Using DNA evidence
Writing
Providing genealogical education
Pursuing continuing education

Strengths/opportunities for improvement
Identifying your current strengths and opportunities for improvement is a quick and easy method. Here's how to do it.

Write two headings on a blank sheet of paper or a blank word processing document:

Three areas where I am successful in my genealogy

Three areas where I struggle with my genealogy

Under each heading write down the first three items that occur to you. (It's okay to write down more than three items; stop before you get to five or six.)

The areas where you are already successful are your strengths, the areas where you struggle are your areas for improvement.

Genealogical Maturity system
Another self-assessment tool is the Genealogical Maturity system, available in the *FamilySearch Research Wiki*.[1] I like this tool because it's based in methodology that applies in any area of research and any geographic area.

In 2009 the Ancestry Insider, an anonymous blogger who wrote about *Ancestry* and *FamilySearch* between 2007 and 2017, proposed this system of self-evaluation and self-improvement based on the Genealogical Proof Standard and the Evidence Analysis Research Process Map.[2]

The Genealogy Maturity self-evaluation tool guides you through a quick self-rating system where you pick the sentence that best describes your current practices in five areas (Sources, Citations, Information, Evidence, and Conclusions). For example, you pick one of five Citations sentences, ranging from "Sees no need to record citations" to "Overcomes limitations of genealogical software to create well organized, industry standard reference notes and source lists." The five sentences in each area correspond to the practices of Entry-level, Emerging, Practicing, Proficient, and Stellar genealogists.

After checking off the sentences that describe you in each category, you create a snapshot of your assessment by listing the first sentence you *didn't* check off in each category. Maybe in Sources, you're an Emerging genealogist, but in Citations, you're at Entry level. From your snapshot, you can see whether you fall consistently into one maturity level or vary in maturity from category to category.

A nice thing about this tool is that there are follow-on articles for each category (Sources, Citations, etc.) that explain concepts and terms and recommend books and other educational opportunities.[3]

Those of you familiar with capability maturity models used in software development and other technical areas may really like this approach!

Elissa Powell's "Your Own Education Plan" worksheet
In 2010, Elissa Scalise Powell, a professional genealogist whose career includes serving as President of the Board for Certification of Genealogists and co-founding the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, developed a presentation on education planning that's now free on *FamilySearch*.[4]

Even though it's ten years old, Elissa's presentation is an excellent guide to the various types of continuing education in genealogy. The last page of the accompanying handout is "Your Own Education Plan Self-Assessment Worksheet," which asks you to self-select your experience level and identify what you need to learn. A great feature of Elissa's worksheet is that it leads you through identifying your learning styles, learning preferences, available time, and budget, thus carrying you seamlessly through steps 2 and 3 of the self-assessment process we're discussing here.[5]

Identify

Once you've assessed "where you are," you can identify the areas for improvement that are most important for you to attack now.

If you're using the strengths/opportunities for improvement method, focus on your opportunities for improvement. Which opportunity has the broadest negative impact on your work? Is there an opportunity that is blocking you from doing something you want or need to do (say, publishing that family history you told your family for would be ready for your father's birthday)?

If you're using the Genealogical Maturity system, pick the category where your genealogical maturity is lowest, go to the corresponding baby steps article, and identify what you need to work on.

If you're using Elissa Powell's worksheet, focus on one or two of the topics, techniques, or skills you identified.

Decide

Once you've assessed your current level of knowledge and skills and identified your most critical improvement areas, it's time to get practical! You will need to consider:

- How much time do you have available for self-education?
- Can you set aside multiple days at a time for learning, or do you need shorter learning options?

- Do you have blocks of time you can regularly set aside, or do you need education you can pick up whenever you're available?
- Does your schedule allow you to travel or do you need education that comes to you?
- Do you prefer self-guided learning, or do you need externally imposed structure and accountability?
- How much do you have to spend?

These answers will help you narrow down your educational choices to find the best ones for you at this time.

Going Through the Self-Assessment Process

Although a lot of thought is required, self-assessment doesn't have to take a long time. Free up an hour, find a quiet place, grab your favorite beverage, and do it!

Share your self-assessment with a genea-friend or mentor, plan some great learning, and take action. You'll be glad you did!

EndNotes

[1] "Genealogical Maturity," *FamilySearch Research Wiki* (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogical_Maturity). All URLs cited were checked 20 August 2021.

[2] To learn more about the Ancestry Insider, see *The Ancestry Insider* (blog, 2007–2017), http://www.ancestryinsider.org/. The Genealogical Maturity Model articles start at http://www.ancestryinsider.org/2009/11/genealogical-maturity-model.html.

For the Genealogical Proof Standard, see Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd ed. (Washington, DC: Board for Certification of Genealogists, 2019), 1–3. For the Evidence Analysis Process Map (the three-column diagram showing how sources, information, and evidence feed first into analysis, then into proof), see Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained*, 3rd ed. rev. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017), front endpaper.

[3] See, for example, "Sources and Baby Steps," *FamilySearch Research Wiki* (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sources_and_Baby_Steps). The five Baby Steps articles are linked to each other and to the Genealogical Maturity article.

[4] Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, "Choosing the Best Continuing Education Opportunities," *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/help/helpcenter/lessons/choosing-the-best-continuing-education-opportunities).

[5] Elissa Scalise Powell, "Your Own Education Plan: Choosing the Best Continuing Education Opportunities," p. 8; imaged at *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.brightspotcdn.com/27/0d/16eef0ea3838b70fe504e9fded56/best-cont-ed-opportunities.pdf).

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Upcoming IGSI Webinars

Saturday, October 9 | 10:30 AM - Noon PM CST
How to Hire a Professional Genealogist
Panel discussion with Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, Robert Johnson, Lorna Moloney; moderated by Lois Abromitis Mackin
FREE for IGSI members; $20 for non-members

Saturday, November 13 | 10:30 AM - Noon PM CST
Managing the Genealogy Data Monster
Instructor: Thomas MacEntee
$15 for IGSI members; $20 for non-members

Saturday, December 4 | 10:30 AM - Noon PM CST
Finding Irish Records on FamilySearch and Other Major Genealogy Databases
Instructor: David Rencher
$15 for IGSI members; $20 for non-members

For additional information on a program or to register, go to the Activities page of the IGSI website.

Genealogical Education in the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah

by David E. Rencher, AG®, CG®, FUGA, FIGRS and Craig L. Foster, MA, MLIS, AG®

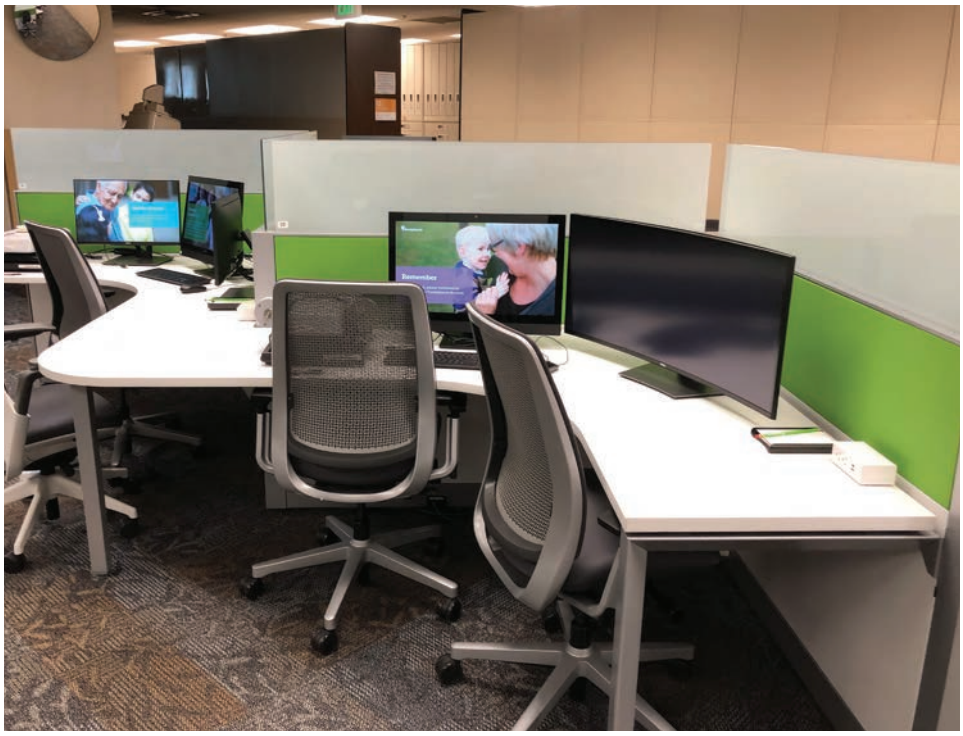
The Family History Library in Salt Lake City was closed on March 13, 2020, because of the global pandemic. All the other major genealogical research facilities across the country closed within hours of each other. Five days later, on March 18 at 7:20 a.m., the library was rocked with a 5.7 magnitude earthquake. Initially, it was believed that the library would reopen within a short period of time — that proved not to be the case.

This presented a unique opportunity to accelerate remodeling plans that were already in process to update all the furnishings in the library and to restore a major portion of the book collection. New adjustable height workstations with multiple monitors were added in addition to book shelving for an additional 40,000-50,000 books. All the books for the British Isles — including those for Ireland — were restored to the public collection from the high-density storage shelving in the library.

The two lower floors of the library, B1 and B2, were rearranged to mirror the two upper floors of the library where the United States and Canada collection comprised the books on the 3rd floor and the microfilms on the 2nd floor. Now, the international collections are combined with all the books on B2 and all the microfilms on B1. Reference services are located on all floors.

During the closure, new Family History Library webpages were created to easily access information about the library. To see all of the resources available from the library, go to <https://www.familysearch.





Entrance to Family History Library, Salt Lake City (above); new library computer workstations (below). Photos courtesy of Family History Library.

org/family-history-library/welcome-to-the-family-history-library> and select the "Services" tab.

Learning opportunities were expanded with the library staff increasing the number of online webinars, classes, and services. To see a schedule of these online events, go to the site above and select "Learning." This will take you to a selection of "Family History Library Learning" topics, including:

- Library Classes and Webinars
- The Learning Center
- *FamilySearch* Research Wiki
- RootsTech Videos

Library Classes and Webinars

The staff at the library offer a continual array of classes on a variety of topics and geographic areas. Obviously, many of the Irish classes are offered during the month of March to coincide with St. Patrick's Day.

Learning Center

FamilySearch has created an online learning center where experts in specific geographic areas throughout the world offer instructional sessions on family history research in that area. There are currently 29 classes available for Ireland in the *FamilySearch* learning center. At <https://www.familysearch.org/help/helpcenter/learning-center-search/?q=Ireland> you will find classes on a variety of Irish research topics, including:

Getting Started in Irish Genealogy

Ireland Beginning Research Series: Church Records

Ireland Beginning Research Series: Civil Registration

Ireland Emigration

Ireland Catholic Church Records

Ireland Beginning Research Series Immigration Part 1: Strategies

Ireland Beginning Research Series Immigration Part 2: Famine and Post Famine Sources

Ireland Beginning Research Series Immigration Part 3: Ulster and Scots Irish Sources

Irish Emigration to North America: Before, During, and After the Famine, Parts 1 and 2

Ireland Presbyterian Church Records

The Scots Irish: Plantation and Settlement of Ulster in the 17th Century

Ireland Civil Registration

Ireland Griffiths Valuation Records

Ireland Census and Census Substitutes

How Understanding Jurisdictions Can Help Your Irish Research: Introduction

How Understanding Jurisdictions Can Help Your Irish Research: Gazetteers

How Understanding Jurisdictions Can Help Your Irish Research: Maps

How Understanding Jurisdictions Can Help Your Irish Research: Religious Jurisdictions

How Understanding Jurisdictions Can Help Your Irish Research: Government Jurisdictions

More Irish than the Irish Themselves: The Hiberno-Norman Families, Parts 1 and 2

British Resources on *Findmypast*

FamilySearch Research Wiki

The *FamilySearch* Research Wiki is a tremendous source of information for genealogical research in Ireland. In addition to specific record topics, pages have also been created for societies, archives, libraries, and civil parishes in Ireland. Two exciting new Wiki pages for Ireland created during the pandemic are

- Ireland Estate Records
- Ireland Law Libraries

The Ireland Estate Records page includes a complete list of landowners by county taken from Hussy de Burgh's *The Landowners of Ireland*, published in 1878. Links to known estate records are included with the basic information. This page is just beginning to develop into a complete resource for Ireland estate records.

The Ireland Law Libraries Wiki page includes a listing of all the nominate reports with links to the online volumes. These law summaries cite case law that encapsulate the relevant details of a case, often giving family relationships and other relevant genealogical details.

RootsTech Videos

The enormous wealth of material created for RootsTech 2021 is all still freely online. There are 25 sessions to be viewed. To find these sessions, go to the Family History Library webpages, select "Learning" and then select "RootsTech Videos." Next, type "Ireland" in the search box and you will see the wide array of sessions offered.

Online Consultations

In 2020, the staff at the Family History Library launched free 20-minute online

consultations (DNA consultations are 45 minutes). In addition to English, consultations are also offered in Spanish, Italian, and Chinese. The staff offers over 700 consultations per month to people across the United States and around the world. Staff members have commented how enjoyable it is to be able to help people who probably never will have the opportunity to visit Salt Lake City. While the consultations are free, we ask that guests limit their consultations to one per week. Consultations address several topics, including immigration, Jewish, Hispanic, Chinese family history in addition to the other geographic areas and groups. To book a free online consultation, go to the new Family History Library webpages at <https://www.familysearch.org/family-history-library/welcome-to-the-family-history-library> and select "Research Help" and then "Virtual Genealogy Consultations."

Lookup Service

Trying to do research from a distance can be challenging. Staff and volunteers at the library now fulfill lookup services for items in books, microfilm/microfiche, or other records that are not available online. For a lookup request, please be as specific for the reference as possible; this is not a research service. Staff must also abide by governing copyright laws, so the number of pages copied from a book are limited. The service provided returns copies by email with a pdf copy. Most requests are filled within two-weeks. To use the service, go to <https://www.familysearch.org/family-history-library/family-history-library-records-look-up-service>.

Partial List of Titles for Ireland Books Purchased for the Family History Library, 2020-2021

The staff of the Family History Library focused on adding many new published volumes to the Irish collection. The following list provides a glimpse into the variety, breadth, and depth of the collection.

Church History/Records and Gravestone Inscriptions

The Church of Ireland: an illustrated history

The Diocese of Lismore, 1801-69

Inscriptions at St. Fin Barre's Cathedral Cork

Towards a history of the Quaker Meeting at Newgarden, County Carlow 1650-1730

Irish Presbyterians and the Shaping of Western Pennsylvania, 1770-1830

Emigration/Diaspora

The Irish Diaspora: Tales of Emigration, Exile, and Imperialism

Transatlantic Lives: The Irish Experience in Colonial America

Ulster Presbyterians and the Scots Irish Diaspora, 1750-1764

Irish Immigration to Latin America

Estates, Land, and Plantation

Great Houses of Ireland

Great Irish Households: Inventories

The Lost Houses of Ireland

Return of owners of Land in Ireland, 1876

The Plantation of Ulster: The Story of the Scots

Rural Aristocracy in Northern Ireland

Untenanted Lands (Ireland): A Return of Untenanted Lands in Rural Districts

The Landlord's and Agent's Practical Guide (1860)

Life in the Country House in Georgian Ireland

A Guide to Irish Country Houses

Surplus People: The Fitzwilliam Clearances 1847-1856

John Hamilton of Donegal 1800-1884 This Recklessly Generous Landlord

The Story of Jawick Sands Estate

Tollymore: The Story of an Irish Demesne

Calendar of the Rosse Papers

Family Histories

Ancient Celtic Ancestry of the O'Brien Family

Burke: The Origins of the Clan Burke

The Dukes of Ormonde, 1610-1745

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A Genealogical History of the Ulster O'Neills

Genealogy of the House of O'Reilly

History of the O'Sullivan Clan

The Kavanaghs: Kings of Leinster

Kilcash and the Butlers of Ormond

The Rice Family History: Ireland, Virginia, North Carolina & Tennessee

For the Grass of a Cow: Marion Tiernan's Irish Ancestors from County Meath to Saint Lawrence County, New York, 1820-1999

The Cavan Leahys: Origins

The Cavan Leahys: 1800-1950

Famine

Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine

The Graves Are Walking: The Great Famine and the Saga of the Irish People

Irish Famines before and after the Great Hunger

Arctic Ireland: the Extraordinary Story of the Great Frost and Famine of 1740-41

The Coffin Ship: Life and Death at Sea during the Great Irish Famine

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Irish Servicewomen in the Great War

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Ulster's War Graves Volume 2: County Londonderry's War Burials Part 1-Aghadowey to Enagh

Dublin War Dead Volume 1: Abbott-Donnelly

Dublin War Dead Volume 2: Donoghue-Kellaghan

Dublin War Dead Volume 3: Kelleher-O'Carroll

Dublin War Dead Volume 4: O'Connell-Yule

Deeds not Words: Dedicated to all Irishmen who served and died in two World Wars

Wigs and Guns: Irish Barristers in the Great War

Roll of Honor 1914-1919 — Historical Society of Ireland

Heraldry

Arms of the Irish Nobility

Independence

Blood on the Banner: The Republican Struggle in Clare

The Civil War in Kerry

Cork Burning

Dying for the Cause: Kerry's Republican Dead

Guerilla Days in Ireland

The Irish War of Independence and Civil War

Kerry's Fighting Story, 1916-21

Kildare: The Irish Revolution, 1912-23

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The Black and Tans

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The Peeler's Notebook: Policing Victorian Dublin

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Rossin, County Meath: An Unofficial Place

History of Local Government in the County of Louth: From the Earliest Times to the Present Time

The Ordinance Book of the Merchants of the Staple

Research Guides

American Scots-Irish Research - Strategies and Sources

Business archival sources for the local historian

Researching Presbyterian Ancestors in Ireland

Researching Farming Ancestors in Ireland

A Guide to Irish Military Heritage

Photographs and Photography in Irish Local History

A Guide to Sources for the History of Irish Education, 1780-1922

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Aristocratic Women in Ireland, 1450-1660

Dissidents: Irish Republican Women, 1923-1941

Renegades: Irish Republican Women, 1900-1922

Conclusion

The Family History Library continues to build a wide range of learning resources for family history research in Ireland — whether you are doing your research from the comfort of your home, or in-person in the library. Continue to check the new Family History Library webpages and all the links to incredible Irish resources.

David E. Rencher, AG®, CG®, FUGA, FIGRS, is employed as the Director, Family History Library and Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch. *A professional genealogist since 1977, he is one of the rare few who have earned both credentials: Accredited Genealogist® with ICAPGen in Ireland research and Certified Genealogist® with the Board for Certification of Genealogists. He is a past-president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.*



Craig L. Foster, AG®, MA, MLIS, has been employed at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for almost thirty years. He earned a MA in British history and a MLIS, both from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. He is an Accredited Genealogist in both Ireland and Scotland and is the author or co-author of several books and about thirty articles.



Irish Catholic Church Record Indexing Project 1740-1913 — You Can Help!

FamilySearch is creating a new index to the Catholic parish records from Ireland, containing baptism, marriages, and deaths that took place in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1740-1900. The content varies by location and date with large city registers often beginning in the mid-eighteenth century and many of the rural areas beginning in the early nineteenth century. Digital images of the original records are online on the National Library of Ireland website.

The new index will complement existing indexes and will include all the information fields — the most notable addition being the residence. The record of baptisms, marriages, and burials (when extant) generally include the principal name, parents' names, name of the spouse, father's occupation, residence (townland or street), date of birth, date of marriage, burial date, and much more depending on the record type. This collection also contains a small number of confirmations, dispensations, and funeral records.

The project is being accomplished with volunteers using the FamilySearch Indexing platform where anyone can help index. You're invited to sign up and begin indexing; go to https://www.familysearch.org/indexing/projects

Each batch of records is indexed and then arbitrated by a second person to create the highest quality index possible. A table of the townlands is also being created to ensure the highest degree of accuracy for the localities enumerated.

Currently, there are nine projects actively being indexed, namely, counties Antrim, Armagh, Clare, Cork, Down, Dublin, Fermanagh, Galway, and Derry (Londonderry) with three additional counties, Carlow, Cavan, and Donegal coming online shortly.

Learn With Us!

by Donna Jones

Kathleen Foley, an IGSI volunteer, serves as Education Committee Chair. She is a familiar face to those who attend the webinars as she has moderated most of them. Kathleen realizes that IGSI depends on volunteers. She volunteers because she appreciates the work that the organization does; it is a learning and growth opportunity that allows her to give back.

In 2019, she coordinated the classes which were held at the Minnesota Genealogy Center in Mendota Heights and which featured local speakers. The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 required a change to a virtual class/ live webinar format in place of in-person events. In March 2020, IGSI collaborated with MGS' Canadian Interest Group on a live webinar — which success and popularity led to scheduling more webinars later in the year. The new format resulted in reaching a wider audience and allowed people who did not live in the Twin Cities area to participate. It has given the Education committee the ability to schedule speakers from other areas of the country, as well as Ireland and Australia.

The Education committee's role is to support IGSI's mission to provide educational opportunities for our members. Genealogy is a life-long journey for family historians and includes learning about the records that are available, social history, the historical context during our ancestors' lives and utilizing research tools such as DNA. Learning is a key component to successful research.

In September 2020, Kathleen gathered a group of people to work on Society programming for 2021. The eight-



Kathleen Foley

member Education committee meets once a month for planning programs and speakers, and reviewing webinar feedback. The webinar surveys and suggestions are an important part in helping the committee plan. Committee members provide input on topics and speakers they have heard. Our goal is to add value to the IGSI membership by selecting interesting presentations and knowledgeable speakers.

Kathleen reports that she is among those who learn from the webinars. For example, David Ouimette's webinar included many resources for Irish research that she found helpful. Since Kathleen's Irish ancestors initially settled in Canada, she found Melanie McComb's virtual talk of particular interest. She is looking forward to the October webinar about hiring a professional genealogist.

The committee has been thrilled with the attendance and appreciates the support. We are committed to delivering great content that assists in increasing skills and knowledge about Irish research. Some of the most popular subjects have been about the Irish famine and emigration, brick wall strategies, Irish records and resources.

If you have not had the opportunity to attend a webinar, remember that IGSI members have exclusive access to the past recorded webinars and the handouts. Some of the webinars are free, and others charge a fee.

During the summer months, planning began for next year's webinars. We are excited about what is ahead for 2022. Some of the topics under consideration include skill-based classes, the culture and history of our Irish ancestors, finding our ancestor's place of origin, research strategies and increasing knowledge about Irish resources. The committee is working to schedule some wonderful well-known speakers and is exploring having small group virtual sessions. Get ready for a great 2022 and stay tuned!



After retiring from Oxford University Press, Donna Jones finally has more time to research her heritage and ancestry. She is passionate about genealogy education and is a member of the IGSI Education committee and the Board of Directors. IGSI provides her the opportunity to learn more about Irish research as she continues to search for where in Ireland her great, great grandparents lived.

Hoffman Research Library: Minnesota's Center for Genealogy Research

by Ann Eccles

So often in the 21st century we start our search for family history with newer technology such as DNA results and online family trees. That may provide data — scientific links and connections to potential or known relatives and the results of others' work to verify against our own research. But it is books, maps, and manuscripts (generally found in a library) that provide the background or details to fill in the story of an ancestor, their place of residence, or history of the time and place they lived.

If you are an IGSI member who lives in or near the Twin Cities metropolitan area, you can visit and use the materials at the Hoffman Research Library for free. (It's covered in your membership.) The library is the amalgam of the research collections of nearly a dozen genealogical societies in a partner venture. For those whose family or ancestors lived in Minnesota, there is a large collection of Minnesota resources to start tracing the family line: microfilms of some Catholic Church records, city directories, county histories, with many local publications. Yet there are genealogical resources for every state, standard reference directories, and how-to books for those who need get a little extra help.

If, like many researchers, your family line is not 100% Irish, perhaps the collections of the Norwegian, Ostfriesen, Pommern, Czech, Polish, Romanian, or Canadian societies will help you with that other line.

But the 3000+ items in the Irish research collection have been gathered over 40 years and represent histories of all counties in Ireland, directories and indexes to Irish records and manuscripts (only available in Ireland). There are some donated family histories, books on surnames, cemetery records and ship passenger records. There are maps of Ireland, including Ordnance Survey maps, related to Griffith's Valuation. There are books on Irish records to be found in the U.S., Canada or Australia. The guides to Irish research are great to show how and where to look for Irish records — or as a review when one's own research is stalled.



Some noteworthy print items in the Irish collection are the 10 volume *Civil Survey, 1654-1656*; the 16 volumes of the Casey Collection (*O'Kief, Coshe Mang, Slieve Lougher, and Upper Blackwater in Ireland*), the *Ordnance Survey Memoirs* (40 volumes), and *Books of Survey and Distribution, 1636-1703* (4 volumes).

That's not to say that there aren't computers to use. You can research using the library computers to access *Ancestry*, *Findmypast*, and *American Ancestors*. The Hoffman Research Library is an affiliate library to FamilySearch Library as well. If you are looking for a specific item, you can know if it is available by checking WorldCat online as the library's collection is listed in that resource.

If you plan to visit the Hoffman Research Library, check the IGSI website for the hours open for service: it's only three days per week. The IGSI website includes a link to search the library catalog; it's a helpful timesaver to find the call numbers before arriving at the library. An extra benefit for Irish researchers is the second Saturday of each month when the library is staffed with one or more Irish research volunteers to help researchers.

It has been said that a public library is a poor man's university, but there's an education to be had in any library that you visit. Come check out the treasures to be found in the IGSI Library collection and the Hoffman Research Library in Mendota Heights, Minnesota.

Ann Eccles is a retired librarian who has re-focused her research skills to family history and Irish genealogy. She has several Irish ancestral lines to trace as both of her parents descended from Irish families. Ann currently serves as IGSI President and continues to serve as the editor of The Septs.



Create Your Path to Family History

At first glance family history research may appear to be a personal journey; each family researched is unique. But there are common resources for support and ideas: online databases, public libraries and specialized genealogy libraries, blogs by genealogists and genealogy societies, and *Facebook* groups.

Programs in the U.S. at Boston University, GRIP and SLIG, and at a variety of universities in Ireland teach the principles of genealogy research; some even offer it virtually. There are conferences, such as Celtic Connections Conference and others organized by national and local genealogy societies, which help you develop genealogical research skills. They also offer live and virtual lectures or seminars throughout the year. You can find these with a Google search, a check of Cyndi's List or Conferencekeeper websites.

Within the last decade many Irish records have been digitized and placed online — which is a great help if you have been researching from home the last year or so. But when beginning, you need to start your family research with U.S. records. It's often in an American marriage or death record that you might find the name of an immigrant's parent or county of birth.

In the end, you create your own path to finding, recording, and sharing your family's story. Sue Kratsch, an experienced genealogy researcher, found a clue to a source for missing family information in an old issue of this journal. Colleen Curran and Michael Carlson use social media to spread word of their Connemara ancestors and look for other descendants of Connemara emigrants. (See what they have to say below.)

Breakthrough from Reading *The Septs*

by Sue Kratsch

The breakthrough on my Irish Mooney family came about by reading *The Septs*. I had been a member of IGSI for several years and had saved all the back issues of the (then only paper) quarterly. I was having no success at finding a possible place of the family's origin in Ireland. All I knew was that the Mooneys were Protestant, but very likely not from the north of Ireland. The Irish Palatines seemed like a possibility, but after much study I had no success there.

Hoping for any clue, I read straight through all my back issues of *The Septs* and came upon a review of *Irish Migrants in the Canadas* by Bruce Elliott. This book describes a group of Irish Protestants from north Tipperary who migrated to the Ottawa River Valley. Among the many surnames mentioned, three stood out: Mooney, Armitage, and Kent. These names were all familiar from my New York research.

I've found no traces of my own family in Canada. Yet it seemed possible that the Irish background was the same. Much later, when writing about my family, I contacted the book's author and described what I'd found in New York. He agreed that it was very probable that the origins were the same, and he very kindly sent me even more information on the Mooney background in north Tipperary. I now have a county, probable parish, and even a possible townland for my Mooneys, all thanks to *The Septs*!

Connemara Irish in Minnesota

by Michael Carlson and Colleen Curran

Our small group of seven cousins manage our *Facebook* group, "Connemara to Minnesota in the 1880's: The Families and Their Stories". Our goal is finding descendants of immigrants who came to Minnesota from the Connemara region of western Ireland during the early to mid-1880s.

As descendants of these hardy immigrants, we want to preserve their stories, documents and photographs; build family trees through documentary research and DNA analysis; and connect with their present-day descendants. Through Facebook we have connected with 260+ members of the group, cousins from all over the United States, Ireland, and Europe.

Our immigrant ancestors came mostly from the western coastal areas of Counties Galway and Mayo about 1880 - 1884. They traveled to Minnesota under the sponsorship of two assisted emigration schemes. The first was coordinated by Father James Nugent, the Catholic social reformer from Liverpool, England, and Bishop John Ireland of the Diocese of St Paul, Minnesota, and head of the Irish Catholic Colonization Association. In 1880, over 30 desperately poor families sailed from Galway city, landed in Boston, and made their way by train to western Minnesota. As small tenant farmers, fishermen, and kelp gatherers in Ireland, they had suffered severely from the famine in Connemara which had started in 1879. They had the opportunity to farm and eventually purchase 160-acre tracts of farmland near Graceville in western Minnesota. Unfortunately, their lack of large-scale farming experience combined with record-breaking cold and snow during the winter of 1880-1881 caused the experiment to fail. In the spring of 1881, Bishop Ireland released most of the settlers from their obligations and helped them resettle in the city of St. Paul.

The Irish immigrants settled on the eastside of St. Paul near where Phalen Creek emptied into the Mississippi River. The major railroad lines converged there, then separated to run across the city. They lived in poorly constructed and haphazardly arranged homes on the floodplain of the creek and next to the railroad tracks. The Connemaras, as they came to be known locally, found work as laborers for railroad companies and in local industries and business establishments. By 1885, so many Irish lived and worked in the area that newspapers dubbed their small community "Connemara Patch."

The second assisted emigration initiative that brought indigent Irish from Connemara to Minnesota was coordinated by the Quaker philanthropist James Hack Tuke. Born in York, England, Tuke spent most of his life assisting the poor in England and Ireland. From 1882 to 1884, he established a program that assisted over 9,000 indigent Irish who wished to emigrate to the United States and Canada. There were stipulations: applicants must travel as a family, have at least one member who spoke English, and show a stamped letter from a close friend or family member who would house and assist them at their final destination. Many of these immigrants joined family or friends who lived in the Connemara Patch and West Side Flats neighborhoods of St. Paul.

By the late 1880s as the circumstances of the Connemara Patch Irish improved, they left the area for other parts of the city, state, or regions of the United States. By the early 1900s, other ethnic groups replaced the Irish in that area. In the 1950s freeway construction claimed the remaining structures. Many Irish descendants remained in the West Side Flats until that neighborhood was razed for an industrial park in the early 1960s.

In October 2021, the City of Saint Paul will install an interpretive sign to commemorate the community of Irish immigrants who lived in the Connemara Patch. Today, the area is roughly bounded by East 7th Street and East 3rd Street in part of Swede Hollow Park and the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. We plan a dedication ceremony sometime after the installation.

Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) offers Irish genealogy courses at both intermediate and advanced levels. Pandemic permitting, they offer weeklong Institute Courses in June and July; in 2021 the costs were $495 early bird and $550 regular tuition.

David Rencher, AG, CG, FIGRS, teaches various aspects of Irish genealogy research in alternating topical courses each year. He and Richard "Rick" Sayre, CG, CGL, FUGA, provide many resources and techniques while interacting with their students in a classroom setting whether on campus (pandemic permitting) or delivered online via Zoom.

2022 Irish genealogy offerings will be announced in October 2021.
Institute dates will be June 19-24, 2022 and July 10-15, 2022.
https://www.gripitt.org/courses/irish-genealogy-research/

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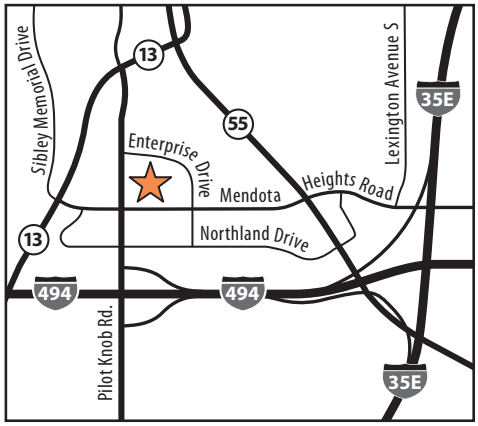
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Library Hours

Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Friday

Hoffman Research Library

★ 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100,
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651-330-9312

During severe weather, or if traveling a long distance, please call before coming to the library to check if open.

The library is a self-supporting research library staffed by volunteers. If you are a member of the IGSI and are coming from out of town, contact Librarian@IrishGenealogical.org so we can have an Irish researcher available to meet you.

Volume 43, Number 1

The Septs

JANUARY (EANÁIR) 2022 $10.00

1922-2022



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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Genealogy Library Open

The Hoffman Research Library, located in the Minnesota Genealogy Center in Mendota Heights, is open for research. Full service times are scheduled for 2022.

The Hofmann Research Library is a private genealogy research library created for members of the organizations in the MGS Partners' Group. Access to the library materials is free to members of IGSI and other MGS Partner societies. Non-members and the general public are requested to pay a per visit $10 donation for use.

The Hoffman Library will be open only if there are two volunteers available to staff the building. As COVID continues, some volunteers have stepped back from regular schedules creating a volunteer staff shortage. (Won't you consider becoming a MGC/library volunteer to help ensure research access for all?)

Note: At this time, **ALL** Genealogy Center visitors and Library researchers are required to wear a mask while in the building. 

Hours of service:

Wednesday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Irish Saturdays

Stop by the library on the second Saturday of the month between 10 AM and 4 PM for Irish research help from IGSI volunteers.

FEBRUARY 12, 2022
MARCH 12, 2022
APRIL 9, 2022
MAY 14, 2022
JUNE 11, 2022

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The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the 28th of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editor at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc.

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Write for *The Septs*

Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 — 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2022 | April | Munster Province

Researching in the Irish counties of Clare, Tipperary, Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Kerry; stories about finding family in Munster locales.
Deadline for articles: February 15, 2022.

2022 | July | Online Books

Finding and using online sites for accessing research publications, e.g., NUCMC, InternetArchive, GoogleBooks, WorldCat, etc.
Deadline for articles: May 15, 2022.

2022 | October | Maps

Understanding where your family lived in Ireland and in their new country; using historical maps and mapping software to solve genealogical problems.
Deadline for articles: August 15, 2022.

2023 | January | Canada

Locating and researching Canadian records for ancestors who either settled there or passed through on their way to America.
Deadline for articles: November 15, 2022.

Cover Photo: *Conflagration*
The Four Courts in Dublin during the Battle of Dublin. 30 June 1922. National Library of Ireland on The Commons. No known copyright restrictions.

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From the Co-Presidents

by Donna Jones & Ron Zweber

We are very pleased to assume the role of co-presidents and look forward to leading IGSI in 2022!

The organization is both organizationally vibrant and fiscally sound. Ann Eccle's leadership contributed significantly to where we are today.

We also would like to thank the board of directors for agreeing with our co-president model. We are ready to work together to move the organization forward. One of our goals is to grow the organization so more people can access the resources IGSI has to offer. The pandemic forced us down the virtual path, which eliminated geography as a barrier to participation.

We are so excited about 2022. We have a number of programs planned. We have a trip to Ireland scheduled for fall. The webinars include terrific speakers on subjects that will help your research. There is an update to the Research area of the website coming as well. Our award-winning journal, *The Septs*, the society's eNewsletter *Ginealas* and the Blog has information to assist with research. As we start our term we would both like to express our appreciation to our members.



Donna Jones

I am originally from the Cleveland, Ohio, area and now live in Raleigh, North Carolina. I retired from Oxford University Press as the customer service director. My career has been in service to the customer, operations and education. Those skills allow me to bring that focus to the Society and its members.

I joined IGSI prior to the Celtic Connections Conference in 2020. Technology allowed me to participate in the conference and later that year, I joined the education committee. In January 2021, I became a member of the board.

I have been researching my family history for many years and think that genealogy is more than names and dates. My second great grandparents were from Ireland and I have Irish 5th great grandparents that migrated to Canada from Ireland in the 1790s. Since retiring, I now have the time to focus on my Irish ancestors; I recently attended the five-week Pharos Tutors course, *Your Irish Research Online.*

I think to be successful with family history there is always something to learn. Genealogy is about research methodology, the records available and the history of our ancestors' lives. As a specialized society in Irish research, we are here to assist with your education.

I am excited about the coming year and look forward to serving as IGSI co-president and working with the board and Ron.



Ron Zweber

Don't let my German last name concern you! My mother was very proud of her 100% Irish ancestry.

I'm a native Minnesotan, living in Saint Paul. I had a long career in banking and retired at the end of 2020. Much of the last portion of my career related to working with nonprofit clients, so I have considerable experience in the operations of nonprofit organizations.

I am fortunate to have started genealogy when I was in my late teens. This gave me access to people who were 50+ years older than myself. I am very grateful for having all of those early conversation and enough discipline to document the conversations.

I descend from Irish famine ancestors. All eight of my Irish 2nd great grandparents had similar stories in that they immigrated to the US during the height of the famine or shortly thereafter. They then stayed on the East coast for 6-10 years and then became early settlers to Cedar Lake Twp., Scott County, Minnesota, when it opened up for settlement in the late 1850s.

My Irish county connections are in Cork, Tipperary, Clare and Mayo. I was in Thurles, Tipperary, in 2018 for a Doherty family reunion.

I've been a member of IGSI, and its predecessor names, for over 35 years. While attending the Celtic Connections Conference in Boston in 2018 I had several conversations with Ann Eccles. Later that fall she asked if I would join the IGSI board, which I did in January 2019.

I'm looking forward to working with Donna and the rest of the board.

History is Part of Genealogy

by Gigi Hickey

The theme of this issue of *The Septs* revolves around the struggle for Irish Independence. We've gathered a variety of intriguing articles about the events leading to establishment of the Irish Free State.

While considering possible subjects, I repeatedly encountered the word 'centenary'. I recognized the word referred to a 100-year anniversary but didn't understand how it differed from 'centennial'. In fact my research confirms the two words are synonymous, and both can be used as either adjectives or nouns. Googling, I discovered "American English loves a mighty fine centennial, while British English has favoured a jolly good centenary."[1]

A bigger difference exists in the pronunciation of 'centenary'. We Americans emphasize the first syllable, with a short (almost silent) e in the second syllable; the British place emphasis on the second syllable, with a long e.[2]

Regardless of how the word is pronounced, the *centenary* commemoration constitutes a worthy theme for our January 2022 journal. We are fortunate to include several articles shedding light on historic events of the period. Chris Paton writes about the Easter Rising and provides guidance for online research regarding participants in the Irish rebellion. Derek Molyneux and Darren Kelly recount the story of the most violent and climactic months of the War of Independence, which triggered 'Bloody Sunday' in Dublin. For those of us needing a refresher on 20th century Irish history, Tom Rice's reprinted article titled "Briefest of Looks" helps us quickly understand factors leading to all the dramatic changes in Ireland. My article is a personal account of my husband's grandfather, Patrick Hickey, who was among Irish-Americans contributing to the republican cause through purchase of Dáil bonds.

Are you looking for books to read during the long winter ahead and/or a lighter way to learn about Irish history? Don't miss the historical fiction reading list gathered by Mary Wickersham with contributions from Randi Mary Helgesen (nonfiction) and Mary's cousins in Ireland, Mary Ó Gruagáin and Máire Ní Ghruagáin (fiction). Our editor, Ann Eccles, refined the entries to help you to find the books.

In addition to looking back at Irish history, this issue is also forward-facing. Kathleen O'Malley Strickland provides an update on 'Beyond 2022', a widely-collaborative project working to create a virtual reconstruction of the Public Records Office of Ireland (PROI). Wearing her Web Editor hat, Mary Wickersham gives helpful advice to ensure members receive IGSI email updates.

Have you made New Year's resolutions about advancing your family history research? Lois Mackin's column will help you get a good start with DNA by making wise choices regarding tests, testers and testing companies. In this issue we also get a chance to meet IGSI's leadership team. The new Co-Presidents, Donna Jones and Ron Zweber, describe their backgrounds and their vision for IGSI. A separate article introduces us to the other seven members of the Board of Directors. IGSI's future looks very bright with these capable individuals at the helm!

Those of us who collaborate on *The Septs* – Editor Ann Eccles, Layout Designer Megan McLean, Co-Managing Editors Mary Wickersham and I – wish you good health and successful research in 2022!

Endnotes

1. "Q&A: Centenary vs Centennial," Australian Writers' Centre (https://mainstaging6.writerscentre.com.au/blog/qa-centenary-vs-centennial/).

2. Listen to the differences in pronouncing 'centenary' at https://myefe.com/transcription-pronunciation/centenary.



Gigi Hickey has twice served on the IGSI board and, since 2011, as IGSI blog editor. After co-chairing the Celtic Connections Conference 2020, she became one of the co-Managing Editors of The Septs. *In addition to genealogy research, she enjoys quilting and piano-duets and her DAR chapter.*

The Easter Rising

by Chris Paton

The small section of Irish Volunteers that split from John Redmond's group, along with the Irish Citizen Army, Fianna Éireann, Cumann na mBan, and the Hibernian Rifles, plotted for rebellion. On April 24th, Easter Monday, over a thousand Volunteers and associates stormed the General Post Office, Phoenix Park, Dublin Castle, several buildings surrounding barracks at Beggars Bush, the South Dublin Union workhouse, and other key locations in the city. Headquarters were established at the GPO, and from here Pearse read out the 'Proclamation of the Republic', whilst the Irish tricolour was raised over the building — displaying green and orange stripes to represent the two main political traditions of the island, separated by a white stripe for peace. The document proclaimed the new Irish republic and was signed by seven rebel leaders, acting as the 'Provisional Government'.

In response, the British administration hastily ordered troops in from surrounding training barracks, with reinforcements sent over by boat from England. For the next week the two forces fought a bloody campaign against each other on Dublin's streets, with over five hundred fatalities, many of them civilians. As well as the British Army, the RIC [Royal Irish Constabulary] and the DMP [Dublin Metropolitan Police] also countered the rebellion.

By Saturday, however, the rebel stronghold at the General Post Office had become untenable, and the order was given for the Volunteers to surrender. Following the uprising, over three and a half thousand rebels were arrested, though most were soon released. The leaders, including Pearse and Connolly, were court-martialled and sentenced to death, with the executions happening at Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin. For a list of the leaders who were executed, visit https://web.archive.org/web/20171121023359/www.militaryarchives.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/MSPC/documents-34/1916_Leaders_Executed.pdf.

MilitaryArchives.ie has a dedicated 1916 page at https://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/military-service-pensions-collection-1916-1923/easter-rising-1916, with a range of resources concerning those who served during the rebellion, including nominal rolls for the Irish Citizen Army and other Dublin brigades of the IRA, details of Volunteers at Tyrellspass, Kimmage Garrison and Manchester (England), documents concerning Cumann na mBan in the greater Dublin area and Wexford, the Dublin Brigade of Fianna Éireann, and various Brigade Activity Reports from Galway, Louth and Wexford (reports for the other Irish counties have yet to be digitised).

Interactive maps are also presented for those who later claimed a military service pension for their participation in Dublin, and a list of confirmed veterans with a recognised role in the rebellion, including their names, addresses, locations and file references for further documentation. In subsequent years, many who had given military service on behalf of the Irish Volunteers and associated bodies during the Rising were awarded pensions and medals.

Daily DMP reports of the 'Movement of Extremists' between May 29th 1915 and April 20th 1916 have been catalogued by the NAI [National Archives of Ireland] under CSO/JD/2, and made available at www.nationalarchives.ie/article/chief-secretarys-office-crime-branch-dublin-metropolitan-police-dmp-movement-extremists-april-1916/. The archive has also provided the Colonial Office (Irish Branch) 1916 Easter Rising Compensation Files, dating from 1917–1925 at http://centenaries.nationalarchives.ie/centenaries/plic. These documents relate to claims for damages to property sustained during the rebellion, as administered by the Property Losses (Ireland) Committee, later to become the Irish Branch of the UK's Colonial Office.

Accounts of businesses caught up in the events can also be gleaned from the archive's holdings. A good example is online at www.nationalarchives.ie/topics/1916/index.html concerning Jacob's Biscuit Factory, which was occupied by the rebels. This includes a letter from the managing director to the Chief Secretary's Office (CSORP/1916/7645) dated May 6th 1916, and a letter written by Thomas Grehan, an *Evening Herald* employee, to a friend, which contains a fragment of the Volunteers' flag that was hoisted above the factory during the rebellion.

A series of searchable witness statements by survivors who participated in the rebellion, as gathered by the Bureau of Military History between 1947 and 1957, have been placed online by the Military Archives at www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/bureau-of-military-history-1913-1921. Also available are some contemporary newspaper cuttings at www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/bureau-of-military-history-1913-1921/1916-press-cuttings/ and various photographs of interest at

https://photogallery.militaryarchives.ie. An interactive timeline of events from 1912 leading up to the 1916 rebellion is also presented at http://timeline.militaryarchives.ie, as drawn from various contemporary publications.

The UK's National Archives has many documents on the British administration of Ireland at the time, with a research guide available at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/ireland-easter-rising-1916/. The main collections are located under WO 35, WO 32, CO 903 and CO 904. Records include 171 court martial documents following the Rising, various Home Office lists of Irish prisoners in British gaols, intelligence reports within the Dublin Castle records, War Office records of civilians prosecuted, and records from a subsequent Royal Commission enquiring into the events of the rebellion (catalogued under HO 45/10810/312350 and PRO 30/67/31). A great number of the records are name searchable via the archive's *Discovery* catalogue at https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk. For details of Irish folk who returned from Britain to participate in the Rising, visit https://hiddenheroesofeasterweek.wordpress.com.

Ancestry hosts some digitised records from CO 903, WO 35 and WO 71 within its 'Ireland, Courts Martial Files 1916-1922' collection, as well as profiles of those suspected by the Dublin Metropolitan Police and the Royal Irish Constabulary of being disloyal to the Crown in its 'Ireland, Intelligence Profiles, 1914-1922' database. *FindmyPast's* 'Easter Rising & Ireland Under Martial Law 1916-1921' set has additional records from WO 35, WO 141 and HO 144 available, which note the names of civilians and soldiers court-martialled after the Rising, as well as further records for the subsequent War of the Independence.

The NLI [National Library of Ireland] has many contemporary resources. An overview of key events, including documents on the main participants, is available in a cached online exhibition at www.bit.ly/NLI-2016. The National Library also hosts an interesting online exhibition at www.nli.ie/1916, providing a broad overview of the key events.

The *Sinn Féin Rebellion Handbook* has been digitised and made available for free consultation at https://archive.org/details/sinnfeinrebellio00dubl, and also on *FindmyPast*. This is a compendium of articles produced in 1917 covering the events of the Rising as reported by the *Weekly Irish Times,* which contains detailed lists of those involved, as well as coverage produced in the immediate aftermath of the rebellion. The 1942 and 1966 editions of *The Capuchin Annual* at www.capuchinfranciscans.ie/capuchin-annual-1930-1977 further contain heavily illustrated commemorations of the Rising for its 25th and 50th anniversaries.

If you have access to Netflix, RTÉ's five-part drama series 'Rebellion' gives an excellent flavour of the stories of Easter week in 1916.

Northern Irish born Chris Paton lives in Scotland, where he works as a professional genealogist. A holder of a Postgraduate Diploma in Genealogical Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Chris is an author, tutor and lecturer specialising in Irish and Scottish research. He blogs daily at Scottish GENES *https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com.*





This excerpt is adapted from Chapter 5 of Chris Paton's *Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet* (2nd edition), available in the U.S. at www.amazon.com/Tracing-Irish-Family-History-Internet-ebook/dp/B00C4YTUYM/

Bloody Sunday – Reprisal

by Derek Molyneux and Darren Kelly

At 3.35 p.m., Col Bray, in Jones's Road, saw the convoy of Tenders approach at the brow of the canal bridge to his south. Its first sighting prompted ticket sellers outside the stadium to run away, shouting in alarm: 'The Tans are coming!' The lead Tender crossed the bridge and pulled up on Jones's Road. Major Dudley then stepped out and directed six vehicles into the road beyond.

Suddenly, within seconds, without warning or orders, dozens of RIC and Tans leapt from the Tenders positioned behind those just ordered forward and rushed for the turnstiles at the stadium's canal end, weapons primed. Then the shooting started.

Their first volley hit eleven-year-old William Robinson, a schoolboy from Little Britain Street. He was struck in the right side of his chest and knocked from a tree. He lay half-conscious, gasping desperately as panic ensued. He was attended to by a ticket seller but died the following day. Then, ten-year-old Jerome O'Leary from Blessington Street was shot through the head and killed instantly. Horrified shouts and screams filled the air as rifle rounds whizzed. More RIC and Tans rushed into the stadium. Auxiliaries wearing mufti joined them, firing revolvers. The crowd's initial confusion at the unprovoked onset gave way to a rapidly growing stampede from the canal end. Other policemen shot rifles from outside the canal end; the adjacent elevated bridge on Jones's Road providing enough clearance to aim, fire, work rifle bolts and aim again over their comrades' heads into the mass of running and collapsing humanity. To the staccato of rifle cracks, crowds fled to the Jones's Road and St Joseph's Avenue exits, only to find them barred by soldiers and recently arrived police. Crowds surged again and again under a hail of fire, creating stampedes. Hundreds rushed for perimeter walls, some becoming tangled in barbed wire like trapped soldiers in no man's land. Men who had already seen such horrors as British Army soldiers in trenches instinctively threw themselves to the ground, as did Volunteers.



The piece featured here is an excerpt from *Someone Has to Die for This, Dublin: November 1920 - July 1921* (Mercier Press Ltd., 2021). This book is part of a series; the other titles are

Killing at its Very Extreme, Dublin: October 1917 - November 1921 (Mercier Press Ltd., 2020)

Those of us Who Must Die — Execution, Exile and Revival After the Easter Rising (Mercier Press Ltd., 2017)

When the Clock Struck in 1916 — Close Quarter Combat in the Easter Rising (Mercier Press Ltd., 2015)

Thomas Ryan, vice-comdt of 5th and 6th Battalions, 3rd Tipperary Brigade, was Tipperary team captain. He was lining up a penalty when the shooting started. He and six other players wearing both Dublin and Tipperary jerseys, also Volunteers, threw themselves down as trained when they heard the first volleys. Ryan saw sparks cascade from the railway embankment wall to his front as bullets ricocheted. Two players close by, initially prone, then dashed towards Hill 60, seeking the railway wall beyond, sprinting for all they were worth, prompting the remaining Volunteer players to prepare to follow their lead one by one, among them twenty-four-year-old Tipperary player Michael Hogan. Ryan saw Hogan creep forward but fall suddenly as a bullet tore into his back and out his chest. Ryan and nearby teammate Josie Synott rushed to Hogan's aid, as did a nearby civilian, also named Thomas Ryan, from Wexford. The three tried to lift Hogan. Blood spurted from his back and chest drenching their hands and garments. Hogan exclaimed in agony, 'Jesus, Mary and Joseph! I am done!" His mouth filled with blood. He gulped, gagged and choked. His eyes became lifeless as he bled out. Thomas Ryan, the civilian, recited the Act of Contrition in his ear. Then a bullet tore into his stomach, mortally wounding him.

Pulsating with adrenalin, Vice-Comdt Ryan took flight. Then, glancing behind, he saw through the onrushing crowds an Auxiliary looking hatefully towards him, reloading his rifle. The Auxiliary raised it to shoot. Ryan threw himself back down, risking being crushed in the stampede. The round struck a youngster running close to him; the youth cried out and fell. Others tumbled around him. To the seemingly endless whisps of bullets piercing the air, Ryan eventually escaped over the embankment wall and the railway, but his ordeal was far from over.

One spectator, Michael Feery — a recently demobbed Royal Marine — impaled his leg on a cast-iron railing as he sought escape from the whining, spinning bullets that thudded into bone and flesh throughout the stadium. Others fleeing in frenzy used him to cushion themselves as they escaped over the same railing. Feery screamed in agony. He eventually freed himself, only to bleed to death on the road after dragging himself from the stadium, leaving a ghastly blood trail; his body was not identified for days.

Spectators fell as they ran left, then right. Others stumbled and tripped avoiding them, creating a terror-stricken, writhing

mass. People trapped on the ground by others toppling and careering into them grappled to free themselves. Petrified children screamed. As the crowds surged relentlessly at the Joseph's Avenue exit, some escaped. However, by now the lead armoured car had deployed there. Its machine gunner opened fire with its Hotchkiss machine gun. He fired a fifty-two-round metal ammunition belt into the air in warning, the hissing weapon echoing, creating even more terror and causing the crowd at the gate to turn and reel hysterically back inside, crashing headlong into hundreds of others. The screams and shouts were deafening. Intense firing from the canal end continued. People were swept from each other as the crowds convulsed, whirled and surged. There was no way out.

Hordes more invaded the dressing rooms, which quickly became packed. Droves of others rushed for the wall of the adjacent rugby grounds to scale it, some stepping on the prone bodies of the fallen, who cried for help until unable to continue, their empty lungs immobilised by the weight of those around or above them. Mercifully, for some the crush abated; others were not so lucky. Some who had scaled the wall hurled themselves headlong over the far side, a long unceremonious drop. Some remained in full view of the police while reaching back to help others with the difficult climb, compelled by the desperation and panic on the faces of friends, relatives and strangers. Some fell, shot as they wrestled themselves and others over. Pistol and rifle bullets pinged off the blood-stained wall, ricochets inflicting further horrific wounds. Escapers, many wounded, scrambled along the railway line next to the canal, fleeing eastward. But Auxiliaries sealed off the nearby streets, subsequently barring ambulances from tending the wounded, one of whom, Joseph

Leading Up to Bloody Sunday

November 1920 was four-and-a-half years after the Easter Rising had lit the flame of revolution in Ireland. The seed that was planted violently in 1916 had now grown into a highly efficient organisation with well-functioning military, political and propaganda wings; its aim, to remove British rule from Ireland by any means available.

Ireland's War of Independence was now in full flow. Having initially misfired during 1918 following the recent re-organisation of the Irish Volunteers into what would become the Irish Republican Army (IRA), events in early 1919 had brought it to the world's stage – a stage well-suited to its protagonists.

In 1920, Britain reeled under the separatists' multi-pronged onslaught. Part of Britain's weakness was its inability to understand the nature of the guerrilla war now waged against it. Instead of officially deploying its own military to fight it, a move which would risk seeing the IRA acknowledged on the all-important world stage as a belligerent enemy force protected by international law, Britain instead portrayed the Irish situation as a 'police action'. Whilst the military were deployed in vast numbers throughout Ireland the fight was officially taken to the IRA by the police – the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC).

However, the RIC was simply unable to compete with the IRA. To surmount this, the British Government chose to deploy paramilitary police forces in their thousands to reinforce them. This was done in tandem with the ratcheting up of intelligence operations geared towards rooting out the insurgent leaders – military and political.

But these paramilitary forces lacked the discipline of the conventional military, and once deployed they ran amok, sacking, killing, burning and looting, and inadvertently gifting the IRA propaganda machine an endless succession of propaganda windfalls. They consisted of the 'Black and Tans' (so nicknamed) and the 'Auxiliaries'. These units were formed of Great War veterans provided with minimal police training. Their mandate was to take the fight to the IRA under the cloak of law enforcement, as opposed to conventionally declared war.

By late November, despite their callousness, indiscipline and notoriety, they had finally made inroads. In tandem with their intelligence services, they were now forcing the revolutionaries onto the back foot. It began to appear like the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Féin, were losing critical ground. However, this was not the case; as the IRA would prove on the morning of Sunday 21 November 1920, when numerous units from its Dublin Brigade struck back, shooting dead fourteen enemy officers – some very dangerous men – in a single city-wide swoop.

This was a devastating blow that triggered one of the most notorious reprisals undertaken by the police and their paramilitary colleagues. This was the massacre of civilians in Croke Park, Dublin's most prominent football stadium, on the infamous day known since as 'Bloody Sunday'.

Derek Molyneux

Traynor, a 4th Battalion Volunteer, died in nearby 5 Sackville Gardens, home to Christopher and Caroline Ring. This house was itself soon raided.

William Stapleton was splattered with blood from a man next to him, who slumped to the ground, badly wounded. He fled from his perch on top of a newly constructed stand and scrambled over a wall into the garden of a house in Jones's Road, as did numerous others, despite the fifteen-foot drop. Once in the garden, they stood or knelt to seek comfort from rosary beads clasped with shaking hands as they panted, murmuring stuttering prayers. From there Stapleton escaped into Jones's Road and fled. The same red-brick house quickly became thronged with the fleeing and wounded, as did neighbouring houses. Stapleton was lucky; just beyond Jones's Road sat Russell Street. There, Daniel Carroll, an unarmed civilian, was less fortunate. He was shot and mortally wounded while limping away from Croke Park, having just escaped the carnage inside.

Tom Keogh, on Hill 60, had his cap shot off and suffered a flesh wound to his arm. As he picked the cap up, a rifle round tore into the man to his front, narrowly missing Keogh himself. Like Vice-Comdt Ryan, he escaped over the railway and barbed-wire-strewn wall between Hill 60 and Clonliffe Road. Luckily, Harry Colley saw him. Colley had gone to his mother's house there for dinner but rushed to the front door upon hearing the shooting, only to see soldiers everywhere. He remained where he was, sickened by what was unravelling, until several minutes passed and he saw Keogh holding his arm. He saw other wounded people escaping into nearby houses as he took Keogh inside to be treated by his twenty-six-year-old sister, Gertie, a Cumann na mBan member. Before the afternoon was out, houses along the entire road and in the surrounding streets were treating wounded on kitchen tables and chairs.

Ryan had escaped into another house on Clonliffe Road. Moments later its door was kicked in. An old man living there cursed the Black and Tans storming in and was struck on the head with a pistol butt, knocking him out. Ryan was wrenched out to the words: 'There is one of the … Tipperary assassins! Take him out and shoot him!' He was kicked and punched to the ground before having all his clothes torn off with bayonets. An officer then ordered Ryan to be taken, stark naked, back to Croke Park. Ryan feared he was to be shot with his teammates. As he was marched back, he saw people still escaping over walls and railings. A man under armed guard on the road with his girlfriend, seeing Ryan's embarrassing predicament, threw him his coat and was struck in the back of the head by an Auxiliary's rifle butt for his kindness.

Entering the stadium Ryan saw a priest ministering to the dead and wounded, amid agonising groans. Soldiers tended to the wounded here and there, some looking in disgust at the perpetrators. Thousands of spectators still stood under guard. Ryan saw that the shooting had stopped. Major Mills had rushed into the stadium from his Tender in Russell Street, beyond the canal bridge, then repeatedly shouted at the top of his voice the command to cease fire, as had Major Dudley. Now rows and columns of people stood, crying, shaking and struggling to keep their hands in the air as they endured vicious abuse from the police accompanied by commands to keep them raised. Children sobbed.

Coats, hats, walking sticks, umbrellas and hundreds of bicycles were strewn all over the pitch among prone bodies, some struggling, others motionless. The match ball lay on the field, punctured by a bullet aimed by a Black and Tan. He had shot it from 100 yards to display his marksmanship to a colleague who had mocked his previous shot, which had felled a victim, as a fluke.

Vice-Comdt Ryan, still naked, stood among the Tipperary team, who had been marshalled by a cordon of bayonets at Hill 60 and told that two of them would be shot for every captive within the park who gave trouble. The Dublin players, meanwhile, were being relieved of their possessions in their dressing rooms. In the Tipperary rooms the RIC were searching players' clothing and similarly helping themselves to cash, watches, tobacco and cigarettes. Then, the civilian searches began.

Fourteen people had been killed or mortally wounded during the onslaught, and hundreds wounded, scores seriously. Nearly 300 live rounds had been fired.

The shooting from Croke Park could be heard in the city centre, as if a battle were taking place. Word quickly filtered in from escaped city dwellers rushing home from the stadium of the horrific massacre. Civilians fled indoors. Others did the opposite; parts of the city became thronged with people seeking news.

Derek Molyneux and Darren Kelly are the co-authors of a unique series of books detailing Ireland's revolutionary years. Their works are widely regarded as the most well-researched and hardest-hitting books on the topic.





A Briefest of Looks at 20th Century Irish History

by Tom Rice, CG[SM]

We thank Tom Rice for permission to reprint this lightly updated article which originally appeared in the April 2014 issue of *The Septs*.

The 20th century was a time of dramatic change for many nations. Most had experienced significant change in one or more aspects of life, but few had experienced the degree of change seen in Ireland. No late 19th or early 20th century emigrant would recognize their homeland today.

Ireland moved from being a somewhat backwater colony of Britain to being a dynamic member of the developed world, a member of the European Union and of the Euro Zone. Ireland moved from a late 19th century estate-dominated nation comprised of large landowners and renters to a country with almost exclusively individually owned land. Ireland's conservative Catholic Church, whose religious influence held sway over the government and the daily lives of most of the population in the 1800s, now has little influence and is derided by many. Ireland moved from an almost exclusively agrarian economy to one with a healthy mix of agriculture, exports of manufactured goods and services, and high-tech industries. Its economy advanced from "basket case" status to the superior "Celtic Tiger" economy in the 1990s, the envy of Europe. Then it fell from this height to become one of the first countries needing a bailout in the early 21st century. Now holding its own among the world's developed nations, Brexit has added a layer of problems but with some promise also.

Ireland's path to independence started prior to the 20th century. Its struggle for home rule was a major theme in the relationship of Ireland and Britain during the mid- to late 19th century. A form of home rule was finally granted in 1912. Although not fully independent until 1914, the threat of a country ruled by a Catholic majority spurred the Protestant leaders of Ulster to move towards securing a position of union with Britain. Some in the South still were not satisfied, as the country was still under British rule. World War I slowed both of these movements but did not stop them entirely.

The forces which wanted a full break with Britain felt they could get that only by armed conflict: thus, the motivation for the Easter Uprising of 1916. While militarily unsuccessful, the Uprising served to goad the British to a heavy-handed response, which motivated an even stronger desire to break from British rule. Thus began the War for Independence, 1919 to 1921. The concurrent rising of Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Army (IRA) led to the armed struggle against British rule. Again, the British replied with draconian measures repugnant even to some in England.

The British came to realize they could never totally suppress what was, in fact, a guerrilla-terrorist force. Concurrently, the IRA began to weaken and came to realize they could not continue or win a military victory. Thus, a truce was called in the Summer of 1921 and negotiations began in Fall of that year towards developing a treaty: the Anglo-Irish Treaty of December 1921. One provision of the Treaty allowed Northern Ireland to decide if it wanted to be part of a more independent Ireland or to remain united with Britain. They chose the latter, mainly because of their well-founded fear of rule by a Government dominated by the Catholic Church. Because the Treaty left Ireland still under the rule of the British throne, required an oath of allegiance, and gave Britain the right to keep warships in three harbors, many felt that true independence had not been achieved.

This latter faction felt so strongly about the Treaty that a Civil War broke out between the pro-Treaty faction and the anti-Treaty segment of the IRA. The war ran from Spring 1922 to the middle of 1923. This proved to be a very costly war in terms of lives lost, damage done to property and the economy, and the creation of a fissure in Irish society that lasted for decades. The pro-treaty side won; but ultimately, due to changes in Britain and new leadership in Ireland, the Treaty provisions were unravelled and Ireland became a truly free state. The two chief Irish political parties, Fianna Fáil (anti-treaty) and Fine Gael (pro-treaty), still mirror this division in Irish society.

Economy

The Irish economy of the 20th century and early 21st has been a roller-coaster ride. There has always been a significant economic difference between the Ulster North and the rest of Ireland. The North has been more industrial with exports based on the linen trade and shipbuilding. The South, until the end of the century, was an almost exclusively agrarian economy mainly because Irish industries that began

to compete with those of England were heavily taxed – usually to extinction. The main effect of the War of Independence and the Civil War was to saddle the Irish Free State with a heavy debt which was not cleared up until 1931.

The de Valera era saw an economic war with Britain centered on Ireland's refusal to pay "land annuities." Britain retaliated with tariffs on Irish beef, which had become a major export as the Irish agriculture shifted from cultivation towards pasture type farming. De Valera took a protectionist approach along with the nationalization of many businesses – which resulted in more economic hardship.

The 1960s saw the country take another path. Ireland greatly expanded education with an emphasis on technical education. University education was expanded. Ireland entered the European Economic Community which became the European Union. The economic upswings of the 1960s were dampened by the Troubles in the North and heavy taxes. The 1980s saw Ireland referred to as the "sick man of Europe." Emigration continued to be a factor in the lives of Irish families. The governments of these times did not manage the economy well.

The surge towards economic prosperity began in earnest in the mid-1990s with significant changes in government policies. They reduced taxes, promoted a more skilled workforce, and encouraged foreign investment. The country adopted the euro. Ireland developed a high-tech sector, rode the Dot Com boom and significantly increased its pharmaceutical industry. Unemployment dropped to a point where emigration reversed and many emigrants returned; the country also was a destination for immigrants from other nations. The Celtic Tiger was roaring.

As the century ended, the good times led to recklessness on the part of Irish banks' bets on real estate. With the worldwide slowdown of 2007, these bets failed and the banks went to the government for a bailout which they got and then the government had to go to the IMF and EU for assistance which came, of course, with a heavy dose of austerity. Ireland as a nation still awaits some form of punitive action against the bankers and developers and politicians who conspired at this National downfall.

Catholic Church

The Roman Catholic Church, which was the religion of the majority of Irish at the start of the 20th century, had a strong influence on the populace and public opinion. The Constitution of 1937 gave the Church control over most schools in Ireland. Until recently, it controlled the national primary school system, though it strongly opposed the free public secondary school system introduced in 1968.

The Church ran many of the hospitals in the country. The Church's conservative teachings on family and sexual issues, such as contraception, abortion and divorce, were the law of the land until the latter years of the century when the public and their representatives slowly moved to a somewhat more modestly liberal stance on these issues.

While the Republic of Ireland is about 80% Roman Catholic and Northern Ireland about 40%, the Church today has little of the influence and regard it held at the beginning of the 20th century. As claims of physical and sexual abuse of pupils in Church-run schools and institutions have come to light in Ireland as in the U.S., opinion of the Church has turned more negative. Today, only one in five Catholics attends Mass regularly; and, in some places, as few as 2% are weekly church-goers. The rift reached such a low point that the government severed ties with the Vatican at one point.

While the Roman Catholic Church put its stamp on much of the life of the average Irishman during the 20th century; its influence is nearing irrelevance and derision. The role of the media, especially television, did much to diminish church influence. A younger, better educated generation began to simply ignore Church dictates that previously would have been followed implicitly and without question. In parallel, a drop in religious vocations became a landslide of fewer priests and nuns; fewer families followed the tradition of producing a priest or nun every generation.

Land Reform

There was a long-held resentment by many of the agrarian populace against the owners of the large estates, which often held a heavy hand over their tenants. A good deal of Ireland's architectural heritage was lost during the turmoil of the War of Independence and the Civil War as the warring factions turn against landowners and destroyed their "big houses."

The breaking up of the large estates, with the resultant distribution of ownership to individual farmers, continued over a good part of the 20th century through a number of land reform acts that often included some financial assistance or a delayed payment scheme.

In the late 19th century, nearly 75% of Irish people lived in rural areas, but fewer than 5% of Irish farmers owned their own land. Within the first decade of the 20th century, nearly 50% owned property, and

this figure increased to 70% by the 1920s. Not only were tenant farmers assisted in securing ownership of their farms, but several programs helped move laborers into country cottages with an attached acre of land; and there was a parallel improvement in city accommodation. Over 40,000 rural cottages were created that ultimately housed about a quarter million laborers and their families. This transformed the Irish countryside. A related scheme assisted returning soldiers and sailors after World War I.

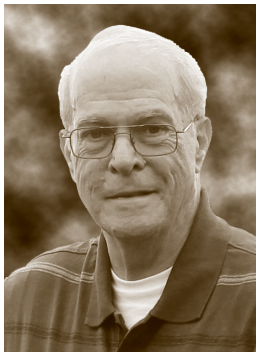
The result of all this was the evolution of Ireland from a country of large landed estates owned by the few to a nation whose land was owned by a vast majority of individual farmers and cottagers, and very few large holdings.

Read On!

This is a very superficial look at the interesting journey taken by a small nation through a century of dramatic changes. There is much more to this story. Given that there is no one definitive source for learning more about any of the many aspects to this transformation, Kathleen Strickland's article, "Ireland in the 1900s: Tempestuous Times", in the April 2014 issue of *The Septs* is a good place to start. By following the links provided therein, a diligent student of the topic can become well-informed. Learning about the path followed by the land of our ancestors can help us understand their culture even better.

But why stop with the 20th century? A good way to keep up with the modern history of Ireland is to frequent the websites of the key Irish newspapers. A daily look at the *Irish Times* site portrays how a very modern Ireland deals with its daily life in the 21st century.

Tom Rice, PhD, CG, is a professional genealogical researcher, writer and instructor. He is a past director of MGS and past officer and director of IGSI. He volunteers as a genealogy helper for the Minnesota Historical Society library. He continues to discover more about his Irish ancestors and the truth as opposed to the family stories.



Start the New Year with IGSI Educational Programs!

The IGSI Education Committee is proud to present an exciting slate of educational programming for 2022. You won't want to miss a single one… and since all will be recorded and available for viewing at any time to IGSI members, you won't have to!

Going to Ireland soon or hoping to in the future? Our January programs are for you:

Saturday, January 15, 10:30am-Noon CST: ***Researching in Ireland — Searching High & Low***
Not all the records to find you ancestors in Ireland are online. You NEED to go to Ireland! Irish genealogist Fiona Fitzsimons will share what can be found in various Irish locations and help prepare you for researching in Ireland.

Saturday, January 22, 10:30am-Noon CST: ***Traveling in Ireland***
Let Waterford, Ireland, native Maria Conway help you with such travel questions as when and where to go, getting around, where to stay, what to pack — all the questions when planning your own trip or going with a group.

Saturday, February 5, 10:30am-Noon CST: ***Focusing Your Genealogy Research***
Whether you are going to Ireland or elsewhere, a common issue that family historians face is focusing their research. Shirleen Hoffman and Lois Mackin will help you develop a solid foundation for your research with simple tools, organization tips, and suggestions for future investigation.

Saturday, March 19, 10:30am-Noon CST: ***Combining DNA and Traditional Genealogy Techniques for Irish Family Tree Research***
Internationally known DNA expert Maurice Gleeson explores ways in which DNA and documentary evidence can work hand in hand.

Register for these programs on the Activities page of the IGSI website. Remember to log in to get the Member discount.

Irish-Americans Buy Bonds to Fund the New Republic

by Gigi Hickey

Where were your Irish ancestors during the Decade of Centenaries, 1912-1922? Did they sign the Ulster Covenant in 1912 or did they side with those working for Home Rule? Were they present in Dublin on Easter Monday, 1916? Did they fight in the guerilla campaigns of the Irish Volunteers? Or, like so many Irish-Americans, were your ancestors long-settled in the United States by the early twentieth century?

My husband's Irish great-grandparents arrived in Minnesota before statehood in 1859. By 1912, Patrick Hickey, Bill's paternal grandfather, was a Minneapolis fireman, married with two small children. Though Patrick never set foot on the Emerald Isle, a piece of his heart dwelled there. This became obvious — nearly 75 years after his death — when we looked closely in a lockbox containing his important papers.



Patrick Hickey (1865-1940)

In an envelope with his baptism certificate were documents indicating Patrick had made a loan to fund the underground Irish government sometime between 1919 and 1921. A one-page letter, dated February 1930 and signed by Eamon de Valera, appeared to be hand-written.[1] Transcribed, it reads:

A chara,

I have undertaken the task of establishing a daily newspaper in Ireland. I believe that no more useful service can be rendered to Ireland at the present time. Reasons which compel that conclusion are to be found in the circular which accompanies this letter.

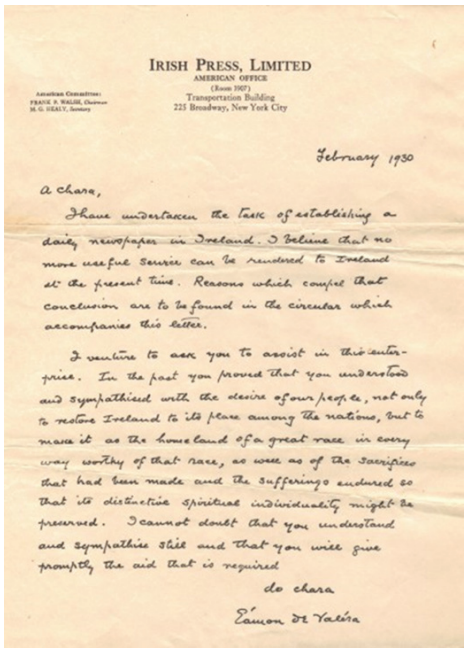
I venture to ask you to assist in this enterprise. In the past you proved that you understood and sympathised with the desire of our people, not only to restore Ireland to its place among the nations, but to make it as the homeland of a great race in every way worthy of that race, as well as of the sacrifices that had been made and the sufferings endured so that its distinctive spiritual individuality might be preserved. I cannot doubt that you understand and sympathize still and that you will give promptly the aid that is required.

do chara
Eamon de Valera

The Irish Republic

To understand why Patrick Hickey received this correspondence, one must review the events of the Irish War of Independence.

In early 1919, the first Dáil (parliament) of the self-proclaimed Irish Republic authorized the issuance of bonds to finance government operations. Michael Collins, the new republic's Minister of Finance, proceeded to set plans in motion[2] for the First Dáil Loan of £500,000, half to be an Internal Loan from Irish nationalists and half as an External Loan from American supporters.[3]



IRISH PRESS, LIMITED
AMERICAN OFFICE
(Room 1907)
Transportation Building
225 Broadway, New York City

February 1930

A chara,

I have undertaken the task of establishing a daily newspaper in Ireland. I believe that no more useful service can be rendered to Ireland at the present time. Reasons which compel that conclusion are to be found in the circular which accompanies this letter.

I venture to ask you to assist in this enterprise. In the past you proved that you understood and sympathised with the desire of our people, not only to restore Ireland to its place among the nations, but to make it as the homeland of a great race in every way worthy of that race, as well as of the sacrifices that had been made and the sufferings endured so that its distinctive spiritual individuality might be preserved. I cannot doubt that you understand and sympathize still and that you will give promptly the aid that is required.

do chara

Éamon de Valéra

Letter signed by Eamon de Valera dated February 1930

Funds raised in America would be crucial to the outcome of the Irish quest for self-determination. The Dáil's fundraising methods disclosed how its leadership wanted to be viewed by the public. Charities ask for donations; legitimate governments issue bonds.[4]

Eamon de Valera arrived in the U.S. in June 1919 to seek publicity and to raise funds through the sale of bonds. He spent the next 18 months traversing the country and addressing crowds in large Irish-American communities.[5]

The *Irish Standard* dated October 25, 1919 carried long articles about de Valera's Minnesota itinerary and his message, including these excerpts:[6]

President of the Republic of Ireland Visited Twin Cities and Pleaded the Cause of Ireland and Left with Indubitable Assurance that the Great State of Minnesota Would Not Be Behind


THE IRISH STANDARD

Vol. XXXIV. No. 50 Minneapolis, Minn., Saturday, October 18, 1919 5c the Copy

MINNESOTA BIDS CAED MILE FAILTE TO ERIN'S PRESIDENT

The Irish Standard, *October 25, 1919*

Her Sister States in Helping to Free Ireland from the Tyrannical Rule of a Foreign King…

President de Valera and his assistants arrived in St. Paul Saturday evening and was greeted by a crowd of 3,000 citizens. He was escorted to the St. Paul hotel, where he made his headquarters during his stay in the Capital City. At 9:30 a.m. on Sunday he went to St. Luke's church, St. Paul, accompanied by the members of his party and members of the St. Paul Welcome committee, where he attended mass. At 11:30 o'clock he was accorded a reception at University club, by the St. Paul chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Following the reception at University club, Mr. de Valera laid a wreath at the foot of the Nathan Hale statue, St. Paul, expressing as he did so his admiration for the heroic American. He declared that Irishmen, like Hale, will gladly give their lives in the cause of their country if needed.

An informal luncheon served at the St. Paul hotel was attended by about 250 St. Paul men of Irish descent and a number of guests who came to greet the Irish leader.

After the luncheon, which was attended by Governor Burnquist and Mayor Hodgson, de Valera was given an ovation as he entered the St. Paul Auditorium accompanied by the members of the St. Paul reception committee. The crowd of 9,000 persons was well provided with the Irish National flags, of green, white and orange which were waved while the crowds rose to its feet and cheered for several minutes after he had mounted the platform…

Arriving Sunday evening in Minneapolis at 8 o'clock sharp, he was immediately escorted to the Minneapolis Armory, where 12,500 American citizens enthusiastically received him and his party. For twenty minutes the audience stood upon its feet and cheered and waived [sic] American flags and new Irish Republic flags, while Ireland's president stood and gazed with wonderment at the reception tendered him…

Was Patrick Hickey among the crowd in Minnesota that heard de Valera speak? How much did Patrick lend to the new Irish republic? While we will never know the answers to those questions, clearly he identified strongly with the cause of I Irish self-government. Like many other Americans who contributed to the bond appeal, Patrick Hickey retained a deep Irish identity even though a generation removed and an ocean away from Ireland.

The Dáil Loans

The Dáil's bonds were sold in small denominations in order to attract as many purchasers as possible. Certificates for $10 were to be purchased in cash; certificates of over $25 could be paid in installments over 90 days.[7]

In the words of the bond drive's secretary for Manhattan, most of the subscribers were poor people, who 'put their savings of years on the altar of the Irish Republic'. Indeed, 210,190 (76%) of the 276,219 subscribers nationwide purchased bond certificates in denominations of just $10, making up $2,101,900 of the $5,151,800 total.

As well as providing the Dáil with much needed finances, the First External Loan added weight to the Dáil's pretensions to statehood. The use of bonds rather than donations added an air of formality to the fundraising campaign… The Dáil's bond drive also engendered a sense of belonging to the nation. As recalled by an IRA volunteer in Dublin, 'it provided a means whereby sympathisers both at home and abroad could, by their contributions, become positively identified with the cause of Irish freedom'. In the words of one of the bond drive's American organizers, those who bought subscriptions joined 'a roll of honor for the Irish race'.

Reimbursement of Funds

The Anglo-Irish Treaty in late 1921 established an Irish Free State but allowed Northern Ireland to remain as part of Great Britain. The most concise summary about the subsequent repayment of Dáil loans can be found in this *Wikipedia* article:

The Dáil split over the Treaty and the pro- and anti-Treaty factions agreed to freeze the bank accounts until the situation was resolved. The Irish Civil War of 1922-23 was won by the forces

of the Irish Free State established under the 1921 treaty… As regards Dáil funds in bank accounts in the United States, bondholders were divided between the "Hearn Committee", led by de Valera supporter John J. Hearn, and the "Noonan Committee", led by Bernard Noonan. Noonan felt the Free State should control the funds and redeem them; Hearn argued they should preferably go to Sinn Féin as leaders of the rum Irish Republic or failing that, be returned to subscribers, as "the purpose for which the moneys were subscribed by the so-called bondholders, that is, the establishment of a Republic of Ireland free and independent of any allegiance to Great Britain, was never accomplished." De Valera, now leader of the opposition Fianna Fáil party, urged his American supporters to use their refunds to invest in *The Irish Press* newspaper…[8]

That brings us back to Patrick Hickey's 1930 letter from de Valera. The accompanying four-page circular was typed on the same *Irish Press* letterhead and signed by Frank P. Walsh, whose title was chairman of the 'American Committee'. Transcribed, it reads:

Dear Friend:

The money which you gave in the years 1919 to 1921 to help the cause of Ireland is about to be given back to you. You are probably one of those who gave your money at that time as a free gift, expecting no other return for it than the satisfaction of participating in a just cause and aiding the people of Ireland in time of need. I feel accordingly that when you read this leaflet you will be disposed to make this money available a second time -- again in a good cause and for the benefit of Ireland…

Many who, like yourself, are entitled to share in the distribution of the monies now held by the Receivers for the Republic of Ireland Loan, pursuant to the judgment of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, entered into June 7, 1927, have informed Mr. de Valera that on receipt of their checks they will immediately endorse them and turn them in to his account…

Also enclosed was a 'Form of Assignment and Power Attorney' which, when signed, would direct repayment of amounts due from bond certificates to Eamon de Valera at a Manhattan address. The form is blank and had not been returned. Patrick Hickey didn't opt to have his refund invested in de Valera's newspaper.

Historians differ regarding de Valera's legacy — his achievements vs. failures. The fact remains that by 1921 he'd raised over $5 million in the U.S., equivalent to about $70 million in today's dollars. He'd stirred American public opinion from coast to coast, prompting Irish-Americans to impact the outcome of the Irish War of Independence.

Endnotes

(All online sources were accessed the week of 6 Dec 2021)

1 The letter was not personally addressed and therefore was likely mass-produced, perhaps by hand engraving in a process similar to how newspapers of the era printed photographs: https://photo.stackexchange.com/questions/59679/how-were-photographs-printed-in-newspapers-in-1929.

2 Patrick O'Sullivan Green, "A century on: the Dáil loan that set the state on road to financial sovereignty" (https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/heritage/a-century-on-the-d%C3%A1il-loan-that-set-the-state-on-road-to-financial-sovereignty-1.3849383). *The Irish Times*, 4 April 2019.

3 "Dáil loans," (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D%C3%A1il_loans). Wikipedia.org.

4 Robin Adams, "Funding the new Republic: the External Dáil loan" (https://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/index.php/articles/funding-the-new-republic-the-external-dail-loan). Century Ireland – RTÉ.ie.

5 "Dáil loans."

6 "Erin's President Enthusiastically Greeting in the Twin Cities," (https://newspapers.mnhs.org/jsp/PsImageViewer.jsp?doc_id=38baad88-7c77-44da-93ec-3f50ff215e88%2Fmnhi0031%2F1HMAPJ5B%2F19102501). *The Irish Standard*, 25 October 1919.

7 Adams, "Funding the new Republic."

8 "The Irish Press" (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Irish_Press). Wikipedia.org. Controlled by de Valera and his family, *The Irish Press* was published from 1931-1995.

Gigi Hickey has twice served on the IGSI board and, since 2011, as IGSI blog editor. After co-chairing the Celtic Connections Conference 2020, she became one of the co-Managing Editors of The Septs. *In addition to genealogy research, she enjoys quilting and piano-duets and her DAR chapter.*



Beyond 2022: Working Together to Recreate the Public Records Office of Ireland

by Kathleen O'Malley Strickland

On 30 June 1922, during the Irish Civil War, the Public Records Office of Ireland (PROI) inside the Four Courts building in Dublin went up in flames, destroying more than 700 years of records stored there.

Beyond 2022's team of five core partners – the National Archives (Ireland), National Archives (UK), the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), the Irish Manuscripts Commission, and the Library of Trinity College Dublin – introduces the Virtual Record Treasury of the PROI and its mission to recreate, virtually, the PROI of 1922.

Beyond 2022 is recovering and replacing lost documents from sources all around the world. It launches publicly on the 100th anniversary of the fire, 30 June 2022. As stated on the website, "Beyond 2022 is an all-island and international collaborative research project working to create a virtual reconstruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland, which was destroyed in the opening engagement of the Civil War… The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland will be an open-access resource, freely available online to all those interested in Irish history at home and abroad."

The website https://beyond2022.ie is a treasure itself, with previews of the project, including videos, podcasts, photos, document images, and an introduction to the upcoming search capabilities. Following is a walk through the website.

Homepage

The homepage introduces *Beyond 2022* and explains how documents are being recovered or replaced. Click on the "Home" tab to read about project goals and descriptions of the work involved in recreating the PRO collection:

- To discover what was lost and what was saved, and to locate surviving and replacement sources.
- To digitize and to make cross-database searching possible through a Knowledge Base of Irish history to find people, places, events and more.
- To reconstruct what was lost, especially from "Gold Seams": bringing back large collections and restoring entire series.
- To reveal the collections from new perspectives, including a 3-D, virtual reality model of the PROI and of the replacement collections. Digital images will be searchable across collections.

PROI Treasures

Under the "PROI Treasures" tab, launch the Web3D model of the PROI. Clicking on sample bays leads to the items that were originally stored there. For instance, Bay 1H on the east side contains typed transcripts of the Hearth Money Rolls 1662-1670. Bay 5O on the west side houses the Records of the Irish Houses of Parliament, which had all been destroyed and now are reconstructed.

Click on "Visual Stories" to read about how items were tracked down, view the wonderful collection of photos of the PROI before its destruction and the galleries of images showing the progress of reconstruction.

In the "Media Gallery," podcasts and videos record the Beyond 2022 project coming together with contributions from many agencies working together.

Team

The team tab presents the people and institutions making the reconstruction of PROI records possible: the Research Team, the institutions that are partnering in this effort, the Advisory Panel and Participating Institutions, with advisors and teams from Ireland and Northern Ireland to England, California, Italy and beyond.

Support

The Irish government funds Beyond 2022, which is also supported by private philanthropists. The Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations chose Beyond 2022 as a legacy to receive state support and funding. Dr. Maurice Manning, Chair of the Advisory Group, said:

> *"…while incomparable with the loss of human life, this cultural loss was one of the great tragedies of the Civil War. An all-island and international legacy project … which combines historical research, archival conservation and technical innovation, would be a lasting and meaningful legacy, democratising access to invaluable records and illuminating 7 centuries of Irish history."*

News

The News tab leads to rich resources, including

- Archive Fever — articles published by *Beyond 2022*, such as:
  - "The Irish Exchequer Memoranda Rolls: William Lynch's Repertory", by Randolph Jones.
  - "Tokens of Anger: The Commonwealth Papers", by David Brown.
- Unlocking the Archives — podcasts, videos and articles exploring the research process that goes into Beyond 2022.
- "Recovered from the Flames" — how the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) contributes to the restoration of PROI.

Explore

Articles in this section concentrate on various collections:

- "Medieval Exchequer Gold Seam" shows examples from a substantial collection of documents. These include digitized images of receipt roll pages and an example of what the translation pages look like.
- "Grand Jury Records": Beyond 2022 describes the Grand Jury System as the "most important local body in rural Ireland" in the 18th and 19th centuries, a source for local, social and genealogical history. This section of "Explore" features:
  - a booklet explaining the Grand Jury System.
  - local Grand Jury maps, including Counties Louth, Mayo and Wicklow.
  - videos contributed by local archivists from Counties Donegal, Offaly and Wicklow describing their Grand Jury records.
  - "Replacement Collections": For a preview of things to come in Beyond 2022, samples of these document collections can be accessed through the search box:
  - "Transcriptions of ancient records of Ireland" from The Huntington, San Marino, California.
  - From PRONI, "Extract from Summonister's Rolls, Co. Tyrone, 1615-1638".
  - The "Harvard Vallencey Manuscripts", material relating to Irish history 1731-1812.
  - The *Dublin Gazette*, published 1711-1922.
  - Irish Manuscripts Commission, includes medieval exchequer rolls and royal proclamations.
  - "PROI Reports, 1867-1922", descriptions and summaries of records destroyed in the Public Records Office.
- "Unlocking the Past": presents a search feature to explore a preview of replacement collections.
  - Entering "Killybegs" brought up 17 results in "Reports of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records" and "Keeper of State Papers in Ireland", and also "Proclamations of Ireland," concerning laws and also lawbreakers.
  - Entering "O'Malley" returned an issue of the Dublin Gazette for 31 January 1922.

When Beyond 2022 launches on 30 June 2022, our understanding of Irish history will be enriched and expanded, with all the treasures to be found when the virtual PROI appears on-screen, in 3D and searchable.

Kathy Strickland has a degree in History from North Central College in Naperville, IL, and is a freelance editor and writer, former editor of the Illinois State Genealogical Quarterly. *She has researched her family tree for many years and particularly likes writing vignettes about ancestors, both hers and other people's. She also enjoys researching sources and helping others to access them.*

> *"We celebrate the past to awaken the future."*
>
> John F Kennedy

Reading About Irish Independence

by Mary Wickersham

Do you prefer to learn about history by reading history books or by reading novels? It may be easier to learn about Irish Independence by reading fictional accounts of the events of and leading up to 1918-1922. The lists below provide historical accounts of the quest for Irish Independence.

Several of the books listed here are available in audio or eBook format.

Nonfiction Books

Bitter Freedom: Ireland in a Revolutionary World, 1918 - 1923. Walsh, Maurice. (2016)

The Black and Tans. Bennett, Richard. (1959 by Hulton Pub; 1995 by Random House; 2011 Pen and Military reprint)

The Course of Irish History, Fifth edition. Moody, T.W., F.X. Martin, and Dermot Keogh, with Patrick Kiely, editors. (2012)

Ireland's Independence 1880-1923. Walsh, Oonagh. (2001)

Irish Rebel: John Devoy & America's Fight for Ireland's Freedom. Golway, Terry. (1999)

Mick: the real Michael Collins. Hart, Peter, and Kathleen Miller. (2005, 2007)

The Oxford Companion to Irish History (2 ed.). Connolly, S.J., editor. (2002)

The Twelve Apostles: Michael Collins, The Squad and Ireland's Fight for Freedom. Coogan, Tim Pat. (2016, 2018)

Vivid Faces, The Revolutionary Generation in Ireland 1890 - 1923. Foster, R. F. (2015)

Wounds, A Memoir of Love and War. Keane, Fergal. (2017) [2017 Winner of the Non-Fiction Irish Book of the Year Award]

Novels Depicting Aspects of the Struggle for Irish Independence

The fictional format may help you identify with the motivation of individuals involved in the uprising. Here are some suggestions submitted by IGSI members and a cousin in County Clare.

1921: The Great Novel of the Irish Civil War Llywelyn, Morgan.. (2011) [Irish Independence and the war that followed]

Down by the Liffeyside. Kearney, Colbert. (2019) [Dublin working-class family from the 1840s to early 1900s]

The Graves at Kilmorna: a story of '67. Sheehan, [Canon] Patrick Augustine. (various pub dates) [Fenian rising of 1867]

Guests of the nation. O'Connor, Frank. (1993) [Short story]

The Knife. O'Donnell, Peadar. (1980) [Love story]

Knocknagow, Or, The Homes of Tipperary. Kickham, Charles Joseph. (1979) [Life in Tipperary in 1800s]

The Old Jest. Johnston, Jennifer. (2014) [Young woman befriends a WWI veteran who may be involved in terrorism]

The Secret Scripture. Barry, Sebastian, and Wanda McCaddon. (2015) [Woman approaching her 100th birthday recounts her life]

A Star Called Henry. Doyle, Roddy. (2004) [Early 1900s: Henry grows up in rough circumstances, becomes one of Michael Collins' boys]

The Sunken Road. McMenamin, Ciarán. (2021) [Returning soldiers from The Great War]

Trinity: a novel of Ireland. Uris, Leon. (1976) [1840s to the Easter Rising]

Troubles. Farrell, J.G. (2002) [British Major visits a run-down hotel in Kilnalough in Wexford, 1919 - 1921. News of attacks on and retaliations by the RIC against Sinn Feiners]

Other Irish-connected Fiction

Do you enjoy mysteries? Here are two prolific authors whose works make for a good read.

Rhys Bowen. The Molly Murphy series: Molly, an Irish immigrant, investigates crimes in New York City in the early 1900s. Light reading.

Tana French. Ireland-based crime novels vary their lead crime-solvers. Intricate, award-winning thrillers.

Finding these Books

- Check with your local library. If they do not have a copy, they may be able to obtain it for you via interlibrary loan.
- Check WorldCat, www.worldcat.org, for availability at libraries around the world. WorldCat will also link you to electronic sources for the book.
- Search online bookstores.
- Search online used-book websites, such as www.HalfPriceBooks.com
- For Ireland-based mysteries, see https://murder-mayhem.com/mysteries-set-in-ireland

Many thanks to those who helped build this list: Randi Mary Helgesen (with help from Good Reads https://www.goodreads.com), Gigi Hickey, and Mary's Irish cousins Maire Ní Ghruagáin, who assisted in gathering the list, and Mary Ó Gruagáin, who contributed most of the novels listed.

Mary Wickersham has served IGSI in several board positions and twice co-chaired the Celtic Connections Conference. A member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Mary gives genealogy talks on research tools and techniques. She became IGSI Web Editor in 2018 and one of The Septs *co-Managing Editors in 2021.*

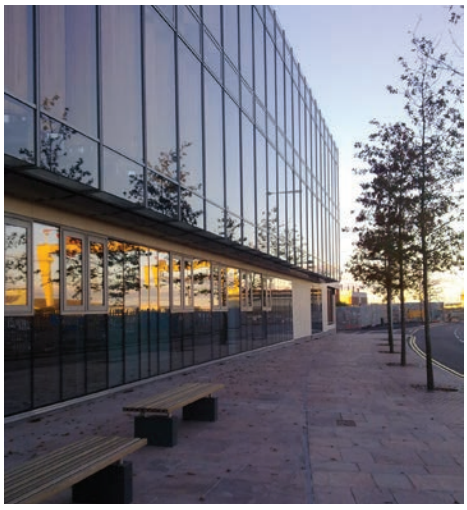


IGSI Sponsors September 2022 Ireland Tour

Join IGSI members traveling with Celtic Journeys to Ireland later this year. As we start the year, there is still space available.

The last IGSI-sponsored trip to Ireland was in 2015, also arranged by Celtic Journeys. Seven years between trips, that's a long time for Irish Folk to be away from home!! This year, we have added additional days to the trip, for a total of 12 days/11 nights. The tour departs Monday, September 26, 2022, and ends Saturday, October 8, 2022.

We are scheduled to fly into and out of the Dublin Airport, conveniently located approximately 10 km north of Dublin city centre. From the airport we'll take a motor-coach north to the city of Belfast to check-in to our hotel. Enroute there will be a stop at Monasterboice, a fascinating monastic site with a round tower and two high crosses. The site was founded in the 600s by Saint Buite. This is just the beginning of our tour of 'not so familiar Irish gems' that are off the path of the usual tourist trail. Traveling counterclockwise around the island, we return to Dublin 10 days later and stay in Dublin for a day and a half.



Public Records Office of Northern Ireland. © BARMCD @ Flickr.com.

Built into the itinerary are opportunities to spend time researching your Irish ancestors at various libraries and records offices in Belfast and Dublin. The first requirement in doing research in Ireland is to get there. If you join us for this trip, you will have completed the first step in getting there and you will be ready to extend your trip for that important 'in country' research. You will be able to add time before or after the tour for your own purposes.



Giant's Causeway. © Stefan Klopp @ Flickr.com.

This could be your time to travel 'home,' visit outstanding Irish sites you won't forget, and if you want, do some onsite research to find those original source documents for your ancestors.

IGSI members: please log in to view the "Ireland Trip" page in the Activities section of the IGSI Web site for complete information regarding the 2022 IGSI Sponsored Ireland Trip. The brochure and registration form are available there.



Rock of Cashel. © Pat O'Malley @ Flickr.com.



St Colman's Cathedral (1919), Cobh, County Cork, Ireland © Frank Kehren @ Flickr.com.

That's after watching IGSI's January 15 webinar with Fiona Fitzsimons, *Researching Ireland – Searching High and Low*.

Getting Started with DNA

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

Defining Your Objective

DNA is a powerful tool for your genealogy research. Like any other tool, before you pick it up and start using it, it works best if you determine what you want it to do. Your objective will help you determine how to incorporate DNA into your research.

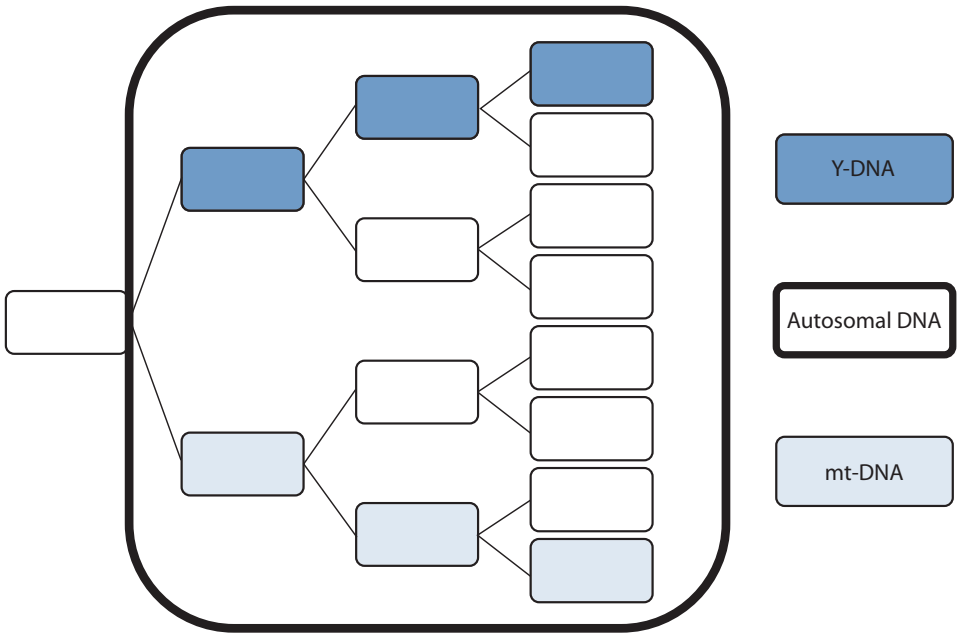
Possible objectives could include finding out about specific family lines, obtaining ethnicity estimates, or just fishing—seeing what's out there and what you can learn. All these objectives are equally valid.

Choosing a Test

Currently, three types of DNA tests are available:

- Y-DNA provides information about a male tester's male line of inheritance. Since Y-DNA is transmitted from father to son to son to son, and only males have it, you will need a male tester representing the line of males you want to know about. In your pedigree chart, the Y-line is the top line, shown with dark gray shading in the graphic below.
- Mitochondrial (mt) DNA provides information about a tester's female line of inheritance. It is transmitted by women to all their children, but only daughters pass on their mother's mitochondrial DNA. You will need to find a tester representing the line of females you want to know about. In your pedigree chart, the mitochondrial line is the bottom line, shown with light gray shading.
- Autosomal DNA, which all potential testers have, regardless of their sex, can provide information about any line of inheritance. In your pedigree chart, autosomal DNA tests the top, bottom, and middle lines.[1]

Autosomal tests are likely to be helpful in working toward any genealogical objective, including research on specific family lines. They are an excellent, all-purpose test. You should be aware that their usefulness is, in practice, limited to investigation of your testers' most recent four to six generations. Autosomal DNA is being successfully used to investigate some late eighteenth-century lines; however, these studies require fairly large groups of testers and application of advanced analysis techniques — they're not recommended as a first DNA project.



If your objective is to find out about a specific family line, you might consider adding Y- or mitochondrial DNA tests, assuming that you have or can locate one or more test subjects who have the DNA you are looking for.

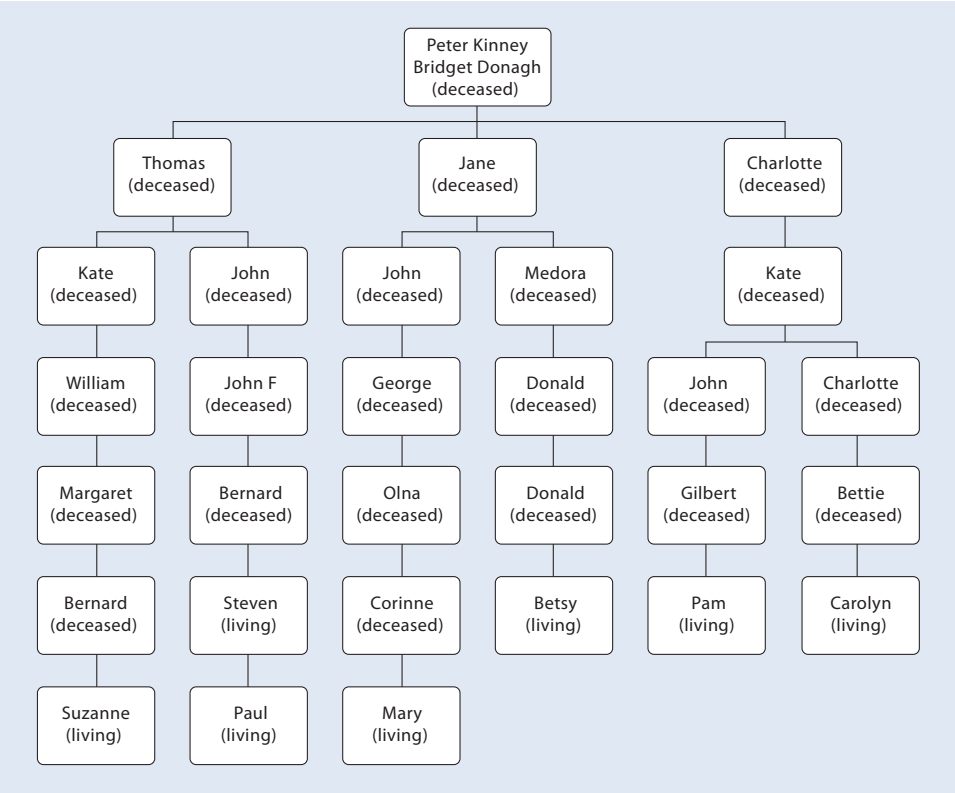
Y and mitochondrial DNA tests can also be useful if you are searching for a specific ethnicity in a patrilineal or matrilineal line and you have test subjects representing the line you want to investigate.

Choosing Testers

A rule of thumb in DNA testing is to test the oldest individual who has the DNA you want to test.

Of course, your testers must be willing to provide DNA samples and to either allow you to manage their test or to make their results available to you, so, in practice, you will want to test the oldest individual who has the DNA you want to test and is willing to test for you.

The following chart shows seven generations of descendants of Peter Kinney (c 1786–1877) and Bridget Donagh (c 1800–1860) from County Tipperary. Lines of descent from the three children shown include living descendants who could potentially provide samples for a DNA study, if they are willing to provide informed consent.



If you wanted to test Peter's Y-DNA, you'd need to find a tester who has an all-male line of descent from him. Since only one son of our target couple is shown, only that son's living male-line descendants would be eligible Y-testers. Steven in generation 6 and Paul in generation 7 meet this criterion. If Steven is able and willing to test, he would be the preferred Y-tester, since he is a generation closer than Paul to the Y-DNA target Peter. Since Paul inherited his Y-DNA from Steven, it would not be necessary to test both men.

If you wanted to test Bridget's mt-DNA, you'd need to find a tester who has an all-female line of descent from her. Although the living descendants shown for the two daughters in the chart include numerous females, only Charlotte's descendant Carolyn, in generation 6, has an all-female line of descent.

If you wanted to test Peter and Bridget's autosomal DNA, you could choose any of the living descendants shown. Ideally, you'd want to test one or more of the candidates in generation 6 rather than the candidates in generation 7, since they are a generation closer to the test targets Peter and Bridget.

To find potential testers, you need to research your target couple's lines of descent forward until you find living people. As the Kinney chart shows, the younger children of a couple typically produce more living descendants within fewer generations than the older children, especially in large families.

Statistically, a child receives 50% of their DNA from each parent. Continuing down the generations, a grandchild receives about 25% of their DNA from each grandparent, 12.5% from each great-grandparent, and so on, until DNA from some ancestors ceases to be passed on. Thus, the closer a tester is in terms of generations to the target ancestor, the more of the target's DNA the tester is likely to have. However, siblings (unless they are identical twins) do not receive the same 50% of each parent's DNA. As a result of this division and mixing, it's advisable to recruit testers representing different ancestral lines. In the Kinney example, even though there are more generations from Peter and Bridget to testers descended from Thomas than there are between Peter and Bridget and testers descended from Jane, it would be desirable to include one or more descendants from all three of Peter and Bridget's children in your testing plan.

Choosing a Testing Company

The four largest companies that provide direct-to-consumer DNA testing are *Ancestry* https://www.ancestry.com/dna/, *23andMe* https://www.23andme.com/, *MyHeritage* https://www.myheritage.com/, and *Family Tree DNA* (FTDNA) https://www.familytreedna.com/. All four companies provide autosomal testing, with results that include both match lists and estimated ethnicity percentages. Only FTDNA provides Y- and mitochondrial DNA testing, although 23andMe provides estimated Y- and mitochondrial haplogroups with their autosomal test results.[2]

Autosomal DNA tests cost between $79 and $99 (U.S.) and typically go on sale around the winter holidays and at other times of the year. Typically, in the U.S., look for sales around Mother's Day, Father's Day, and DNA Day (April 25). Especially if you are buying multiple kits, it pays to wait for sales!

Which testing company is best? It depends on your objective, your budget, and other

	Ancestry	*23andMe*	*MyHeritage*	*FTDNA*
Database size	20,000,000	12,000,000	5,200,000	1,400,000
Test cost (U.S.)	$69	$99	$69	$79
Sample collection	Saliva tube	Saliva tube	Cheek swab	Cheek swab
Linkage to family trees	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Special considerations			Many European testers	DNA projects, many Irish testers

factors that may be important to you! For example, if one or more of your testers might have difficulty producing a saliva sample, you might prefer a company that offers cheek-swab sample collection.

If you want Y- or mitochondrial testing, you have just one choice: FTDNA. If you want to know Y- or mitochondrial haplogroups, you have two choices: FTDNA and 23andMe. If you want autosomal testing, you have four major choices: Ancestry, 23andMe, MyHeritage, and FTDNA. In general, you have more chances of finding matches in the larger databases; however, the match that's most important to you could have tested at any company!

Two of the major companies, MyHeritage and FTDNA, allow users to transfer test results from another company at a lower cost than taking a test. This allows you to test at Ancestry or 23andMe, who don't accept transfers, and then transfer to MyHeritage or FTDNA. The test-and-transfer strategy lets you give your tests maximum exposure to potential matches while saving money on test kits. In general, for DNA beginners, it's best to simplify your learning curve by testing with one company and learning to work with your results before you determine whether to add additional tests or transfer results to additional companies.

The table below shows autosomal database size, test cost, sample collection method, and availability of family trees at the four major companies.[3] For more information, refer to the *ISOGG Wiki* article cited below and *The DNA Geek's* article on company pros and cons.[4]

Before you buy any test from any company, be sure to read the company's terms and conditions. Also read the Genetic Genealogy Standards http://www.genetic-genealogystandards.com/. If relatives are taking DNA tests for you, ensure that they read and agree to the terms and conditions also, and give them a copy of the Genetic Genealogy Standards! It's important for you and for those testing for your benefit to know how the testing company you choose handles physical DNA samples and who has or may have access to test results.

Endnotes

1 There is one caveat — after about the fifth generation, you may not receive DNA from every ancestor in each generation. See Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* (Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2016), 68–9.

2 Haplogroups are genetic population groups who share a common paternal or maternal ancestor. These founding ancestors lived thousands of years ago. Haplogroups for Y-DNA are different from mitochondrial-DNA haplogroups. For an introduction to haplogroups, see "Haplogroup," *International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki* (https://isogg.org/wiki/Haplogroup : accessed 27 November 2021).

3 Information in the table comes from "Autosomal DNA Testing Comparison Chart," *International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki* (https://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_testing_comparison_chart : accessed 27 November 2021). Database sizes are as of 7 November 2021.

4 *Ibid.*, also Leah LaPerle Larkin, "The Pros and Cons of the Main DNA Testing Companies — 2018 Version," 12 December 2018, *The DNA Geek* (https://thednageek.com/the-pros-and-cons-of-the-main-dna-testing-companies-2018-version/ : accessed 27 November 2021).

Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*



Meet the 2022 IGSI Board of Directors

The nine members of the 2022 IGSI Board of Directors include three new directors, a returning former director, and five directors continuing on the board, from whom the officers were selected. Donna and Ron introduced themselves in the Co-Presidents' Letter. Keep reading to learn a few facts about the other directors.



Director

Trish Little Taylor is one of the new co-chairs of the IGSI Education Committee. She graduated from the University of Mary Washington College with master's degrees from the Universities of Western Michigan and Richmond. Her genealogical adventure began in 1978 when she started to work at the Library of Virginia in the Reference Department. On the first day her boss began her training by stating "50 to 60% of our research is local history and genealogy. What do you know about your family?". Those were the pre-computer days when typing was the desired input method and research was on either using microfilm or traveling to the source. Then online searches and databases opened the world of research for her.

The search for her Irish roots has led her to research for the Littles in Leitrim, the Peters in Tipperary, the Brandons in Limerick. All the while hitting brickwalls trying to find the Daley and Toomey families by searching everywhere. On her mom's side she is also learning how to do Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Cornish research.

Trish is a retired librarian. She is a member of the National Genealogical Society, TIARA, Genealogical Research Institute of Virginia, The Irish Family History Forum, New York Irish History Roundtable, and a host of other genealogical and local history groups. Her passion is to share what she has learned by organizing workshops and presentations on topics such as newspapers, basic research techniques, and, of course, Irish records.

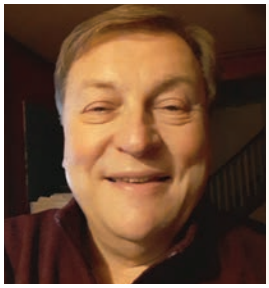


Director

Sandra Mc Laughlin has been interested in genealogy since the 1980s after a visit to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. However, it wasn't until the 2000s that she became a serious practitioner. She has been drawn to Ireland and Irish history, literature, and culture since discovering Irish music in high school.

In 2018, Sandra earned a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University. She also has certificates in *Irish Genealogical Research Parts I and II*, *New Jersey Research*, *Practical Genetic Genealogy*, *Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis*, and *Documenting Written Narratives with Clear Citations*. She travelled to Belfast for a course given by the Ulster Historical Foundation in 2017.

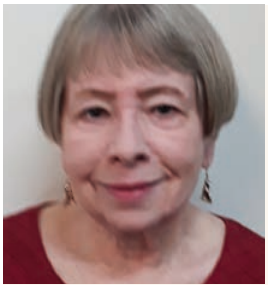
Sandra is from Upstate New York and lived in Manhattan for 20 years, working for Time Warner and HBO. She currently lives in Avon by the Sea, NJ, an area referred to as the "Irish Riviera", with her husband Steve. Her research is focused on Irish and French-Canadian genealogy.



Director

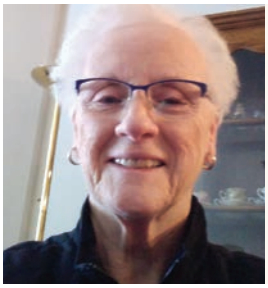
Dave Miller is originally from Evanston, Illinois, although most of his family originated from Northeast Wisconsin and that is where he has spent the past 20 years.

He has been researching family histories, including his own, for the past 40 years. During that time, Dave also worked for almost 45 years in radio and television as an on-air meteorologist; he retired in July 2019. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois, a Master of Arts Degree from The University of Illinois, Springfield, and a Professional Learning Certificate of Genealogical Studies in Irish records from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies near Toronto, Ontario. He has been a member of the Irish Genealogical Society International. He has also appeared as guest historian in three episodes of "Dead Files" on the Travel Channel. He has authored articles on many genealogy topics and speaks to groups on genealogy, especially on Irish Research for North Americans. His genealogy blogs and video vlogs can be found at his website, www.theancestorguy.com. Dave is very honored to be voted to the board of the IGSI effective 2022.



Director

Kay Swanson rejoins the IGSI board after one year's absence. She served on the board for ten years and has been membership chair since 2010. After teaching English for 14 years, she worked in administrative roles at the University of Minnesota and also at the University of Saint Thomas. Presently, in addition to IGSI, she is a member of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, the Yankee Genealogical Society and also the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. In late September she'll join the IGSI tour of Ireland. On previous trips, she hasn't been able to pinpoint the exact area in County Monaghan where her Duffy relatives lived. However, doing more research in Belfast at PRONI may yield some more results. A recent webinar presenter recently said that PRONI is light years ahead of other libraries, so that's very encouraging.



Secretary

Jeanne Bakken shares her story: All of my grandparents and one set of great grandparents settled in St. Paul, Minnesota and that is where I was born. I worked for the federal government for 22 years and took an early retirement so my husband and I could travel. We spent time in Arizona, Hawaii and all the National Parks out west. Finally, we made a trip to Ireland in 2003 to find the birth place of my maternal grandfather. He was born in the townland of Templeglantine in County Limerick. Another trip with IGSI in 2004 focused on researching in Dublin. That trip helped me find my great grandfather's place of birth in Rathkeale, County Limerick. I joined the Irish Genealogical Society in 2001 and have been involved as a board member and volunteer coordinator. Other than genealogy I enjoy golf, spending time up north in Minnesota and gardening.



Director

Ann Eccles continues on the Board for a fifth year of service. In her 20 years as a member of IGSI, she has served on the Board; helped with membership data entry; volunteered for Irish Saturdays in the library; and served as editor of *The Septs*. She is a native of Connecticut and also lived in Rhode Island before settling in Minnesota. Ann joined IGSI to learn more about Irish genealogy and hone her professional research skills to that end. She's still working on tracing her seven Irish great-grandparents and learning the history of their families. One of Ann's greatest pleasures is the smile of other researchers when they make a new discovery about their Irish ancestors.



Treasurer

Mike Flynn tells the story: Growing up, our parents told us Flynn kids that mom was 100 percent German and dad was 100 percent Irish, so in the mid-1990s my sister and I decided to see if that was true. From the Irish sod, yes; my DNA sample has ample evidence for that. The "German" ancestry is a big maybe, depending on the location of the farm/hamlet/town that they left from and their year of immigration.

Currently, I have nailed down the 'home' location of three of the eight great grandparents. Each year we get closer to locating the other ancestries' homes in Western Europe. Along the way we have met distant cousins and uncovered additional family histories for our ancestors.

Finding and using genealogical resources has been the mainstay for our findings. Giving back and paying it forward as a volunteer or a board member is a way to keep and add the resources needed for all of our searching. It is great fun; jokingly, my wife says it is a 'black hole' of time.

Don't Miss eMail from IGSI

by Mary Wickersham

Keep your email address up-to-date.

Log in, visit Member Profile (under the Member Login link), then click the pencil to edit your profile (see illustration 1).



Illustration 1

Confirm that your IGSI Member Settings allow you to receive email.

IGSI email follows the General Notices setting. If you accidentally set this to "No," you won't receive email from us (see illustration 2).

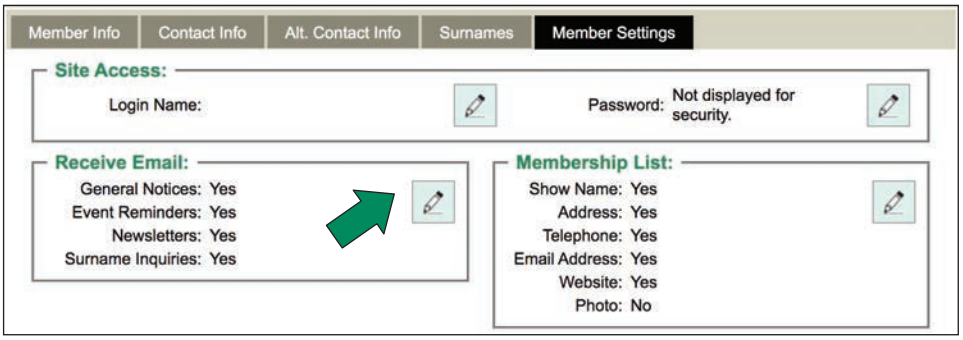


Illustration 2

Ensure that IGSI email isn't treated as spam.

Many email service providers are taking increasingly-aggressive steps to prevent their customers from receiving spam. Unfortunately, valid email may be prevented from delivery to your email inbox. We have had several reports recently of "missed" emails: the IGSI Education or Web Editor email account sent a message to an email address, but the addressee followed up to ask why they hadn't heard from us.

Where is the email sent from IGSI?

Possibly in a Junk folder, but occasionally a message may not even get that far, in the case of major providers such as Gmail and Yahoo.

Can I tell my email service that messages from IGSI are safe?

Yes! Indicate to your email provider that IGSI is a trusted contact by adding webeditor@irishgenealogical.org and education@irishgenealogical.org to your safe senders' list. (Some companies refer to the list as an Allow List or Whitelist, so if you use your research skills to find how-to steps, look for those terms, too.)

How do I add an email to my safe senders' list?

If the email is found in Junk folder, move it out, to another folder. You may be able to mark the sender (IGSI) as safe at that point.

Web-based email: add our "from" email addresses to your email Contacts, following your email provider's process.

If you don't know the steps to follow, use a search engine with "add sender to safe senders list with [email provider name here]."

If you use Outlook software and you find an email from us in your Junk folder: right-click on the entry for the email, then select Junk -> Never Block Sender's Domain.

If you think you may be missing messages from IGSI, contact us!

That action alone may be enough to cure some anti-spam problems, as many email providers will automatically add a "To" address to the safe senders' list. IGSI email addresses are listed on the inside cover of The Septs.

Keep in mind… much of the content of the emails IGSI sends to you can also be found on our website. Check the Main and Activities pages for upcoming webinars and classes, and *The Septs* Journal and eNewsletter pages for those publications. Publication timeframes: *The Septs* in January, April, July, October; *Ginealas* eNewsletter in even-numbered months.

In addition to her other volunteer activities for IGSI, Mary Wickersham is IGSI's Web Editor; she works with a team of IGSI volunteers to maintain and improve our website. Feel free to send her an email message (webeditor@irishgenealogical.org) to say hello and help your email system know that IGSI's email can be trusted.

IGSI Exceeds Fundraising Campaign Goal

Thank you for support during the Fall 2022 fundraising campaign!

Our goal was to raise $2,500 during our campaign. We are pleased to report that over $3,500 was received during November and December.

IGSI participated in two major giving events in November:

- November 18, Give to the Max Day in Minnesota, when most charities throughout Minnesota coordinate appeals for donations.
- November 30, Giving Tuesday, when many charities throughout the world make appeals for donations.

Whether you donated during those events, or added a donation when you renewed your membership, or contributed in another way, your donations support our mission of providing education and information about Irish family history.

A full list of donors will be published in the April edition of *The Septs.*

Irish Genealogical Society International

IGSI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Renew Your Membership in the Irish Genealogical Society International

Membership type (circle one):

Electronic $35	$ _____
Dual Electronic $45	$ _____
General $40	$ _____
Dual $50	$ _____
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☐ Renew for 2 years – double	$ _____
Donation (Thank You)	$ _____
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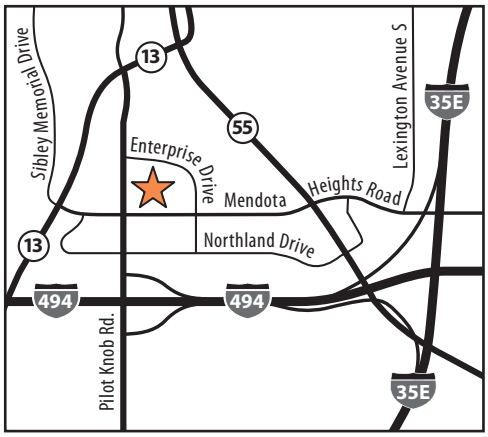
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Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. (IGSI)

Library and Offices located at the Minnesota Genealogy Center





Library Hours

Wednesday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Thursday: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Friday

Hoffman Research Library

★ 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100,
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
651-330-9312

During severe weather, or if traveling a long distance, please call before coming to the library to check if open.

The library is a self-supporting research library staffed by voluteers. If you are a member of the IGSI and are coming from out of town, contact Librarian@IrishGenealogical.org so we can have an Irish researcher available to meet you.

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The Septs

APRIL (AIBREÁN) 2022 $10.00

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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Genealogy Library Open

The Hoffman Research Library, located in the Minnesota Genealogy Center in Mendota Heights, is open for research. Full service times are scheduled for 2022.

The Hofmann Research Library is a private genealogy research library created for members of the organizations in the MGS Partners' Group. Access to the library materials is free to members of IGSI and other MGS Partner societies. Non-members and the general public are requested to pay a per visit $10 donation for use.

The Hoffman Library will be open only if there are two volunteers available to staff the building. As COVID continues, some volunteers have stepped back from regular schedules creating a volunteer staff shortage. (Won't you consider becoming a MGC/library volunteer to help ensure research access for all?)

Note: Effective March 1, 2022, masks are recommended for everyone visiting the Hoffman Research Library, but optional for the fully vaccinated..



Hours of service:

Wednesday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Irish Saturdays

Stop by the library on the second Saturday of the month between 10 AM and 4 PM for Irish research help from IGSI volunteers.

MAY 14, 2022
JUNE 11, 2022
JULY 9, 2022
AUGUST 13, 2022
SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

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The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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Layout/Design	Megan McLean	

The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the 28th of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editor at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc.

2022

Board of Directors

Co-Presidents – Donna Jones & Ron Zweber	President@IrishGenealogical.org
Treasurer – Mike Flynn	Treasurer@IrishGenealogical.org
Secretary – Jeanne Bakken	Secretary@IrishGenealogical.org

Ann Eccles, Trish Little Taylor, Sandra Mc Laughlin, Dave Miller, Kay Swanson

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eNewsletter – Gregory Winters	eNews@IrishGenealogical.org
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Research – Sandra Mc Laughlin	Research@IrishGenealogical.org
Trips – Mike Flynn and Kay Swanson	Trip@IrishGenealogical.org
Volunteer Coord. – Jeanne Bakken	Volunteers@IrishGenealogical.org
Website Editor – Mary Wickersham	Webeditor@IrishGenealogical.org

Write for *The Septs*

Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 — 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2022 | July | Online Books

Finding and using online sites for accessing research publications, e.g., NUCMC, InternetArchive, GoogleBooks, WorldCat, etc.
Deadline for articles: May 15, 2022.

2022 | October | Maps

Understanding where your family lived in Ireland and in their new country; using historical maps and mapping software to solve genealogical problems.
Deadline for articles: August 15, 2022.

2023 | January | Canada

Locating and researching Canadian records for ancestors who either settled there or passed through on their way to America.
Deadline for articles: November 15, 2022.

2023 | April | Leinster Province

Researching in the 12 Irish counties of Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow; stories about finding family in Leinster locales.
Deadline for articles: February 15, 2023.

Cover Photo: *The Burren.*
Photo courtesy of Judith at Flicker.com.

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April is National Volunteer Month

by Donna Jones & Ron Zweber

April is the month in which we recognize the importance and significant contributions that volunteers make. IGSI is a volunteer organization and our success is the result of volunteers generously donating their time and talents.

IGSI's volunteer history is probably similar to many genealogical societies, where a small group of volunteers do the majority of the work. As co-presidents, we would like to change this dynamic to involve more of you for shorter time commitments.

For those of you experienced with editing others written product, we would appreciate the ability to forward drafts of text to you for your review and comment.

If any of you have marketing backgrounds, we would appreciate your participation in a couple of virtual meetings this year when we discuss strategies on how to increase our membership.

The Research Committee handles the Irish research inquiries we receive from both members and nonmembers. You do not need to be an expert researcher; IGSI will provide an orientation to the more commonly accessed Irish research databases and resources. Additionally, as part of a team, you have access to other IGSI volunteer researchers working on the committee. You would work with the chair to be involved with requests when you have time and also to step back when you do not have the time to be involved. Geography is not a barrier to participation on this committee.

The Website Editor maintains IGSI's website. The responsibilities include making changes to the content on the website, assisting with technical problems, serving as liaison with software companies and generating reports. If you have a technical background and an interest in assisting, please let us know.

The Technology Committee meets virtually each month; the Website Editor is the chair of the committee. The group reviews the content on the website, makes suggestions for changes. The committee also helped analyze, select and implement tools like Vimeo, Google Suites (for shared files and volunteer hours reporting), and Vertical Response.

The Education Committee meets virtually once a month. The committee discusses topics for webinars based on feedback from post webinar surveys as well as suggestions by committee members. The co-chairs contact potential speakers, handle the speakers' contracts and create the marketing material.

If you live in the Twin Cities area, the Library Committee needs more volunteers at the Hoffman Research Library. The library is located in the Minnesota Genealogy Center in Mendota Heights. The group is responsible for assisting people that come to the library, maintaining the IGSI collection and staffing the desk at the library. Orientation and training will be provided. If you have Irish research skills, considering volunteering on Irish Saturdays.

If you have an interest in writing, consider contacting *The Septs*, *Ginealas* or the IGSI Blog; there are always opportunities to contribute. There is a current opening for associate editor of *Ginealas* to edit content and ensure accuracy.

Our Social Media Chair is the administrator and moderator of IGSI's *Facebook* and *Twitter* accounts. Responsibilities include posting information for the Education Committee regarding upcoming webinars and information about IGSI. The chair generates *Facebook* reports, which contain information about viewer engagement.

Our Membership Committee answers and assists members questions. Geography is not a barrier to assist on this committee.

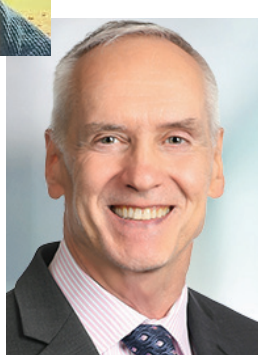
The Volunteer Committee communicates the need for volunteers and coordinates scheduling people for events such as the Irish Fair. Geography is not a barrier to assist on this committee.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall policy and direction of IGSI, and delegates the responsibility of day-to-day operations to the committees.

Do you have some time or interest in volunteering? Or would you like to talk about how you can help out IGSI? Please let us know at volunteers@irishgenealogical.org.



Donna Jones



Ron Zweber

A New Slant on Themes: Irish Provinces

by Mary Wickersham

Throughout the years 1993 – 2001, *The Septs* featured one Irish county in three to four issues yearly. It took several years (1993 – 2001) to cover most of the 32 counties. Several counties were visited more than once, and five counties were not featured.

We know the benefits of focusing an issue on a part of Ireland, but we are not willing to commit to eight years of county themes. Instead, Munster Province is the first of the provinces we plan to feature annually. Using provinces as the theme will facilitate "visiting" these areas about every four years.

Members can view the earlier "county" issues and others on the IGSI website. See the sidebar for the link and a link for a printable (PDF) map of Ireland marking provinces and county boundaries. For a list of past issues of *The Septs* with themes of Munster counties, see page 48.

Family from Tipperary? Trish Little Taylor's shares her thorough research and family lore from her Aunt Ruth that led her to discover the Peters family's townland. Ardith Meaney writes about her use of Hearth Rolls to determine where the Meany surname was located in the 1600s, and her approach to writing a memoir of her family. Kathleen O'Malley Strickland's article about the *Tipperary Studies* website encourages those of us with Tipperary roots to check its genealogy collections.

Or Limerick? Jeanne Bakken recounts her commission of Limerick Ancestry (now Limerick Genealogy) to do records lookups and her in-person research at a Roman Catholic parish. Limerick Genealogy's Catriona Crowe lists the top 10 websites for Limerick research, national and local resources, and advises us to use online resources prior to travel.

Dr. Michael Keane, describes his new book, *The Crosbies of Cork, Kerry, Laois and Leinster*, which traces the family from the 1600s to the 20th century.

We have many other interesting articles beyond Munster. Author Mark Henry is interviewed by Catherine Devane about his book, *In Fact: An Optimist's Guide to Ireland at 100*. Maureen Reed writes about researching her Galway (Connaught Province) ancestor in British military and pension records.

Check out improvements to the IGSI website that make it an even more valuable resource. Donna Jones & Eileen Kelly describe the new *Learn* section of the IGSI website. *Learn* has seven new pages packed with resources — and links — for researching Irish genealogy. *Making Connections* explains how to use the *Surname Interests* section of the website. To improve the surnames database, Sandra McLaughlin embarked on a project in fall 2021 to standardize the data. Place names are now more consistent and thus more useful. Our surname database now has more than 700 entries!

Lois Abromitis Mackin's DNA column moves from Getting Started to Autosomal DNA, part 1. Lois discusses ethnicity estimates, genetic communities, and chromosome painting. View online for in-color illustrations.

Hopefully, you will find inspiration to pursue new resources and techniques.

IGSI Website Resources

Past issues of *The Septs* are archived online, yet available to all members. Login required. Select *The Septs*, then *Issues by Theme* page to see the list and open past issues. (https://irishgenealogical.org/cpage.php?pt=33) Search within the page (Ctrl-F or Cmd-F) for the county of interest, then click the PDF file name in the far column to view individual issues using a PDF reader.

For a printable map outlining Ireland provinces and counties, visit our Irish Jurisdictions — Irish Places page. (https://irishgenealogical.org/cpage.php?pt=18)

Mary Wickersham has served IGSI in several board positions and twice co-chaired the Celtic Connections Conference. A member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Mary gives genealogy talks on research tools and techniques. She became IGSI Web Editor in 2018 and one of The Septs *co-Managing Editors in 2021.*



Aunt Ruth Held the Keys to a Family Mystery

by Trish Little Taylor

Locating the Irish immigrant ancestor's home place in Ireland is often the goal of today's researchers. Discovering original documents and recording those details on a family tree creates an interesting outline, but not necessarily the location of an ancestor's townland. The who, when and why can become lost when only looking at vital statistics. To add color to the details the researcher must listen very carefully to family stories, analyze those stories, and try to find the truth behind the stories.

I decided to concentrate on the Peters line, my mother's father's family. I had no idea where in Ireland they came from. I had heard many family stories, but these stories mainly focused on their life in Troy, New York in the 1860s and later in New York City in the 1900s. My grandfather Hugh Peters had eight brothers and sisters. All of them had passed away and left no records of their Irish origins, except for my Great-Aunt Ruth Peters Engstrom. Luckily, she held two critical keys.

Ruth said that her father, Dennis Peters, came to New York from Ireland as a small child. I asked Aunt Ruth if she recalled any of her father's memories of living in New York, but she could not. However, several weeks later I received a letter from Aunt Ruth with my first critical key. She remembered being told her father's first memory was of President Lincoln being killed which gave me an approximate timeline to search. That was the beginning of sifting through family stories to discover and identify the clues that would lead me to my family's original townland in Ireland.

My grandfather Hugh Dennis Peters (1893-1935) married May Agnes Walters (1900-1994) in New York City and had three children, Marjorie, Eleanor, and Roderick. Knowing that Hugh died as the result of a car accident in 1935, I started my research with the 1930 U.S. Census (Figure 1).[1] Tracking the Peters family in Pelham, New York, I found that Hugh's father, Dennis, was born in Ireland and his mother, Mary, was born in New York.

Because my great grandfather Dennis died in 1913, I turned to the 1910 U.S. Census (Figure 2),[2] which confirmed that Dennis was born in Ireland and his wife Mary was born in New York. The census also revealed Dennis had immigrated to the U.S. in 1863 and was naturalized.

Continuing the Federal Census search, I found the family living in Troy, New York, in 1900 (Figure 3).[3] The Census stated that Dennis and his family had lived in Troy for 35 years and immigrated in 1865. (According to a family story, the family moved back to New York City in 1901 because Dennis sold his grocery store. He worked as a salesman until he passed away in 1913). If Dennis had lived in Troy for 35 years, he arrived when he was about eight years old. But which immigration date is correct; 1863 as recorded in the 1930 Census, or 1865 as recorded in the 1900 Census?

My next step was to look for Dennis' immigration records. I logged on to the *Statue of Liberty – Ellis Island Foundation*

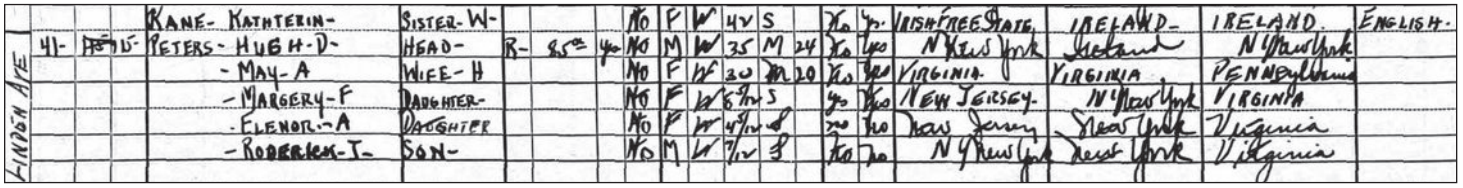


Figure 1 – 1930 U.S. Census

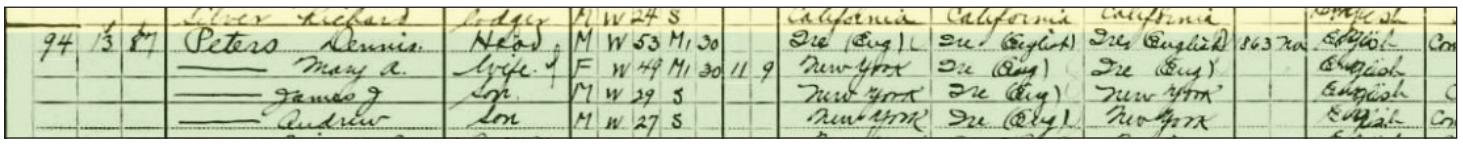


Figure 2 – 1910 U.S. Census

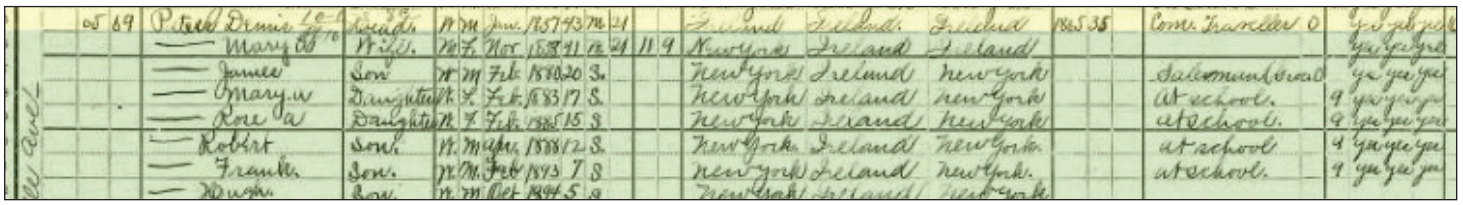
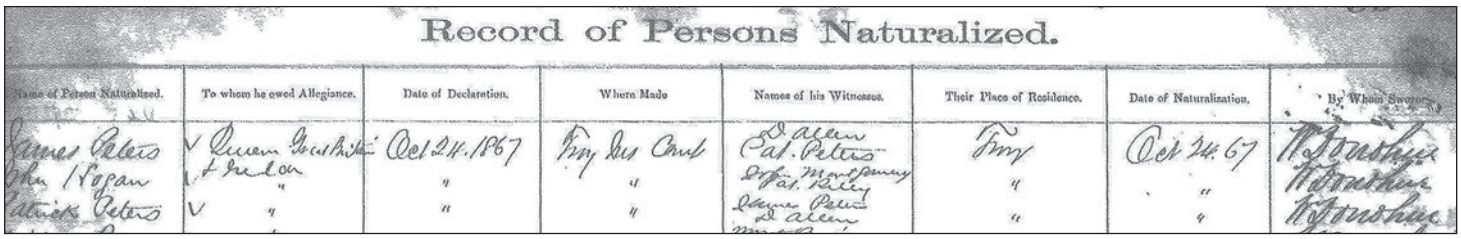


Figure 3 – 1900 U.S. Census


Record of Persons Naturalized.

Name of Person Naturalized.	To whom he owed Allegiance.	Date of Declaration.	Where Made	Names of his Witnesses.	Their Place of Residence.	Date of Naturalization.	By Whom Sworn.
James Peters	Queen Victoria	Oct 24. 1867	Troy Sup Court	Dalleen Pat. Peters	Troy	Oct 24. 67	W Bonshaw
John Bogan	"	"	"	Dr Pat. Montgomery Pat. Riley	"	"	W Bonshaw
Patrick Peters	"	"	"	James Peters Dalleen	"	"	W Bonshaw

Figure 4 – Troy Index of Naturalizations

database. You can search on this website by your ancestor's name and arrival date. It contains digital images of ships' manifests with sailing information and, more importantly, lists anyone else travelling with your ancestor.

I found five-year-old Dennis Peters on the SS *Bridgewater* sailing with his father James, mother Honora and six siblings.[4] They were listed in steerage. The family departed from Liverpool, England, and arrived in New York on May 20, 1863. I now had the correct immigration date.

The family had lived in Troy, New York, for many years. While researching the Irish in Troy, I discovered a comprehensive roster of indexes from *Connor's Genealogy*. This is a terrific local resource. One record set was the "Index to Persons Naturalized in Justices' Courts City of Troy" (Figure 4).[5] Often naturalization papers record the town of birth, so I looked for papers filed for Dennis and his father James. James' record showed that he completed the naturalization process in 1867. The papers confirm that James was born in Ireland, but unfortunately, listed no townland.

Not to be deterred, I began researching the details of another story that Aunt Ruth shared with me, and the second critical key.

My grandfather Dennis had a sister that became a nun. Aunt Ruth remembered that she had returned to New York to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of her final vows. Ruth had no further details. I went back to the SS *Bridgewater* immigration manifest. It listed the names of Dennis's four sisters. I located a Catholic directory which listed churches, convents, and schools in Troy. There were no 'Mother Houses' where women could enter a convent in Troy, but there was one in nearby Latham, New York. I sent a letter to the Saint Joseph Provincial House in Latham, hoping there might be a wealth of information to be found. This was a fishing trip of sorts. I was not sure what I would learn, or what it would reveal. I was delighted with the details I discovered.

An archivist from Saint Joseph's told me that two Peters girls entered the order in 1883 and 1884. Miss Bridget Peters was born in County Tipperary, the lawful daughter of Patrick Peters and Bridget Costello. Bridget was my grandfather's cousin. Miss Nora (Honoria) Peters was born in Inch, County Tipperary, and was the lawful daughter of James Peters and Nora O'Brien and she was my great grandfather's sister! Nora became Sister Alphonsus and took her final vows in 1885[6] in St. Louis; she became a teacher of the deaf in Missouri and later, in California. Nora returned to Troy when she retired. She died in 1936 and is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Troy.

To confirm this new information, I was ready to search Irish records. In *Findmypast* I found Nora's baptismal record in 1858 (See Figure 5)[7] and one for Dennis in 1854 (See Figure 6).[8] Note that their mother's first name and surname were spelled differently in both records. Honoria O'Brien Peters had eight children born in Ireland. Not once is her first name or surname spelled the same. However, in each record her husband was listed as James Peters of Inch, so I was pretty sure I had the right person.

With the Catholic parish identified from the baptismal records, I was able to locate

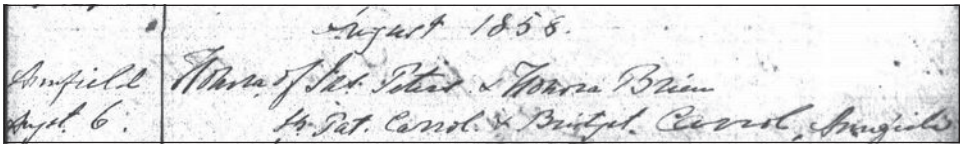

August 1858.
Ampfield Aug. 6. Honora of Pat. Peters & Honora Brien
by Pat. Carrol & Brigt. Carrol, Ampfield

Figure 5 – Honoria Peters baptismal record

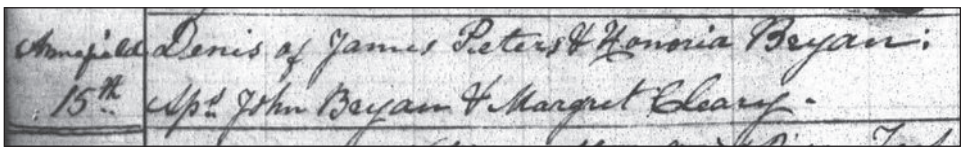
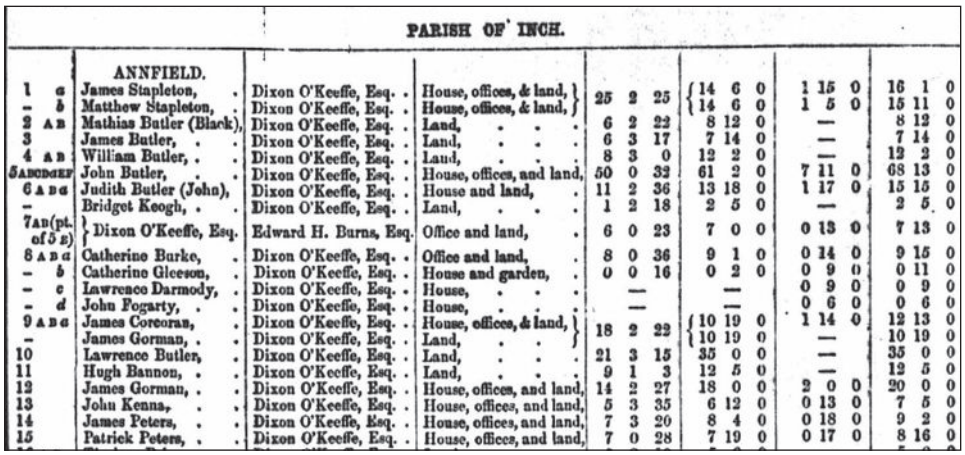

Ampfield 15th. Denis of James Peters & Honoria Bryan.
Sp. John Bryan & Margret Cleary.

Figure 6 – Dennis Peters baptismal record



PARISH OF INCH.

	ANNFIELD.										
1 a	James Stapleton,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House, offices, & land,	25	2	25	14	6	0	1 15 0	16 1 0
– b	Matthew Stapleton,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House, offices, & land,				14	6	0	1 5 0	15 11 0
2 AB	Mathias Butler (Black),	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	Land,	6	2	22	8	12	0	—	8 12 0
3	James Butler,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	Land,	6	3	17	7	14	0	—	7 14 0
4 AB	William Butler,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	Land,	8	3	0	12	2	0	—	12 2 0
SAMEDEM	John Butler,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	50	0	32	61	2	0	7 11 0	68 13 0
6 ABC	Judith Butler (John),	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House and land,	11	2	36	13	18	0	1 17 0	15 15 0
–	Bridget Keogh,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	Land,	1	2	18	2	5	0	—	2 5 0
7AB(pt. of 5 E)	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	Edward H. Burns, Esq.	Office and land,	6	0	23	7	0	0	0 13 0	7 13 0
8 ABC	Catherine Burke,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	Office and land,	8	0	36	9	1	0	0 14 0	9 15 0
– b	Catherine Gleeson,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House and garden,	0	0	16	0	2	0	0 9 0	0 11 0
– c	Lawrence Darmody,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House,		—			—		0 9 0	0 9 0
– d	John Fogarty,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House,		—			—		0 6 0	0 6 0
9 ABC	James Corcoran,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House, offices, & land,	18	2	22	10	19	0	1 14 0	12 13 0
–	James Gorman,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	Land,				10	19	0	—	10 19 0
10	Lawrence Butler,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	Land,	21	3	15	35	0	0	—	35 0 0
11	Hugh Bannon,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	Land,	9	1	3	12	5	0	—	12 5 0
12	James Gorman,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	14	2	27	18	0	0	2 0 0	20 0 0
13	John Kenna,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	5	3	35	6	12	0	0 13 0	7 5 0
14	James Peters,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	7	3	20	8	4	0	0 18 0	9 2 0
15	Patrick Peters,	Dixon O'Keeffe, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	7	0	28	7	19	0	0 17 0	8 16 0

Figure 7 – 1850 Griffith's Valuation record

James Peters in *Griffith's Valuation of 1850* (See Figure 7 above).[9] He was renting a farm in the parish of Inch, townland of Annfield, in County Tipperary. Eureka!

Having finally located my family townland and through records found in the Valuation Office in Dublin, I was able to verify that James and his brother Patrick immigrated to the US from Ireland in 1863.

My ancestor hunt for the Peters' family townland in Ireland would never have been possible without listening to the family stories that my Great-Aunt Ruth provided. She dropped the clues. Good detective work with solid research and a great deal of patience allowed me to fill in the details and identify the Peters family townland as Annfield, County Tipperary, Ireland. Don't forget to listen to and analyze your own family stories. They may provide the answers you are searching for.

Endnotes

1 1930 U.S. Census, Westchester County, New York, North Pelham Village, population schedule, ED 60-30F, sheet 6B (penned and stamped); dwelling 114, family 115, Hugh D. Peters; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed February 2022.), citing NARA microfilm publication T626.

2 1910 U.S. Census, New York County, New York, population schedule, New York City, Ward 12, ED 611, sheet 4B (penned and stamped), dwelling 13, family 87, Dennis Peters; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://ancestry.com : accessed February 2022), citing NARA microfilm publication T624.

3 1900 U.S. Census, Rensselaer County, New York, population schedule, Troy City, Ward 5, ED 77, sheet 4 (penned), dwelling 65, family 69, Dennis Peters; digital image, *Ancestry* (http:// ancestry.com : accessed February 2022), citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1152.

4 "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1957," database and images, *The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation* (http:// heritage.statueofliberty.org : accessed February 2022), "Passenger Record," entry for Dennis Peters, age 15, arrived on 20 May 1863 on SS *Bridgewater* from Liverpool : microfilm M237, roll 675, line 34.

5 "Index to Persons Naturalized in Justices' Courts City of Troy, October 23, 1867 to September 29, 1868," (http://connorsgenealogy.com : accessed February 2022), James Peters, page 63, line 1.

6 Saint Joseph of Carondelet, Latham, New York, register of final vows, 1883, for Nora Peters, photocopy by archivist Catherine Lucy, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet Congregational Office, St. Louis, Missouri. (http://csjcarondelet.org).

7 "Ireland Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915," National Library of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland, database with images, *Findmypast*, (https:// findmypast.com : accessed February 2022), for Honora Peters, 6 August 1858.

8 "Ireland Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915," National Library of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland," database with images, *Findmypast*, (https:// findmypast.com : accessed February 2022), for Dennis Peters, 15 January 1854.

9 "Ireland, Griffith's Valuation Records, 1824-1856," database with images, *Findmypast*, (https://findmypast.com : accessed February 2022), Annfield, Parish of Inch, County Tipperary, for James Peters, 1850, page 26.

Trish Little Taylor began exploring the history of her Irish ancestors in 1978. The Peters side was a family of storytellers which Trish researched and documented. This article was originally researched prior to the wonderful online tools we have access today.



Finding My Irish Ancestors in Limerick

by Jeanne Bakken

This article was originally printed in the January 2005 issue of The Septs. *It has been revised and updated by the author for this issue.*

The search for my Irish ancestors was accomplished with the help of the IGSI, the Limerick Heritage Centre and some good old-fashioned Irish Luck!

In the early 1980s a fellow co-worker and I discovered our grandfathers were brothers, making us second cousins. She brought in a family history outline one of her aunts had compiled. Having no interest in genealogy at that time, I threw it in a drawer and forgot about it.

My interest in my Irish ancestors began after visiting Ireland with some cousins. I knew my grandfather, James P. Woulfe, and his siblings were born in County Limerick, Ireland, and emigrated in the late 1800s to St. Paul, MN. In August of 2001 I called the Ancient Order of Hibernians and they referred me to Beth Mullinax and the IGSI. After a few sessions with Beth, the information on the family history outline began to make sense. Meenyline was a townland situated in the barony of Glenquin and civil parish of Monagay, in the district of Newcastle, county of Limerick. The civil parish of Monagay is divided between three Catholic parishes — those of Monegea, Templeglentine and Newcastle West.

I had the name of my grandfather's parents but knew little else about them. Their oldest daughter was born in 1865 so I knew their marriage would not be on the civil registration in Ireland since that started in 1864. I decided to contact the Limerick Ancestry, which is the Irish Family History Foundation's designated centre for the county of Limerick.

For a fee of $60 and an application listing the facts about my ancestors, Limerick Ancestry did a search through their computerized records. Within four weeks I had a three-page summary of my grandfather and his siblings, including information regarding the marriage of his parents.

Patrick Woulfe and Mary O'Donnell, my great-grandparents, were married in the Monegea RC church on April 6, 1861. All six of their children were baptized in Templeglentine RC church and had an address at Meenyline. Limerick Ancestry also listed the baptisms of the children and the names of the sponsors. Since Patrick and Mary were married in 1861 and their first child wasn't born until 1865, they searched the records of every parish in the Limerick diocese in case there were children born in another parish. I even had some follow-up questions and they researched those at no extra charge.

Now I was hooked on genealogy and wanted to go back even further. With another stroke of luck, a friend referred me to a self-catered cottage she had stayed at for three months in 2001. The cottage was a stone's throw from Meenyline and I reserved it for nine days in April of 2003. Before leaving for Ireland, I wrote the parish priests in Templglentine and Monegea and told them when I would be arriving. The parish priest from Templeglentine wrote me back and told me that the records in that parish did not start until 1864.

Even though I did not hear from the parish priest in Monegea, I decided to look him up anyway. It took several days of stopping by his residence, but we finally connected. He apologized for not responding to my letter but said he was used to email. He was more than happy to set up a time when I could browse through the records he had at the parish house. He suggested that my husband and I meet him after the 9:30 A.M. mass the following Sunday, about 10 o'clock. I said, "But Father, it's Palm Sunday, that's only half an hour." He assured me he would be free and he was.

The computerized records I looked through were the same information that the Limerick Ancestry had available. I quickly found that Patrick Woulfe, my great-grandfather, was born in 1837 and his parents were Richard Woulfe and Hana Hayes. Across the street from the parish rectory was a school, where I made photo copies of everything. I also made copies of the births of other children born to Richard and Hana Woulfe.

Next, our hosts at the self-catered cottage arranged a tour of the surrounding area with a gentleman who knew the Meenyline area quite well. He found the farm where my grandfather was born but, unfortunately, it was abandoned. He wanted to find a relative that I could connect with. I finally threw out the name of Dunworth, one of my grandfather's baptismal sponsors. He immediately knew of a woman in her 80s whose father was a Dunworth and her mother a Woulfe. We showed up on her doorstep a few minutes later and she welcomed us into her home. When I

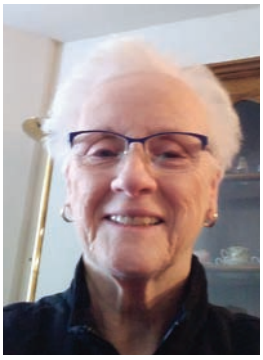
mentioned the name of the sponsor "Ellen Dunworth" she said she thought we were related and then produced a handwritten family tree with the names of my grandmother and grandfather on it and about 100 additional family members!

To say the trip was a success is an understatement. I never dreamed I would have that kind of luck. I now was reasonably sure that the Richard Woulfe from Meenyline on Griffith's Valuation was my ancestor. While in Dublin in August 2004 I went to the Valuation Office located in the Irish Life Centre on Abbey Street. The "Cancelled Land Books" and "Current Land Books" give details of all the changes in the land holdings from the time of the Primary Valuation up to the present day. Variations in the size or status of the holding, the names of the occupier or landlord, or the valuation itself are given in the revisions carried out every few years.

Even though I had a large amount of information from my second cousin, I felt that contacting the Limerick Ancestry was worth the cost.

Update: I worked the IGSI booth at the Irish Fair in St. Paul in August 2019. A woman visited the booth and we started talking. She mentioned the townland of Meenyline in County Limerick and the surname Woulfe. She had an ancestor chart on her phone that showed my third great grandfather, Richard's father. It turned out we were cousins.

Editor's note: In 2006, a new research service emerged through the efforts of former Limerick Ancestry staff: Limerick Genealogy. Founder Catriona Crowe offers advice for researching Limerick (and other Irish) ancestors in 2022. See the article on page 12.



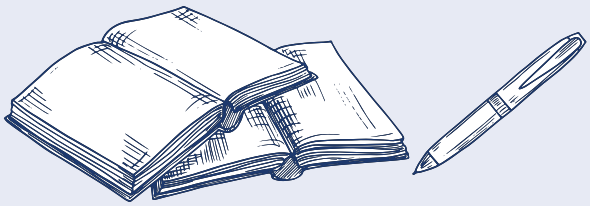
Jeanne Bakken has twice served on the IGSI board and currently holds the position of Secretary. She has served as the Volunteer Co-ordinator since 2005. In addition to genealogy research, she enjoys piano and gardening.

Minnesota Genealogical Society

2022 Family History Writing Competition

Do you have

- a good family story to tell?
- a solution to a family mystery?
- a need to jump-start your writing?



Enter the MGS Family History Writing Competition

Entries are due on July 1, 2022

Winners are invited to submit their entries to the *Minnesota Genealogist* quarterly journal.

All entries receive helpful comments.

More information and FAQ at:
www.mngs.org > Events > Writing Competition!

Top Ten Websites for Researching Your Ancestry in Limerick

by Catriona Crowe, **Limerick Genealogy**

If you have Irish ancestry in county Limerick, you are in luck as there is a vast range of genealogical material available online to help you in your research. Here are the Top Ten websites for researching your ancestry in Limerick:

1. www.census.nationalarchives.ie — search and view all surviving household returns for the 1901 and 1911 Census for Limerick city and county and the limited extant census fragments dating from 1821, 1841 and 1851.

2. www.rootsireland.ie/limerick — a database of over 1.4 million genealogical records specific to Limerick including fully transcribed church and civil records of births, deaths and marriages, census returns, Griffith's Valuation, biographical notices and various nineteenth century census substitutes including the Tithe Applotment Books, parish census records, census abstracts and the census search forms. The home page has useful information for research including a full list of surviving church records, links to other online sources and subscribers can contact the local genealogist for advice on their research.

3. www.irishgenealogy.ie — a searchable database of all Irish civil records with digitised images available in most cases. Civil birth records from 1864 to 1920, marriage records from 1845 to 1945 and death records from 1871 to 1970.

4. https://registers.nli.ie/ — browse through the digitised microfilm copies of the original Roman Catholic parish registers of Limerick from the start of records up to approximately 1880 and later in some cases.

5. www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation — search for your ancestors in Limerick in Griffith's Primary Valuation, a property valuation record listing tenants and their lessors in Limerick city and county during the years 1850-'52. This site allows you to view the original records and accompanying maps.

6. www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie — a significant collection of genealogical sources from the nineteenth century and earlier including the Tithe Applotment Books dating from 1823-1837, Will Registers (1858-1900), Diocesan and Prerogative Marriage Licence Bonds Indexes (1623 – 1866), Valuation Office house, field, tenure and quarto books (1824-1856) and Catholic Qualification Rolls (1700-1845).

7. https://geohive.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9def898f708b47f19a8d8b7088a100c4 — Ordnance Survey historic and modern maps of Ireland can be used to pinpoint the location of placenames associated with your family history in Limerick city and county.

8. www.limerick.ie/council/services/community-and-leisure/libraries/local-studies — Limerick City and County Library Local Studies' interesting collection of digitised and transcribed historical sources useful for genealogical research include death notices from the Limerick Chronicle from 1781 to 1945, registers of electors for Limerick city, trade directories from 1769 to 1920 and compiled local family histories.

9. www.limerick.ie/archives — Limerick Archive has a unique collection of archival material, much of which is digitised for online viewing and again is of value to your genealogical research. Records relate to local government and institutions but also schools, businesses and estate papers. Here you will also find a fully searchable database of the burial registers of Limerick City's main burial ground, Mount Saint Lawrence Municipal Cemetery, dating from 1855 onwards.

10. www.limerickslife.com — for an historical insight into Limerick and to cultivate a love for the home place of your ancestors have a browse through historian Sharon Slater's online project.

Many of the above websites have genealogical records for counties throughout Ireland so if your research takes you outside of Limerick, the above list remains of value to you.

To finish, we would like to offer some advice when researching your ancestors in Limerick

- For visitors to Limerick, it is a good idea to carry out some online

research before you travel so that you can plan you trip around your findings.

- If you ancestor emigrated from Limerick, research in the adopted country can provide the necessary clues to your search in Limerick, for example death and marriage records in countries such as the U.S. and Australia can provide the names of the parents of your ancestor. Gravestone inscriptions, obituaries and census returns can give specific places of origin in Limerick.
- Allow for possible variations and errors in the recording of the names involved, both surname and Christian name.
- Consider inaccuracies in ages and dates of birth recorded on subsequent records and widen the search period when looking for a birth or baptismal record in Ireland.

Limerick Genealogy provides a professional genealogical research service for those with ancestry in Limerick city and county. The service holds a collection of approximately three million records, including a database of over one million, which was compiled over the last thirty years, much of which is now searchable online on www.RootsIreland.ie. Over the years Limerick Genealogy has helped many thousands of people in Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and elsewhere around the world to trace their Limerick roots. Limerick Genealogy provides a unique and comprehensive research service with a Limerick-based knowledge and expertise, offering advice, online one-to-one consultations, research on an hourly basis and family history reports.

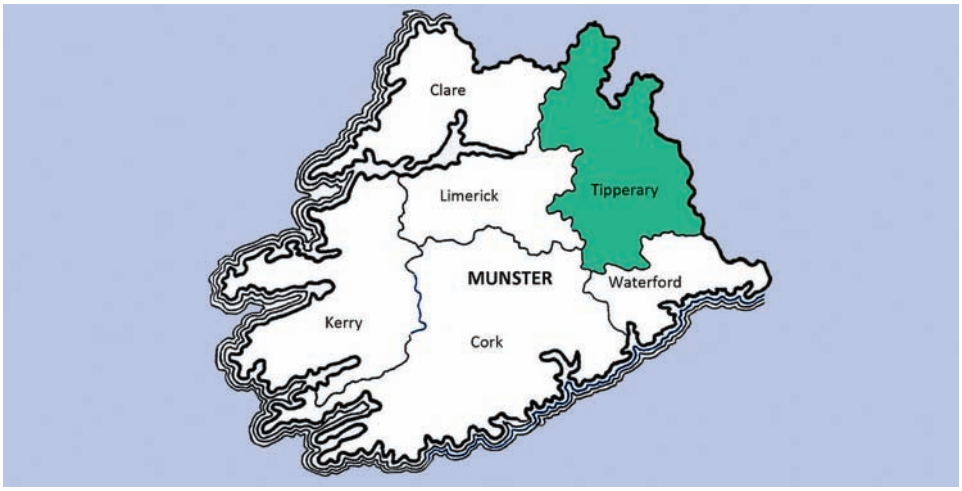
Limerick Genealogy is run by Catriona Crowe who began working in genealogy in 2001 with the former research service Limerick Ancestry.



Were Meany Families Living in Tipperary in the 1600s?

by Ardith Maney

The short answer is yes. The last name of Meany appears in official records about Irish families living in Tipperary County and its various baronies before, during, and immediately after the Cromwellian wars of the 1640s – 1680s. Tactics used by the English government to keep native Irish people quiescent included taxing property, especially if it was owned by Roman Catholics. Family stories told by my great-grandfather, the immigrant, to his grandson suggest that some relatives may have been exiled from Tipperary to County Clare in the mid-1600s. Few church records from the seventeenth century still exist so it is not possible to look at baptisms and marriages in that period. Instead I found a set of fascinating records at The Source, an appropriately named public library and records center in Thurles.



The Tipperary hearth money rolls for the 1660s document early tax levies by the English government on people who

could afford indoor hearths or fireplaces, that is, people who had some economic resources to invest in their homes. These are described at https://tipperarystudies.ie/hearth-money-rolls-1665-67/. These records show the names of the heads of Irish households who paid the tax, the amounts levied, and the locations where these families lived. There are at least three spelling variations of our last name – Meany, Meary, and Mooney – for Roman Catholic heads of households living in Tipperary towns and other smaller habitations during those years. Families with our last name were listed in nine of the eleven Tipperary baronies for 1666, the first year in which the tax was levied.

Two additional pieces of information stood out when viewed in these records. Some locations are the same as what I used to construct the Meany family mini-tree. My father's direct line of Tipperary ancestors goes back to the early 1700s. Meanys were baptized and/or married in local parishes such as those serving Cashel, Templetouhy, Ballingarry, Killinaule, Gortnahoo, Moyne, and Fethard during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The baptism and marriage records suggest that Meany parents and offspring lived in villages and towns near the churches that originally held these baptism and marriage records through the end of the nineteenth century and may still do so today.

Besides some locations being the same, some first names of the heads of households in the author's main Meany family tree showed up in the hearth tax records, e.g., names such as Thomas, John, James, and William.

These same hearth tax records include surnames that correspond with the names of women who married Meany husbands in the same baronies during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries: Doran, Dwyer, Fogarty, Heffernan, Meagher, Power, and Sexton, for example. In short, these hearth records make a prima facie case suggesting that parents with these names lived near enough to Meany parents during the time of the hearth tax records to consider making marriage arrangements for their children at that time and during the foreseeable future. Later land and tax records confirm these findings. They may also suggest why John Meany (1809-1886), my second great-grandfather, did not accompany his wife, Anastasia Doran Meany, when she took some of their children to live in Stockport, England. The 1851 census of England shows Ann Maney, as well as her daughters Ellen, Catherine, and Mary, living in that city. My great-grandfather, John, who was born in 1849, was also living there. His younger brother, William, was born in Stockport, England, about 1854.

Another set of Anglo-Irish land tax records, Griffith's Valuation (GV), is an invaluable census substitute for the famine period of the 1840s and 1850s. It lists the owners and occupiers for most residential pieces of land, as well as ecclesiastical and business premises in the country for that important period in Irish history.

The results of these searches suggest that the father of my great-grandfather, John Meany (1849-1932), owned some properties listed in GV and Tithe Applotment records. He may have been working for an Irish landlord, William Pennyfather, during the 1850s as a kind of land agent dealing with Pennyfather's tenants. Men with the name of Pennyfather had been included in hearth tax records for the same general locations during the 1660s.

Perhaps John Meany (1809-1886) remained in Ireland in the 1850s to manage Pennyfather's properties and sublet his premises to the people listed as subtenants or "occupiers" in the Griffiths Valuation records.

It seems likely that this John Meany (born in 1809) worked in Tipperary during the 1850s and 1860s in cities and towns such as Thurles, Cashel, Ballingary, over into the eastern part of Kilkenny County and south to Killenaule.

While some descendants of my second great-grandfather, John Meany (1809-1886), had left Ireland by the 1900s, other Meanys, Meaneys, and Mooneys were still living in Tipperary County at the time of the 1901 and 1911 censuses of Ireland.

Results from the 1901 Irish census show where some descendants of the sisters and brothers of the John Meaneys and Meanys in this family were living in Tipperary decades after the emigration by people seeking a better life outside of Ireland. For example, a descendant of Patrick, one of the brothers of John Meany (1809-1886), was living in Cashel in 1901 and selling beer in the pub he owned in the center of town; his occupation was described as a spirit merchant.

Ardith Maney grew up in Beverly, Massachusetts, a city on the Atlantic coast north of Boston. This piece about the Maneys is part of a larger project comparing and contrasting the lives led by her English, Irish, and Scottish ancestors before and after they settled in Massachusetts.



A Meany, Meaney, Maney Family Mini-Tree

by Ardith Maney

This mini-tree is based on marriage and baptism records, supplemented with other records which have survived from the mid-1600s onwards. The focus is on records about one Meany/Meaney family whose sons and daughters lived in different villages, towns, and cities of Tipperary stretching from Cashel north to Thurles, plus Ballingarry, Moyne, and parts of Kilkenny County to the east, Fethard and Clonmel further south.

The main family line to my father, John MacLean Maney, is shown in this mini-tree during each generation by the man whose name is bolded and italicized. My father understood from his grandfather that the oldest male child in each family was named John. However, baptism records in Clonmel show that a son named John with the same parents was baptized there in 1832. I suspect that this first-born male child died and his parents gave the name John to their next son, my great-grandfather, in order to have the name of the first son continue.

Jacob Meany, who was baptized in 1720 in Killenaule, Tipperary, married ***Margaret Heffernan*** (1725-1797).

John Meany was baptized in 1751 in Killenaule and married ***Unknown***.

Their child: ***John Meany*** was baptized in 1780 in Tipperary and died in 1820 in Cashel.

John Meany (1780-1820) married ***Margaret Eustace***, who was born in1789.

Their children were baptized in Cashel:

John in 1809,

Alice in 1811,

Margaret in 1812,

Judith in 1814,

Edmund in1816,

Patrick in 1819.

John Meany, who was baptized in 1809 in Cashel, died in Thurles in 1886. He married ***Anastasia Doran*** in 1833, who was baptized in Gortnahoe in 1809; she died in Providence, RI, USA in 1889.

Their children:

John was baptized in 1832 in Clonmel;

Ellen was baptized in 1833 and may have died in Philadelphia, PA;

Katherine was baptized in 1836 and died in New Haven, CT, in 1925;

Mary was baptized in 1838 and died in Providence, RI;

Thomas was baptized in 1840 in Clonmeen and died in Tipperary before 1901;

John was baptized in 1849 in Moyne and died in Lawrence, MA in 1932;

William was baptized in 1855 in Stockport, England, and died in 1935 in Providence, RI.

John Meany (1849) married ***Bridget Ann "Ellen" Reilly***, who was baptized in 1850 in Bohermeen, Meath, and died in Lawrence, MA in 1933.

Their children were born in Lawrence or Methuen, MA:

John was born in 1875;

William was born in 1877;

Marie was born in 1878;

Thomas Anthony was born in 1879;

Edward was born in 1882;

Helen was born in 1883;

Hugh was born in 1885;

Annie was born in 1886;

Joseph was born in 1887;

Leontine was born in 1888;

Anna was born in 1889;

Teresa was born in 1892; and

Matthew was born in 1896.

John Joseph Maney (1875-1942) married ***Sarah Harriet "Ruth" MacLean*** (1876-1939).

Their surviving child, ***John MacLean Maney***, was born in Lawrence in 1914 and died in Amesbury in 1985.

John MacLean Maney (1914-1985) married ***Ethel Louise Bradstreet*** (1917-2005) in Danvers, MA, in 1940.

Tipperary Studies — an Online Resource

by Kathleen O'Malley Strickland

If you are researching Tipperary ancestors, you will enjoy the abundant resources this website offers; even if Tipperary is not on your family map, much of the material, especially the social history, applies to other counties and to Ireland in general. Created by the local history branch of Tipperary County Council Library Service, *Tipperary Studies* defines itself as "Dedicated to documenting and preserving the County's rich cultural, social, economic and sporting histories."

Linking to related information on other websites is thorough and appears throughout the website. As I explored Tipperary Studies, fascinated, I found myself following links, reading newspaper articles and watching videos both long and short. This collection helps enrich family stories and places people in historical context using narratives and photos as well as video and audio recordings.

ABOUT Tipperary Studies

Tipperary Studies https://tipperarystudies.ie adds to its collections continually, making contents accessible to the public. The staff answers queries both in person and by correspondence. The organization is located in Thurles, at The Source Library and Arts Centre.

Click the ABOUT tab and then "Publications" to check out printed material for sale, such as a guide to resources at Tipperary Studies and several histories composed of documents in a "Finding Tipperary" series. The FAQ section explains copying policies and charges and the kinds of records held. "Donations" describes the kinds of Tipperary-related material the organization seeks.

COLLECTIONS Held by Tipperary Studies

The ten collections include Holycross Show, Education in Tipperary, Schools' Folklore Collection, County Tipperary in 1916, Newspapers, Poor Law Union Records, Journals, Maps, Family Papers and Prose & Verse. Some of the holdings:

- "Education in Tipperary" offers articles about local schools, from "The Clonmel Grammar School 1653-1922" to "1922-Present: National Schools (post-Independence)."
- "Schools' Folklore Collection" from the Schools' Manuscript Collection of 1937, was created when the Irish Folklore Commission encouraged school children to collect stories from all the counties in the Free State. One hundred thousand children participated. While not available online here, Tipperary Studies provides a link to *Duchas*, an Irish heritage collection, where local history and folklore documents from many counties have been digitized. Follow the link to *Duchas* and click on The Schools' Collection at the bottom of the page. Search for locations and counties — and be prepare to be mesmerized.

  A search on "Tipperary" retrieved pages written by the children, digitized and searchable. Many of the stories are interviews with village elders and grandparents. These narratives provide windows into life in Ireland long ago: a description of churning butter, many accounts of local heroes, folk cures and more.
- "County Tipperary in 1916: A History in 40 Documents" recounts life in Tipperary at the time of the Rising. Newspaper articles, accounts and letters written by people who were arrested, letters sent to friends and family and more appear here.

GENEALOGY Collections

While working my way through the choices under this tab, I used "John Kennedy" in the parish of Ballymackey in Tipperary as my search term.

- "Gravestone Inscriptions" includes digitized cemetery records from around the county. A few of these are of Ardcroney parish, describing the (Church of Ireland) graveyard and what is written on the headstones; headstone transcriptions from St. Stephen's graveyard (Roman Catholic) in Clonmel; Templeachally graveyard, both Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic burials. The index referenced many John Kennedys, but none from Ballymackey.
- "Ratebooks & Valuation Books from the 19th and 20th centuries" includes Ratebooks—listing Poor Rate taxes for the support of the workhouses established in each Poor Law Union. The surviving books are from Cashel, Nenagh and Thurles Poor Law Unions. Open the rate books by clicking on the cover image, then check the names of the taxpayers listed by Electoral Division and Townland. The listing shows two Rate Books from Ballymackey Electoral Division, for December 1843 and July 1853 (Nenagh Poor

Law Union). I found a John Kennedy in Clonalea in 1843.

- "Census of 1901 and 1911" for Tipperary are accessible from the website by a link to the National Archives of Ireland. In the 1901 census there are four John Kennedys, two in Clonalea. In the 1911 there are still two in Clonalea.
- "The General (Griffiths) Valuation" at Tipperary Studies include paper and microfilm copies. There is a link to www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation to conduct a digital search. I looked for John Kennedy in the parish of Ballymackey in County Tipperary and found just one man of that name, in Derrycarney.
- The "Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-1837" are held in the microfilm collection at Thurles but can be searched digitally through the link http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/home.jsp to the National Archives. Searching for John Kennedy in Ballymackey Parish of Tipperary gave me seven possible people to follow up.
- "Ordnance Survey House and Tenure Books, 1838-44" is a microfilm collection for about 200 civil parishes. I followed a link to the National Archives digital pages and once again looked for John Kennedy in Ballymackey. I was rewarded with a single John Kennedy in the Townland of Clonlea.

The remaining tabs under GENEALOGY refer to collections held in the library in paper or microform which have not yet been digitized and uploaded to the website. These include "Cashel and Emly Diocese Religious Census, 1766," "Hearth Money Rolls, 1665-67," and "Civil Survey 1654-56 and Book of Distribution 1680."

At the end of the GENEALOGY page is a list of links for further research, including a map guide to registrations districts and other links mentioned in this article.

DIGITAL ARCHIVES

This tab repeats a few collections on the GENEALOGY tab, including Rate Books and Gravestone Inscriptions.

- "Digital Audio Archive" features audio files in the form of podcasts, such as the series "This week in Tipperary Newspapers."
- "Digital Print Archive" includes transcriptions, photos, local studies and more. From the DIGITAL ARCHIVE tab, click on "Print Archive." At this point you can scroll down to "View all items" to reach the browsing and searching feature. Photo collections appear under "Images" and collections such as "St. Patrick's College" as well as in other locations throughout the website.
- "Digital Video Archive" offers series like the 34-part "Tipperary People and Places" (under Playlists) as well as individual videos such as Michael Ahern's talk, "The Quakers of Co. Tipperary, 1655-1924." The video is broadcast on *YouTube*.

Under HISTORICAL SOCIETY, you'll find an index to the out-of-print *Tipperary Historical Journal* issues from 1988 to 2001. These articles are online, and you also can purchase back issues. To keep up with new additions to the collection and new items that are going onto the web, be sure to check out the NEWS and EVENTS.

It can be a little confusing looking through all the tabs to find a particular item in a category, such as photos of a certain area or event. Using the advanced search function — found at http://tippstudies digital.ie/ — is helpful, but I found that browsing through the entire site gave me a better handle on where to look and was more rewarding in results.

Tipperary Studies offers a wealth of discoveries for Tipperary and beyond. Be sure to give it a try!

Kathy Strickland has a degree in History from North Central College in Naperville, IL, and is a freelance editor and writer, former editor of the Illinois State Genealogical Quarterly. *She has researched her family tree for many years and particularly likes writing vignettes about ancestors, both hers and other people's. She also enjoys researching sources and helping others to access them.*





Photo by Viktorya Sergeeva at Pexels.com

Making Connections

by Mary Wickersham

Making connections — finding an elusive ancestor or family connection — discovering that special link to another family member … these are the dreams of every family genealogist. The surname database is a tool to help locate other IGSI members who are researching the same family name as you.

Have you entered the surnames of your Irish ancestors into IGSI's surname database? There is always a hope that collaborating with a distant cousin will help you break through your "brick wall," so please give it a try!

The Surname Research database on the IGSI website contains more than 700 member-submitted entries. It is searchable by any visitor to the IGSI website, whether a member or not. Once a surname of interest is found, a visitor can send a private email to you through using a form provided on the IGSI website — your email address remains hidden.

Surname Database Standardization

With many members entering data, there were many non-standard entries, which could make it more difficult to connect with each other: for example, mixed use of "County" or "Co." with a county name (causing them to sort to different parts of the list), or combining multiple surnames into one entry.

We undertook a database cleanup project during September 2021 to standardize the entries already in the database. Many thanks to IGSI volunteer Sandra Mc Laughlin, who reviewed each entry and made changes to assure that the database would be consistent.



Add to the Surname Database

We ask that **all members** contribute to the database by entering family surnames, location in Ireland (if known), date of immigration, and settlement location. To do this, you will need to LOGIN and enter the information on your Profile Page.

To search for surnames, click on the "Surname Interests" link in the menu. A link will appear below "Surname Interests" for "Surname Research." Click on "Surname Research" to access the search page.

The Surnames listed are those that IGSI members are searching. Please check back regularly for new additions.

The database as displayed is arranged alphabetically by surname.

1. In the box at the top of the page, enter the SURNAME you wish to search. If you have entered an alternate spelling of a member's surname — and they have recognized that alternate spelling — you will see that surname among your results.
2. When the results display, click on the eye in the box on the right of the entry to see the DETAILS entered by the member. These details may include the townland/ parish of the Irish county; alternate spellings of the surname; additional notes or comments related to the surname, location or family.
3. You can sort the data by clicking on any of the column titles.
4. To contact the IGSI member who entered a surname for further information, click on the envelope image in the box on the right. A new page will open that will ask you to enter your name and email. For validation, you need to check a box and then type in the code that appears.

Add your message and send. While we cannot guarantee a response — nothing ventured, nothing gained.

As you look at the "Member Profile" page under the "Member Login" link, the top section relates to your Membership Info. The second section on the page includes sections on Member Info, Contact Info, as well as Surnames.

Adding Your Surnames to the Surname Interests Database



Actions	Surname	Location in Ireland	Later Residences	USA - Other	Year of Immigration
	Barry	Waterford	IL	USA	1850
	Barry	Tipperary	Lancashire	ENG	
	Barry	Tipperary	NY>IL	USA	1880

In this second section, click on **Surnames**. A new box opens that has a little square with a "+" sign on the right side. The first time you open this section you will also see the message "No records found."

Now it's time to start entering your family data.

Instructions:

1. Click on the box with the "+". This will open a pop-up page titled "Surname Research: Add". And now it's time to fill in the boxes.
2. Enter the SURNAME of an ancestor.
3. If you know the Irish townland or parish, enter that in the next box.
4. In the third box, (heading says "Location in Ireland") — enter the IRISH COUNTY of your ancestor. (**Do not add word "county"**.) If not yet known, leave the box blank.
5. In the box marked "Later Residences" indicate the locations to which your ancestors immigrated. If your ancestor settled in one state, enter the abbreviation for that state. If they entered the USA on the east coast but moved westward to Minnesota, you can enter the information as NY>IL>MN. Please do not include names of cities or counties here. You may want to include that in the NOTES sections.

   If your ancestors settled in another country (e.g., Canada or Australia), indicate the Province.
6. "Country" will generally be United States, but some members' ancestors may have settled in England (ENG), Australia (AUS), Canada (CAN). If your ancestor traveled and lived in another country before arriving at the final destination, so indicate. E.g., CAN>USA or Wales>Quebec>MN.
7. Year of Immigration should be the year the ancestor arrived in the U.S. or final country destination.
8. There is the opportunity for entering alternate spellings of the surname. As you enter the names, please use a comma between each different spelling.
9. The Notes/Comments box is your opportunity to add other pertinent information. Perhaps add the city of final settlement, the given name of immigrant ancestor, or the ancestor's occupation.
10. When done, click on the "Save" button in the upper right corner. The page will close and the information will appear in the box on your Profile page.

    Note: some information that you entered does not appear here in any box. That information can be found by clicking DETAILS when searching the database.
11. To edit your entry (e.g., typo correction), click on the "pencil image" at the start of the entry. It will reopen the Page to make the change/addition. Then save again with the change. Use the "trash can" image to delete a Surname and all its information.
12. To enter another ancestor's surname, repeat steps 1-10.

Requests:

- **Renew your membership timely.** If your IGSI membership lapsed, IGSI has a 6-week grace period for renewal before your membership data needs to be re-entered. This means you will need to re-enter your surnames if you did not renew your membership timely.
- **Have you had some success using the database?** Please share your story with other members by sending your story to SeptsMngEd@irishgenealogical.org
- **Questions about the Surname Interests database or suggestions for improvements?** Send an email to WebEditor@irishgenealogical.org. A new company has taken on our website's support, and we will share those ideas with their software developers.

In Fact: An Optimist's Guide to Ireland at 100

Author Mark Henry is interviewed by Catherine Devane for an article in IrishCentral, 23 November 2021.

Can you tell our readers a little bit about yourself and your new book "In Fact"?

I have spent two decades working in Irish tourism and telling everyone what a great place Ireland is, so I wrote this book to prove it!

Ireland has developed hugely in recent decades. The United Nations reckons that country is the second-best place to live on the planet today, in fact.

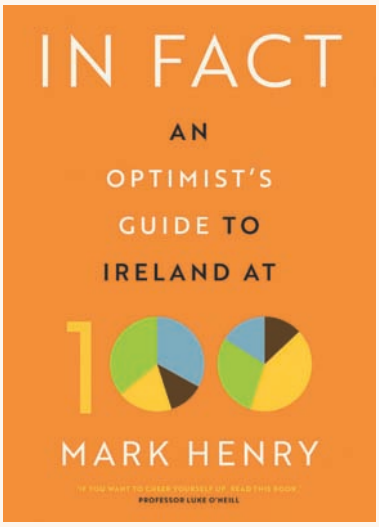
The Irish are living longer, living healthier, learning more, and earning more than ever before; and the lives of women and children have been transformed for the better. We have a great story to tell, and my book tells it in a very accessible manner with one hundred charts that highlight one hundred improvements across every aspect of Irish life.

Where did the inspiration to write the book come from?

Ireland celebrates its 100th birthday as an independent nation in 2022 so I thought it was the ideal occasion to reflect on what we have achieved. In my experience, we underestimate how far we have come.

The negative news cycle can mislead you into thinking that there's an increasing number of bad things occurring. I wanted to show that reality is better than people perceive it to be and, as someone who trained to be a psychologist, to explain to readers how our psychological biases mislead us into thinking that things are getting worse.

Today's reality, in Ireland's case, is much, much better than people think.



In Fact: An Optimist's Guide to Ireland at 100 is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kenny Books and many other online stores.

How did you do research for the book?

I first gathered the data that proved our progress. The beautiful graphs in the book bring to life facts and figures from 60 different sources. I then interviewed nearly 50 experts to talk about how Ireland had made such strong progress in their domain. They ranged from historians and economics professors to health experts, regulators, and entrepreneurs.

Finally, it was up to me to bring all those stories together in an engaging manner — which took hours and hours buried away in a darkened room hunched over a laptop! But it was worth it to bring our great story of progress into the light of day.

For anyone considering moving to Ireland, what's the optimistic fact you would share with them?

The Irish people are the happiest in Europe! An amazing 97% of us say that we are fairly or very happy with our lives.

More than eight-in-ten of us are also satisfied with the state of our democracy. You will read lots of negative commentary in the press and on social media, of course, but most of us recognize that we live better lives than any generation of Irish people who have come before us.

Is there any aspect of Irish life you think needs improving and was difficult to find any optimism with?

Yes, Ireland is not a utopia, of course. I dedicate a chapter at the end of my book to the ten greatest challenges we face as we enter our second century.

For example, we are not building enough houses to meet our needs at the moment. That risks alienating a whole generation of young people who won't feel the country is delivering for them if their reasonable expectations aren't met.

Our investment in higher education, furthermore, has been critical to the country's success. More than half of adults now have a third-level qualification — it's one of the highest figures in the world. Yet, government investment for each student has halved in the past decade as spending was cut back and student numbers surged. If we don't reinstate that soon then we will be doing our people a disservice and we'll lose ground in the global battle for talent.

You trained as a psychologist — could you explain from your understanding why Irish people sometimes tend to be negative about living in modern Ireland?

It's not unique to the Irish; it's the way we've evolved as human beings. Our ancestors survived by being constantly on the lookout for threats, so we are programmed to give more attention to negative things. That's why our news cycle is filled with bad news stories — these are the things that we have a genuine preference for hearing.

This 'negativity bias' is exacerbated by our short attention spans. Researchers from the University of California and MIT studied 60 million weather-related Tweets and found people only commented on unusual weather in the context of the past five years. We don't have the natural ability to think much further back than that and to recognize long-term progress. I call this 'progress attention deficit' and it's one of the five big biases that blind us to positive progress that I have explored in the book.

What has the reaction to the book been like and do you have any plans at the moment to write another one?

People are loving the book's positivity. The past two years have been challenging enough for everybody so providing some perspective on recent events, and a dose of optimism about our future, is precisely what people want to read.

I think there would be another great book idea in looking at Ireland's future and to its next hundred years. However, I would have to get permission from my family before committing to three more years of writing, so I'll come back to you on that one!

Reprinted by permission from IrishCentral.com (23 Nov 2021). ***In Fact: An Optimist's Guide to Ireland at 100*** is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kenny Books and many other online stores.

Looking for More Information on Munster Counties?

Many years ago, IGSI explored one county of Ireland in some issues of *The Septs* and provided information about that county and its family history resources. If your ancestors are from Munster, you may want to check out the relevant issues listed below. (It's the member-benefit.) IGSI members who are reading this article online can click on the pdf link on the right to access the issue.

If you are an IGSI member and reading a paper copy of the journal – just log into the website and find the back issue for the county of interest through the Contents or Theme pages for *The Septs* on the website

Clare	Oct 1994	15	15.4	1994154.pdf
Clare revisited	Jul 2004	25	25.3	2004253.pdf
Cork	Jul 1995	16	16.3	1995163.pdf
Cork	Oct 1995	16	16.4	1995164.pdf
Cork	Jul 2005	26	26.3	2005263.pdf
Cork Baptisms, Miscellaneous	Jul 1998	19	19.3	1998193.pdf
Kerry	Apr 1995	16	16.2	1995162.pdf
Kerry	Apr 2005	26	26.2	2005262.pdf
Limerick	Jan 1995	16	16.1	1995161.pdf
Limerick	Jan 2005	26	26.1	2005261.pdf
Tipperary	Dec 1995	17	17.1	1996171.pdf
Tipperary revisited	Jan 2004	25	25.1	2004251.pdf
Waterford	Apr 1996	17	17.2	1996172.pdf

The Crosbies: A Leading Family of Kerry and Cork, 1600-2018

by Michael Christopher Keane

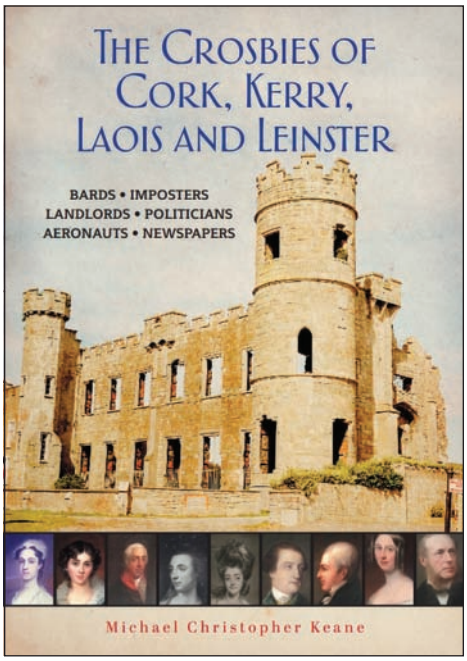
The Crosbies have been a leading family of Munster and beyond for over 400 years. I recently published a book, *The Crosbies of Cork, Kerry, Laois and Leinster,* which sought to capture their colorful and often controversial story. The sub-title, *Bards, Imposters, Landlords, Politicians, Aeronauts, Newspapers*, reflects some of the highly diverse activities of the Crosbies through the generations. In Munster the Crosbies were widely regarded as a leading landlord family of county Kerry for over three centuries. This status was reflected in the splendour of their two Kerry mansions, Ballyheigue Castle and Ardfert Abbey; both were burned down during the Irish War of Independence and Civil War.

In county Cork terms, Thomas Crosbie, who had relocated from North Kerry to Cork in the early 1840s, came to own *The Cork Examiner* newspaper. Under his leadership it soon became Munster's leading daily newspaper and then continued in Crosbie family ownership for five generations until its final sale to *The Irish Times* in 2018.

The Crosbies – Controversial Origins

Over many generations from the 1600s to the early 1900s both the Crosbies themselves and leading historians claimed that they were of English origin, having supposedly arrived into Ireland from Great Crosbie in Lancashire in the 1500s. However, it is now universally accepted that this was a total falsehood and that in reality they were of native Irish origin.

The real story of the Crosbies commenced when two native Irish children, Padraig and Sean MacCrossan, were fostered by Francis Cosby, one of the new English arrivals into county Laois when that county was planted by the English and renamed Queens county in the mid-1500s. Cosby had been appointed Governor of Queens



The Crosbies of Cork, Kerry, Laois and Leinster*, by Michael Christopher Keane*

county and fosterage was quite common at the time. The MacCrossans themselves were the historic bards to two of the leading clans of the Irish midlands, the O'Moores of Laois and the O'Connors of Offaly from ancient times. The two brothers were raised by Cosby as English children and proceeded to rename themselves as Patrick and John Crosbie. Both attained high office during the English plantation era. Patrick, as a senior officer of the English crown, exercised much control over the plantation of confiscated lands throughout Ireland. Given his opportunity, he helped himself to the ownership of extensive lands in both counties Kerry and Laois. His younger brother John became the second Protestant bishop of Ardfert and Aghadoe (Kerry) 1601-1621. His bishopric also enabled him to obtain extensive lands in North Kerry. Despite their apparent outward English presence, both brothers retained links with their native Irish origins; both of their wives came from the leading native Irish clans of county Laois, the O'Moores and O'Lalors.

Transplantation of the Laois Septs to Kerry

My personal interest in the Crosbies originated with an exploration of my family tree. A story handed down through the generations claimed that one branch of my ancestors in my native parish of Tarbert in North Kerry were tenants of the Crosbies, having been transplanted from county Laois to North Kerry by the Crosbies in the early 1600s. For many years I had harboured a curiosity about the story and, having retired from University College Cork, I finally had the opportunity to explore it in detail. My first book, *From Laois to Kerry*, details the forced transplantation of a large number of the 'Seven Septs of Laois', Moores, Kellys, Lawlors, Dowlings, Dorans, McEvoys and Dees (Deevys or O'Devoys), to Kerry by Patrick Crosbie in 1607. They were settled in ten parishes in North Kerry on land owned by the Crosbie brothers. *From Laois to Kerry* includes a detailed tracing of their descendants; many surnames of Laois origin are still quite prominent in county Kerry.

The Crosbie Landlords of County Kerry

While the brothers Patrick and John Crosbie operated in harmony as very large landlords in North Kerry, the next generation took divergent paths. Sir Pierce Crosbie, heir to Patrick, became a trusted member of the English royal court during the reigns of Kings James I and Charles I. His marriage to the widow of the 1st Earl of Castlehaven led to the story of my second book, *The Earls of Castlehaven Lord Audleys of Cork and Kildare: War, Sex, Corruption, Land*. While the 1st Earl of Castlehaven became a great Irish landowner following the Battle of Kinsale, his successor the 2nd Earl, Sir Pierce Crosbie's stepson, following a sensational trial, was beheaded in London for crimes of sexual depravity, The colourful life of the 2nd Earl of Castlehaven was one of the great British sex stories through the centuries. Sir Pierce Crosbie had a varied career which ended with death in an Irish jail due to his active support of the Catholic Confederacy uprising in the 1640s.

His first cousin, David Crosbie, the Protestant heir of Bishop Crosbie, strongly opposed Pierce and the Catholic Confederacy. As a consequence, he was rewarded by Oliver Cromwell with all of the Crosbie lands in Kerry. This branch of the family became firmly established as a leading part of the new ascendancy in Kerry. With a couple of other leading Protestant landlord families, they dominated Kerry politics throughout much of the 18th and 19th centuries, representing the county almost continuously in Parliament, firstly in Dublin and then in Westminster

The long stewardship at Ardfert from 1838 to 1899 of William Talbot-Crosbie, or 'Billy the Leveller' as he became widely known, was highly controversial due his instigation of widespread evictions. Remarkably, 'Billy the Leveller's' successor at Ardfert Abbey, Lindsey Talbot-Crosbie, supported land reform and Irish Home Rule, while his son Maurice was a candidate for the Home Rule Party in Cork in the 1918 general election.

Like many large extended families of their time, the Crosbie family story contained its share of scandals. The shipwrecking of the *Golden Lion* laden with bullion at Ballyheigue in North-West Kerry resulted in one of Kerry's most famous unsolved mysteries. Accusations against the Crosbies and others led to arrest, jail, alleged murder and multiple court hearings.

The Crosbies of Cork and *Examiner* Newspapers

As previously mentioned, a young Thomas Crosbie arrived from Ardfert to join the fledgeling *Cork Examiner* newspaper in 1842; he subsequently became its sole owner. Despite operating in a highly competitive marketplace, *The Cork Examiner* soon achieved market dominance in county Cork and its hinterland, a status which remains to the present day. As well as continuing to maintain a successful newspaper business, Thomas Crosbie's successor George was active politically as a leading supporter of the Home Rule campaign. While critical of the decision to proceed with the Easter Rising in 1916, the *Cork Examiner* newspaper was the only daily paper in Ireland to oppose the executions of the leadership. The burning of much of the centre of Cork city by British forces was the singular most spectacular destruction of property during the War of Independence.

The Crosbies: Later Generations

As the fifth generation to manage Examiner newspapers, Alan Crosbie proceeded to diversify the business; however, it was gravely affected by the extreme economic recession from 2008 onwards. The business was eventually taken over by the Dublin based Irish Times Ltd in 2018, thus bringing 175 years of Crosbie involvement to an end. The Examiner continues to be published under Irish Times control to the present time.

Dr. Michael Christopher Keane *continues to research and publish in the areas of Irish local history and genealogy, representing a continuation of his earlier University career which related primarily to key aspects of change in rural Ireland through the centuries. His books are available online at* omahonys.ie, hannas.ie, kennys.ie *and* Amazon *(excluding* The Crosbies*) or directly from the author; contact mjagkeane@gmail.com*.



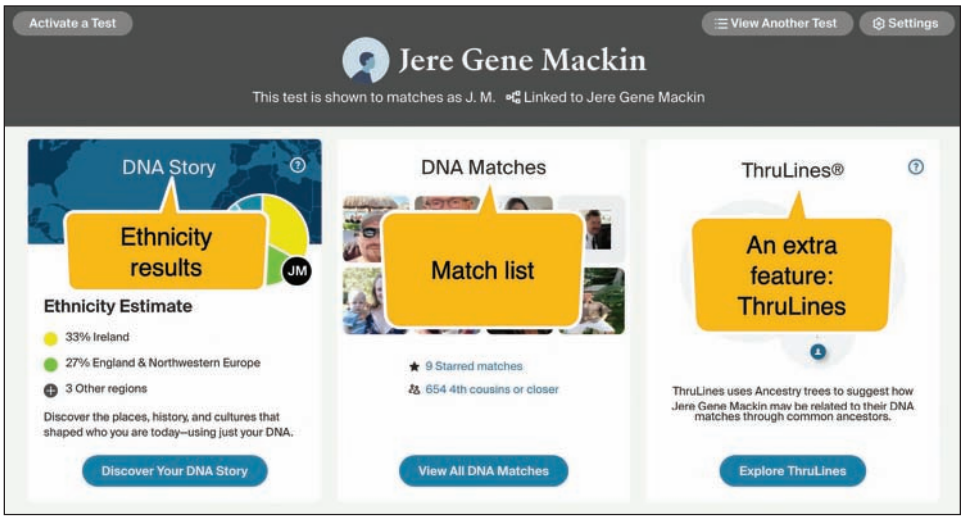
Photo courtesy of Pixabay at Pexels.com

Working with Autosomal DNA Results, Part 1: Ethnicity Analysis

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

When you receive the results of your autosomal DNA test from your testing company, they come to you in two parts: an ethnicity analysis and a match list. In this issue we'll take a quick look at the ethnicity analysis part, including genetic communities and chromosome painting.[1] Next time we'll look at how to approach your match list.

Each testing company uses slightly different names for its version of the ethnicity analysis. The illustration at right shows *AncestryDNA*'s version of the DNA results page.[2]



DNA results page, AncestryDNA

The table at right shows the names used by the five major DNA testing companies for their ethnicity result and match list and shows where to find them.

Company	Ethnicity Analysis	Match List	Other Features
Ancestry	DNA Story: Ethnicity Estimate (Results page, left side)	DNA Matches (Results page, middle)	ThruLines (Results page, right side)
23andMe	Ancestry Overview and Composition (landing page, QuickLinks)	DNA Relatives (landing page, Quick Links)	Chromosome Browser (from individual matches)
MyHeritage	Ethnicity Estimate (DNA page tab)	DNA Matches (DNA page tab)	DNA Tools Chromosome Browser, AutoClusters, Ethnicities Map (DNA page tab)
FTDNA	MyOrigins (Autosomal DNA Results & Tools)	Family Finder Matches (Autosomal DNA Results & Tools)	Chromosome Browser Chromosome Painter (Autosomal DNA Results & Tools)
LivingDNA	*Ancestry* (clickable link on landing page)	Relatives (clickable link on landing page)	

Comparison of ethnicity results features of major companies

Working With Ethnicity Results

Ethnicity results, also referred to as admixture analysis, are an estimate of your ancestry composition. The keyword here is "estimate."

Ethnicity analyses are based on comparison of your DNA to the DNA of reference populations, also referred to as reference panels or reference datasets. *Ancestry* defines a reference panel as a set of people with a long family history, either in one place or as part of one group.

If you search their websites, you will find the testing companies' explanation of their reference populations/reference panels. For example, *Ancestry* currently uses a reference panel of 56,580 DNA samples divided into 77 overlapping regions and groups. *Ancestry*'s reference panel page explains their analysis methodology and shows how many samples they currently have for each region.[3] *23andMe* provides similar information on the Scientific Details and Frequently Asked Questions tabs of their Ancestry Composition page.[4] *MyHeritage* has information about its ethnicity estimates in its Help Center and Knowledge Base.[5] *Family Tree DNA* also provides information about its ethnicity estimates in its Help Center,[6] and *LivingDNA* offers information in its Support Center.[7]

Ethnicity estimates for individual testers vary widely among the testing companies. The International Society of Genetic

Genealogy's wiki assigns overall ratings for each company on a 1–10 scale, with 10 meaning excellent and 1 meaning poor.

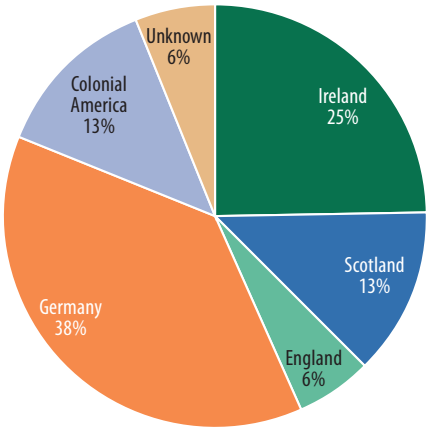
Here are the ISOGG wiki's ratings for the five major testing companies:

Ancestry, 5
23andMe, 7
MyHeritage, 5
FTDNA, 3.5
LivingDNA, 6 (with 9 for the United Kingdom and 4 for the rest of the world).[8]

In the words of DNA expert Judy G. Russell, "It's not soup yet."[9]

The graph at right shows the documented ethnicity of Jere Mackin's eight great-grandparents, while the table below shows Jere's ethnicity assignments among the five companies.

Ethnicity estimates are subject to change. Periodically, testing companies issue revised estimates. Sometimes the new estimates differ significantly from the previous ones. As Judy Russell says, "Repeat after *The Legal Genealogist*: they're just estimates. Say it again: they're just estimates. One more time: they're j**ust estimates**."[10]



Documented ethnicity of Jere Mackin's eight great-grandparents

Ancestry	23andMe	MyHeritage	FTDNA	LivingDNA
Ireland: 33% (12–33%)	British & Irish: 56.1%	Irish, Scottish, & Welsh: 42.9%	England, Wales, & Scotland: 44%	Great Britain & Ireland: 77.9% (Ireland: 23.6%)
England & Northwestern Europe: 27% (27–57%)	Broadly Northwestern European: 0.6%		Ireland: 24%	Northwest Germanic: 19.8%
Scotland: 15% (0–25%)	French & German: 42.1%		Central Europe: 27%	
Germanic Europe: 14% (0–42%)				
Sweden & Denmark: 10% (0–18%)		Scandinavian: 30.5%	Finland: <1%	Scandinavia: 2.3%
	Eastern European: 1.2%	East European: 20.9%		
		West Asian: 3.2%	Italian Peninsula: 5%	
		North African: 1.5%		
		Nigerian: 1.0%		

Comparison of Jere Mackin's ethnicity results by company

Genetic Communities

Three testing companies, *Ancestry*, *MyHeritage*, and *23andMe*, have added a slightly different approach called Genetic Communities (*Ancestry*), Genetic Groups (*MyHeritage*), or Recent Ancestor Locations (*23andMe*). *Ancestry* defines a community as "a group of *AncestryDNA* members who likely descend from a population of common ancestors. This population is a group of people who either traveled to the same place around the same time or from the same place around the same time."[11] *MyHeritage* writes, "Genetic Groups differ from Ethnicity Estimates, in that a particular group can be comprised of one or several ethnicities. Members of a group share geographic origins, but they may have members who come from diverse ethnic backgrounds. For example, a Genetic Group in Australia may consist of individuals whose ancestors originated in England and Germany, but after migrating to the same city became a melting pot and created a new group of their own."[12] *23andMe* writes, "Recent ancestor locations (found in your Ancestry Detail Reports) are intended to complement your ancestral breakdown and provide a more recent and granular view of your ancestry."[13]

For the three companies, communities are created using both genetics and genealogy (from trees of cluster members), and they focus on the past several hundred years of genetic history. If you'd like to know more about genetic communities and groups, Diahan Southard's ethnicity estimate FAQ includes several excellent articles.[14]

Jere has one genetic community at *Ancestry*: "Upper Midwest Settlers," specifically "Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota &

Minnesota Border Settlers." At *MyHeritage* (at high confidence level), he also has one genetic community: "Finland (Lapland), Sweden (Norrbotten) and Norway (Troms og Finnmark)." At *23andMe* he has several Recent Ancestor Locations, including ten regions in Ireland, the strongest being County Galway, County Cork, and County Dublin.

If you're of Irish descent, take a look at your genetic communities. You may find some useful clues!

Chromosome Painting

23andMe and *FTDNA* also provide a "painting" of the segments they assign to each ethnicity as part of your ethnicity results. Jere's chromosome paintings are shown below. The *23andMe* painting is set to highlight the DNA segments *23andMe* assigns as British & Irish, at a 70% confidence level. The *FTDNA* painting is set to highlight the DNA segments assigned as Western Europe.

Endnotes

[1] The term chromosome painting as used here refers to a graphic depiction of the DNA segments the testing company assigns to each part of your ancestral geographic breakdown. It is a different application of chromosome painting from the painting of match segments you can create using the chromosome browsers at *FTDNA*, *MyHeritage*, and *23andMe* or the chromosome mapping you can do at *DNAPainter* (https://dnapainter.com/).

[2] Results shown are those of my spouse Jere Gene Mackin and are used with his permission.

[3] "What is a reference panel?" *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/cs/dna-help/ethnicity/estimates - :~:text=A reference panel is made, confirmed at the DNA level.). This and all other cited URLs were verified 18 February 2022.

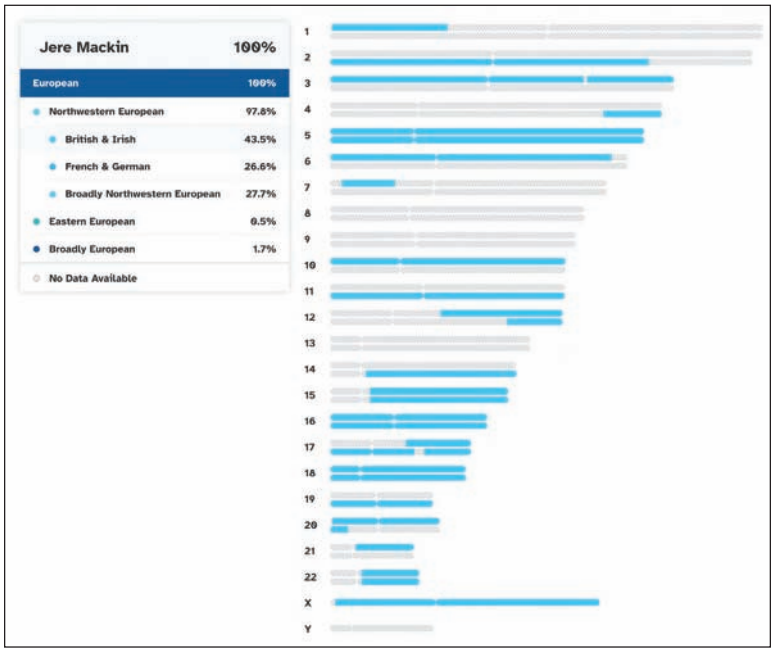
[4] "Ancestry Composition, *23andMe* (https://you.23andme.com/reports/ancestry_composition_hd/). Methodology and information on reference populations are found on the Scientific Details and Frequently Asked Questions tabs.

[5] See "Ethnicity Estimate," *MyHeritage Help Center* (https://www.myheritage.com/help-center/en/dna/ethnicity-estimate) and search for "ethnicity" in the DNA portion of the MyHeritage Knowledge Base (https://education.myheritage.com/learn/dna/all/recent/).

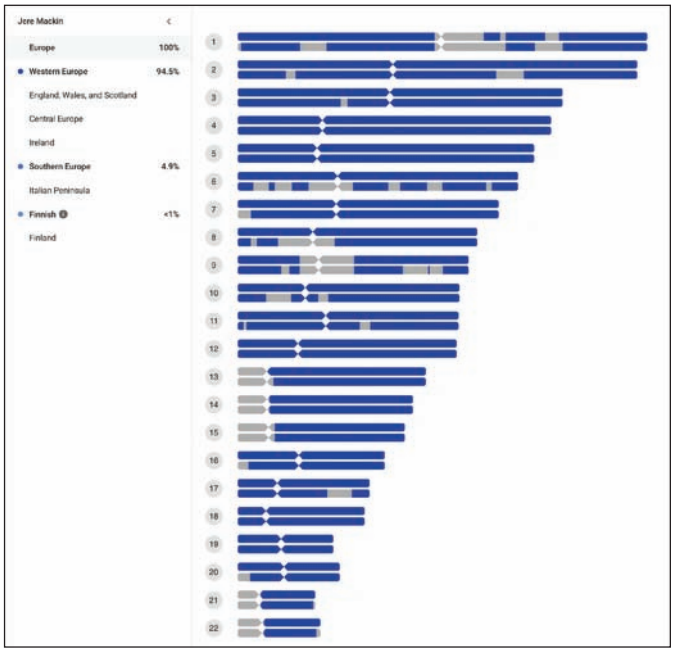
[6] "myOrigins," *Family Tree DNA Help Center* (https://help.familytreedna.com/hc/en-us/sections/360001292796).

[7] "Support Center," *LivingDNA* (https://support.livingdna.com/hc/en-us).

[8] "Autosomal DNA Testing Comparison Chart," *International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki* (https://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_testing_comparison_chart).



23andMe *chromosone painting for Jere Mackin — British and Irish segments*



FTDNA *chromosone painting for Jere Mackin — Western Europe segments*

[9] Judy G. Russell, "Not soup in 2021 either," *The Legal Genealogist* (https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2021/09/19/not-soup-in-2021-either/ : posted 19 Sep 2021).

[10] Russell, "Not soup in 2021 either."

[11] "AncestryDNA® Communities," *Ancestry Support* (https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/AncestryDNA-Commnities?language=en_US).

[12] "What are Genetic Groups?" *MyHeritage Help Center* (https://faq.myheritage.com/en/article/what-are-genetic-groups).

[13] "Recent Ancestor Locations," *23andMe Customer Care* (https://customercare.23andme.com/hc/en-us/articles/360003184973-Recent-Ancestor-Locations?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=DNA+Ethnicity%3A+Places+You+Are+From&utm_campaign=%5BEthnicity+FREE%5D+2+-+DNA+Ethnicity%3A+Places+You+Are+From).

[14] For Diahan's FAQ, go to "DNA Ethnicity Estimate FAQ," *Your DNA Guide* (https://www.yourdnaguide.com/ethnicity-estimate). For *Ancestry*'s genetic communities, see "Understanding *AncestryDNA* Genetic Communities" (https://www.yourdnaguide.com/ydgblog/ancestrydna-genetic-communities); for *MyHeritage* genetic groups, see "*MyHeritage* Genetic Groups | DNA Ethnicity" (https://www.yourdnaguide.com/ydgblog/myheritage-genetic-groups-ethnicity-estimate).

Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*



IGSI Webinars – April – June 2022

Saturday, April 9 | 10:30 AM - Noon CDT | Presenter: **Fintan Mullan**

Emigration from the North of Ireland to North America - Sources for Researching Emigrant Ancestors

Availability of passenger lists for the 18th and early 19th centuries are quite rare; in many cases non-existent. Passenger lists for ships leaving Great Britain and Ireland did not start until 1890. Learn more about early emigration resources.

Saturday, May 7 | 10:30 AM - Noon CDT | Presenter: **Jen Baldwin**

Innovation in Ireland: Creative Resources for Your Irish Research

Irish genealogy is notoriously difficult. Explore a variety of routes through Irish family history and learn more about the collections available on *Findmypast* and elsewhere.

Saturday, June 4 | 10:30 AM - Noon CDT | Presenter: **David Ouimette**

The Power of Names in Irish Family History

Names are the most powerful means of identifying ancestors. Learn how name-variant research, cluster genealogy, and surname heat maps can help your research. These three techniques capitalize on the power of names in Irish family history.

GoToWebinar — from the comfort and safety of your own home.
To register, visit the Activities page of the IGSI website irishgenealogical.org.
$15 for IGSI members; $20 for non-members

Learn!

by Donna Jones and Eileen Kelly

Learning about Irish history and about the records of your ancestors can help you learn about the context of their lives. The Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI) is excited to roll out a new section in our website called "Learn." This section may help you reach this goal.

The Learn section of the IGSI website builds on the previous Research section of the website, incorporating and updating information on the articles and links. IGSI provides the methodology and resources to assist you with researching your family history. Learn provides a roadmap for exploring your Irish heritage and family history.

Start with the video; it provides an overview of this new section.

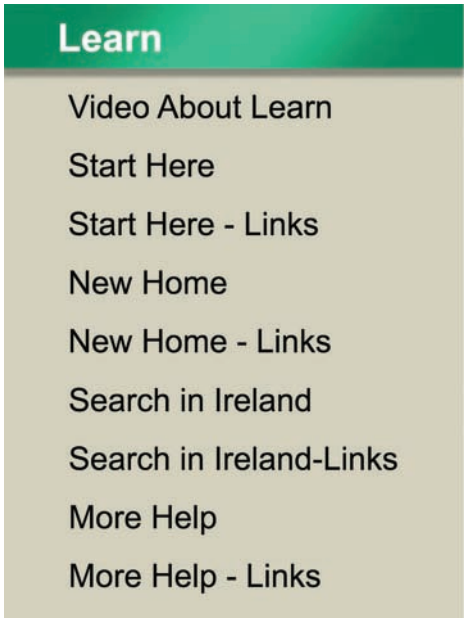


Image 1

So, let's LEARN! The Learn section has four parts: Start Here, New Home, Search in Ireland and More Help. Each part contains an introduction to the methodology for finding knowledge about your ancestors in the place they settled and their home of origin in Ireland. And, each part contains a Links page. Each Links page contains sections for different types of resources. Image 1 is the guide to the Learn section on the IGSI Website. Image 2 shows an example of how the top of a links page looks.

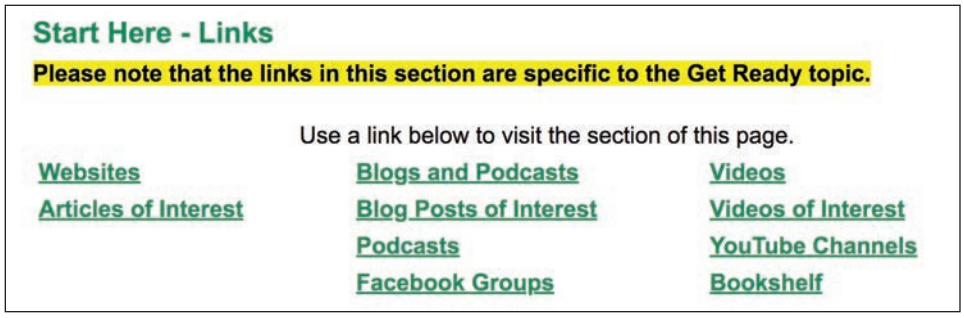


Image 2

The Learn section is easy to navigate. Simply click on the link you'd like to explore. If you click on the Websites link from Start Here (shown above), you will see a list of websites with information to help you get started (Image 3).

Click on the first item in the list of websites, "The Family History Guide". A new window will open and you will be in a website outside of IGSI. When you are done, you can either click on the IGSI tab or close the new window, which will return you to our website (Image 4).

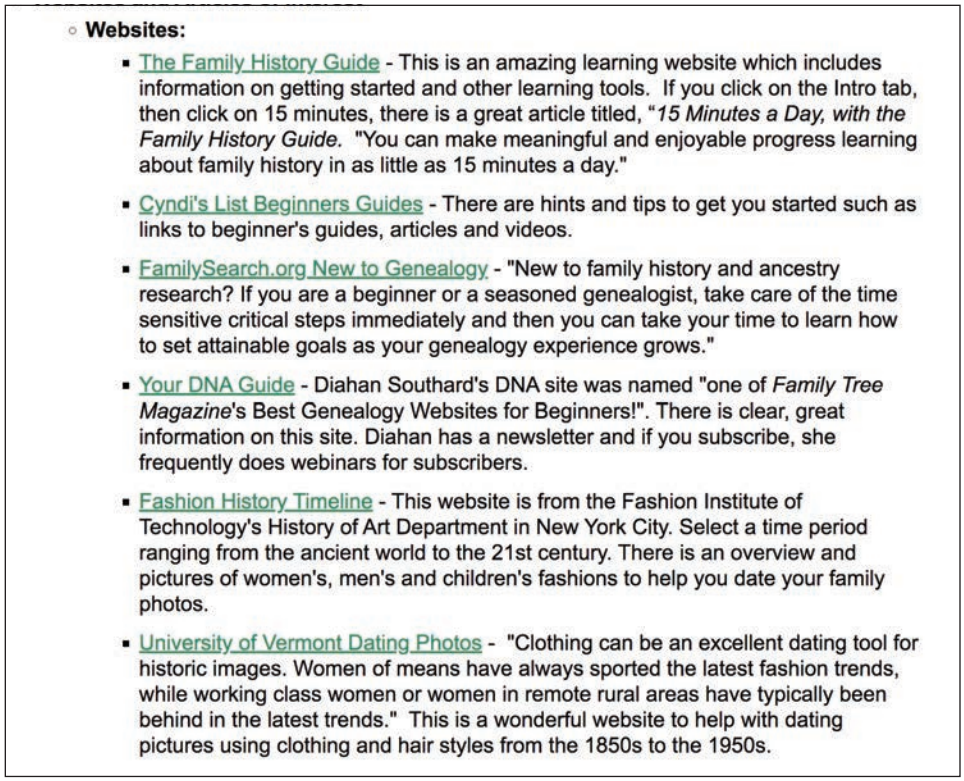


Image 3

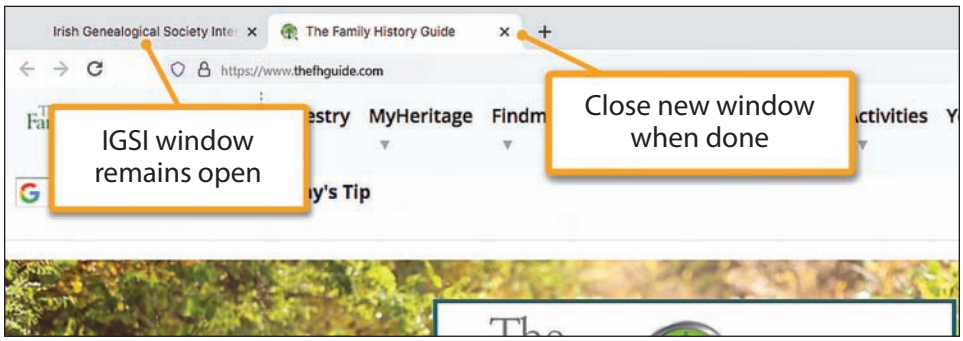


Image 4

Let's explore each part of the Learn section. Each of these four parts introduces methodology in a logical step by step approach. This will help you organize your research in the stage where you are.

Don't know how to get going? **Start Here** helps you get started and organized. The Introduction to Genealogy article introduces you to the methodology of genealogy. It covers a methodology in which you begin with yourself, work from the present to the past, keep records of your search, organize your results, share your results with others and continue to learn.

Where did your ancestors make their home? **New Home** gives you key sources for the country where you ancestors settled after leaving Ireland. You need to do this research in order to find the Irish place of origin for your ancestors. The New Home – Links contains a link to the IGSI award-winning journal, *The Septs*, a valuable research asset available to IGSI members.

Search in Ireland gives you the resources you need to jump across the pond. It provides in-depth information and resources specific to Ireland or Scotland. The key areas to cracking the personal history of your Irish ancestors include their places of origin, Irish given names, Irish jurisdictions/maps and records specific to Ireland. This section will help with these areas.

More Help provides specialized information such as DNA, maps, newspapers, IGSI research collection and a list of key texts and links. The topics are as diverse as "RootsTech Adding Metadata to Digital Photos" to "Wikipedia Comparison of Genealogy Software" to links to all the DNA testing company's websites. This part also includes terrific links to Irish map collections and links for newspapers available online.

The design and implementation of the Learn section has been a collaboration spearheaded by Donna Jones, with contributions from the Technology and Education committees: Kathleen Foley, Mike Flynn, Mary Wickersham, Dave Miller, Jane Kennedy, Lois Mackin, and Eileen Kelly.

We and all the volunteers at IGSI thank you and wish you the best in the joy of discovering your family!

Donna Jones lives in North Carolina. Elected co-president in 2022, she brings customer service skills and experience to her roles with the Society. Donna's philosophy: As a specialized society in Irish research, we are here to assist with your education. Learn is the fruition of her vision. (Donna's photo appears on page 32.)

Eileen Kelly is new to Genealogy and is enjoying exploring her Irish roots. Since retiring from life as a CPA in 2020, Eileen has been learning about Irish ancestors and history by attending classes through IGSI and volunteering on the education committee and the Irish Fair.



The Learn section is ***free*** to anyone accessing the Irish Genealogical Society International website. However, there are many member benefits to joining the IGSI for just $40 annually. This includes discounted fees on educational webinars, access to all issues of *The Septs* (quarterly journal) and the *Ginealas* eNewsletter. Members have ***free*** access to the Hoffman Research Library and use of *Ancestry* and *Findmypast* in the library, ***free*** volunteer research assistance at the library and discounted fees on commissioned research.

Perhaps one of the best benefits is to meet members who share an interest in genealogy and family history, and the opportunity to help and be helped by others.

Hiding in a Bright Red Coat

by Maureen Reed

Perfect Camouflage

The idea was so preposterous as to be unfit for further exploration. Our 2nd great-grandfather of Galway fighting in the British army? Marching in a red coat under the weight of his musket and the fluttering Union Jack? Of course, this Pvt. Michael Griffin is not our guy. He is just one more nettlesome doppelganger with the right name, generally the right dates and location, and absolutely the wrong profile.

Indisputably, our Michael was an Irish Catholic who harbored only contempt for the Brits. There is no reason to doubt this deeply entrenched family stereotype. No reason whatsoever — until there are no other avenues to pursue.

For years we have gone round in circles trying to find our Michael Griffin's origins in County Galway in the early 1800s. Sparse family records, non-existent Irish church and civil records, and tantalizing but misleading snippets of his descendants' exploits in America have led nowhere. Ah, the familiar dull headache and deepening discouragement of banging into too many brick walls…

Pvt. Michael Griffin's existence came to our attention many years ago via a single online military record. Two unshakeable barriers blocked our pursuit. The first was our assumption that service in the British army was incompatible with our ancestry. The second was the daunting task of wading the murky swamp of British military records. There are millions of them, you know. A few digitized, but the rest locked in repositories in … well, somewhere.

Desperation, however, can be a strong creative force. When all reasonable possibilities are exhausted, the implausible looms larger. Maybe it's time to set aside longstanding bias and learn about British military documents. Ugh.



52nd Regiment at the Battle of Waterloo. Illustration courtesy of the Waterloo Association.

Enter the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH) hosting an online course that featured the highly knowledgeable military historian, Paul Nixon.[1] His material was superb, and the first few steps of a path soon emerged. In genealogy, as in many pursuits, even a bit of knowledge can pique curiosity and dramatically reduce the psychological barriers to entry. The National Archives at Kew which house the British War Office records, the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the Oxfordshire regimental museums which provide context, the British genealogist Ruth Bloom who efficiently searches and photographs the pertinent records — all these avenues unfolded as soon as our psychological barriers to British army records had been breached.

And here is the story that emerged.

Life in a Red Coat

At the time the British and the U.S. were duking it out — for the second time — in the war of 1812, a sixteen-year-old laborer left his rural Kilclooney home just north of Tuam[2] in Co. Galway to seek his future. Beset by short days and cold rain, Michael trudged a soggy 50 miles to arrive just after Christmas in Athlone, Co. Westmeath. His intent was specific: to enlist in the army. Perhaps he had prior knowledge of the internationally reputed 52nd Foot Regiment (2nd Battalion) that courageously engaged Napoleon's forces in the Peninsular War, or perhaps he knew

only that some British army regiment was recruiting young Irish infantrymen at Athlone. Although he had not yet reached his full adult stature, Michael committed his foreseeable adult years to the army by enlisting for "unlimited" service.[3]

Why would he do this? Maybe his family prized military service, or maybe he was just rebellious. Likely he had little prospect of converting his "labourer" status to that of "landholder." Limited opportunity, mixed with wanderlust and adventurism, was a potent cocktail. As Paul Nixon points out, "… motivations for joining the army were many, but there were particular spikes in the winter months when it was cold and when work, particularly outdoors manual labouring work, was in short supply. Whilst soldiering was not particularly well paid, it did at least guarantee a roof over your head and three meals a day."[4]

Nor was army life an easy life. Britain had a huge empire to keep in check, thus its military trained arduously and continuously and doled out significant penalties to soldiers running afoul of its many regulations.

But to Michael, the advantages of a military career outweighed its disadvantages. No sooner had he pocketed his signing bonus than he found himself in the Netherlands and then Belgium, under a serious schedule of field training and battle preparation. Napoleon's escape from Elba and reappearance in France in early 1815 escalated British and Allied military preparation to fever pitch. As part of the effort to strengthen key units, Michael was re-assigned in late March from the 2nd to the 1st Battalion of the 52nd Regiment.[5]

Three months later, Napoleon and his invincible Imperial Guard drove north from France into Belgium to meet the Allied Forces at Waterloo. One of the most pivotal battles of European history commenced.

Positioned in the center of the formation, Michael's company under Capt. Patrick Campbell suffered significant casualties, but after three days the Duke of Wellington and Field Marshall Blücher handed Napoleon his decisive defeat. Henceforth, each soldier on that battlefield carried the lifelong moniker "Waterloo Man."

Eminent Waterloo historian Gareth Glover writes, "Adam's Light Brigade (of which the 52nd was a part) had been given the singular honour of leading the British Army into Paris."[6] Imagine the overwhelming pride, wonder and relief Michael experienced as he and his remaining compatriots of the 52nd Foot marched victorious down the Champs Elysees into Paris. They then took their stations guarding the Duke of Wellington's headquarters.

When presented with the opportunity to collect a bonus, Michael voluntarily transferred into the 23rd Foot (Royal Welch Fusiliers). Part of the Army of Occupation, this regiment remained in northern France and Belgium for the next three years. With the draw-down of British troops in 1819, the 23rd received orders to return "home" to the British Isles, specifically Ireland.

One might think this as welcome news for a battle-weary young man, especially one like Michael who had experienced intermittent and increasingly frequent health problems requiring hospitalization. But when his regiment sailed from Calais to Dover to Cork and finally to Limerick, Michael found himself "left behind" at the General Hospital in Dover.[7] From there he was transferred to Royal Kilmainham Hospital near Dublin where he was "invalided and discharged."

Michael's Kilmainham papers of November 1819 ultimately revealed the cause of his recurring health problems, "a rupture which came on in 1817 in France." This disability resulted in his military discharge and in being awarded a permanent pension. At 6 pence per day, this pension could hardly serve as his sole income. But he was not so incapacitated as to be completely unable to work. Strange as it may sound, before the year was out Michael voluntarily joined the newly created 9th Royal Veterans Battalion.

Although the Napoleonic Wars had ceased, the British empire was roiled by unrest across much of the British Isles. No fewer than ten Veterans Battalions were formed for the purpose of deterring or quelling disturbances on the home front.[10] Importantly to Michael, life in a veterans battalion was far less physically taxing than in the regular army, and apparently it suited him well. He spent the next two years stationed at Plymouth, with his service interrupted by both hospitalization and furlough.

This is a curious point. Furlough did not become commonplace in the British military until decades later, so we can only infer that being granted a paid furlough meant his service was not in great demand. In fact, this granting of leave may have foreshadowed disbandment of the 9th Battalion a few months later. In the spring of 1821 Michael was discharged, his small pension was re-instated, and he was given marching money from Dublin to Dunmore (near Tuam in Co. Galway) where his wife resided.[11]

Wait a minute. His wife? Where did she come from? And when? The British

army was well known for its opposition to marriage by its soldiers, and it did its level best to discourage marriage and co-habitation.[12] It's not obvious how a soldier stationed in England would find himself an Irish bride from Co. Galway, but such was the case. Perhaps it was a marriage arranged by his family in Tuam, or perhaps his paid furloughs in the winter of 1820-21 allowed him to return home and woo the woman of his own choosing.

But the fact that Michael got married during this time is not the only interesting tidbit. Even more tantalizing is that his unnamed wife resided in Donmore (Dunmore).[13] Could Michael's wife be our own DNA ancestor Mary Conneely, presumably of Timaduane, Parish Dunmore? There is nothing about this hypothesis that is refuted by our known information about Michael or Mary. But there is nothing that proves it either.

Marital status aside, Michael re-joined the military a year later. We should not assume that his action was entirely voluntary, as the British army could call up its retirees at any time.[14] On this occasion, Michael's assignment was the 3rd Royal Veterans who, conveniently, were stationed in Galway. But if the prospect of being near home was an enticement that Michael relished, it was not to last. His battalion was transferred to Cork and then Jersey, where Michael spent the next two years detached to Guernsey. For the most part his health was satisfactory to allow normal participation in the reduced duties of a veteran's battalion until the battalion disbanded in 1826. But coincident with the disbandment, he suffered a recurrence of his medical problems, prompting a several week confinement at the Invalid Depot (Fort Pitt) as his last station with the British army.[15]

Finally, in the summer of 1826, Pvt. Michael Griffin, Waterloo Man, headed back to Co. Galway. When he slipped out of his red jacket for the last time, he slipped into obscurity. Two decades of silence descended upon his life. Is this our Michael Griffin who lived near Tuam in the late 1820s and 1830s and fathered the children who would later immigrate to the U.S. and become known as our ancestors? We do not know.

Whether he is our guy or not, this Michael traded a soldier's responsibilities for that of a husband and father. A practical man whose sentimentality had been drummed out by harsh years of military duty, his red coat may have hung from a peg by the door until little Tommie's breaches needed a knee patch or young Julia's torn skirt demanded repair. Interesting, isn't it, to imagine how the legacies of his service, both his stories and his coat, might have become stitched into the fabric of his children's lives.

Years later the Galway Pension Records note Michael's temporary relocation from Galway Pension District to the adjacent Roscommon Pension District.[16] What would compel a five-month relocation during the Great Famine in the summer of 1848? If it were triggered by hospitalization, would he choose Roscommon instead of Galway? Had hunger, illness or emigration disrupted his immediate social network? Did he have family in Roscommon who needed him (or vice versa)? Was the burden of famine lighter in Roscommon than in East Galway?

Perhaps Michael's witness to the devastation at Waterloo prepared him in some way for the devastation which surrounded him now. Or maybe the silence of starvation was fundamentally incomparable to the cacophony of war. As at Waterloo, Michael survived this too. He soon returned to Galway, becoming witness to the ongoing flight of loved ones to far-flung ports in far-off lands.

Pvt. Michael Griffin, Waterloo Man, died at age 57 on 13 September 1851. The Pension Record included no details.[17] The newspaper carried no obituary.[18]

Clever Hiding Places

So now we return to the original question of what allows an ancestor to hide in plain sight. For Michael — if this is our Michael — he achieved invisibility by donning a bright red coat, regalia that defied family expectations. In what other instances might we researchers immerse ourselves so thoroughly in myth that we cannot see possibilities standing naked in front of us?

A story that lands an ancestor in a dim moral light? (Surely my ancestors were not thieves or deserters or slave holders.) A clue that connects our ancestor with historical "undesirables"? (Surely my ancestors did not marry Protestants or associate with Catholics or collaborate with Know Nothings.) A fact that places our ancestor in a position of lower social merit? (Surely my ancestors were not beggars or barmaids or unwed parents.) All of these biases — and so many more — may blind us to fruitful pursuits.

Yes, it's prudent to prioritize research based on hypotheses which are well-grounded and insights we have already gleaned. But when that prioritization leads nowhere, it's time to shed the blinders and forge a more creative plan. And aren't we lucky when that new plan adds a bold splash of color to the quest?

Endnotes

[1] Nixon, Paul. *Syllabus British Military Virtual Institute*; November 2021.

[2] Military documents are inconsistent regarding his birth year (1793 or 1796) and birthplace (Parish Killconelly in Galway, or Parish Kilconnoly near town of Kilconnoly, or Parish Kilclooney near town of Tuam, or Parish Tuam near town of Tuam).

[3] TNA: WO25/409 Regimental Records of the 52nd Foot 2nd Battalion 1812-1815

[4] Nixon, Paul. *Syllabus British Military Virtual Institute*; November 2021, p.41.

[5] Glover, Gareth. "The 52nd Foot at Waterloo." https://www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/lockdownlecture52ndwaterloo/

[6] Glover, Gareth. *The Great Waterloo Controversy* (South Yorkshire: Pen & Sword Books Ltd, 2020), p.225.

[7] TNA: WO12/3977 – 23rd Foot Battalion Paylist, December 1818.

[8] Kilmainham Discharges and Admission to Pension, 1819. We now use the term "hernia" instead of "rupture."

[9] TNA: WO12/11187 – 9th Veterans Battalion Paylist, December 1819.

[10] White, A.S. "Garrison, Reserve and Veteran Battalions and Companies. *J. Society for Army Historical Research* 1960; 28(156):163-165.

[11] TNA: WO119/58/5 Royal Kilmainham Discharge Records, 1821.

[12] *Syllabus British Military Virtual Institute* by Nixon, Paul; November 2021, p.21.

[13] TNA: WO119/58/5 Royal Kilmainham Discharge Records, 1821.

[14] *Syllabus British Military Virtual Institute* by Nixon, Paul; November 2021, p.21.

[15] TNA: WO12/11136 - 3rd Royal Veterans Battalion Paylist, June 1826.

[16] TNA: WO22/177 and WO22/194 Galway District and Roscommon District Changes to Out-Pensioners, 1848.

[17] TNA: WO22/177 Galway District Changes to Out-Pensioners, September 1851.

[18] Tuam *Herald*, 1851. Newspapers at this time included death notices only for the most prominent people.

Maureen K. Reed is an educator at the University of Minnesota. She is a medical doctor, the former Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, and a former chair of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. Her interest in genealogy was fostered by her father's dinner table stories. She continues to pursue the goal of identifying the townlands of origin of her eight Irish great-grandparents. Just one remains to be discovered.







IGSI

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by Jeanne Bakken, Volunteer Coordinator

Because April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, we want to thank all those members that volunteered their time in 2021. You are all appreciated and IGSI could not manage without you. As you know, our organization is totally dependent on our volunteers and we sincerely want to thank each and every one of you. Here is a list of committees and volunteers that contributed their time in 2021, a total of more than 2,500 hours!

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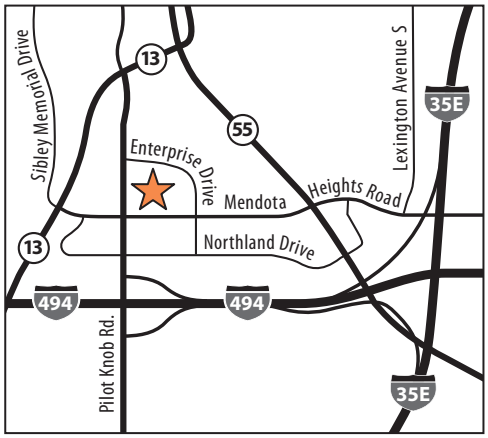
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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Genealogy Library Open

The Hoffman Research Library, located in the Minnesota Genealogy Center in Mendota Heights, is open for research. Full service times are scheduled for 2022.

The Hoffman Research Library is a private genealogy research library created for members of the organizations in the MGS Partners' Group. Access to the library materials is free to members of IGSI and other MGS Partner societies. Non-members and the general public are requested to pay a per visit $10 donation for use.

The Hoffman Library will be open only if there are two volunteers available to staff the building. As COVID continues, some volunteers have stepped back from regular schedules creating a volunteer staff shortage. (Won't you consider becoming a MGC/library volunteer to help ensure research access for all?)

Note: Effective March 1, 2022, masks are recommended for everyone visiting the Hoffman Research Library, but optional for the fully vaccinated. 

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Stop by the library on the second Saturday of the month between 10 AM and 4 PM for Irish research help from IGSI volunteers.

AUGUST 13, 2022
SEPTEMBER 10, 2022
OCTOBER 8, 2022
NOVEMBER 12, 2022
DECEMBER 10, 2022

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The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc., is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the 28th of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editors at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

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Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editors of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 - 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2022 | October | Maps

Understanding where your family lived in Ireland and in their new country; using historical maps and mapping software to solve genealogical problems.
Deadline for articles: August 15, 2022.

2023 | January | Canada

Locating and researching Canadian records for ancestors who either settled there or passed through on their way to America.
Deadline for articles: November 15, 2022.

2023 | April | Leinster Province

Researching in the 12 Irish counties of Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow; stories about finding family in Leinster locales.
Deadline for articles: February 15, 2023.

2023 | July | Census Substitutes

Making full use of surviving Irish religious, land and tax surveys and records; commercial directories, school registers; and more.
Deadline for articles: May 15, 2023.

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Every Researcher Needs a Little Help

by Ron Zweber

If any of you are like me, you have been in and out of several paid genealogical sites through the years. There are certain sites that you have been with for many years (e.g., *Ancestry.com*) but there are other sites that you may have joined but then let your membership lapse because you don't have an ongoing need for their content.

Inevitably, after cancelling or lapsing you have found additional inquiries and would like to access those sites again. In certain sites there are options for short term access with a nominal membership fee. But another option we would like you to consider is accessing some of these databases and sites through IGSI's Research Services.

Often when thinking about using a professional genealogist or other research services, one recalls the most difficult genealogical problems that have been with us for years.

We suggest that you consider using **IGSI's Research Services** to become more efficient in your research and to bring you current on queries that you may have for different databases.

The Hoffman Research Library in Mendota Heights, Minnesota, where IGSI's library collection is housed in a co-sharing space with the Minnesota Genealogical Society and affiliated organizations, provides access to 10 separate data bases. If you cannot search these in person, our volunteer researchers can access them for you.

Findmypast is a great example of a resource that many of you are probably either a subscriber or a past subscriber. For past subscribers, please consider submitting your requests to our Research Services group, even if it is asking to run some of your brick wall names through the database to see if some updated records will help you unlock a longtime problem.

American Ancestors, *Newspapers.com* and *Fold3* are other widely-used databases to which members have either never subscribed or are no longer subscribing. Have IGSI give you the access to these databases.

Feel free to combine a number of unrelated requests into the same research request. For instance, include queries to be run through three or more databases. Contact Research Services to ask how we can help you with a few Irish-related look-ups or a larger research problem. IGSI's Research Services is very reasonable priced at $20/hour for members.



Ron Zweber is a native Minnesotan who lives in Saint Paul. He has been a member of IGSI for over 35 years and served as IGSI treasurer in 2021. All eight of his Irish 2nd great-grandparents (from counties Cork, Tipperary, Clare and Mayo) immigrated to the U.S. during the height of the Famine or shortly thereafter.

Look for IGSI on *You Tube*

Check out a short monthly podcast on the IGSI You Tube Channel. The program called "This Month at the IGSI" and hosted by genealogist Dave Miller will provide the latest information regarding the Irish Genealogical Society International and what activities are planned for the upcoming month.

Miller says that the first couple of podcasts will start out briefly talking about events that are planned for the coming month. Eventually, we plan to interview some of the speakers for the upcoming webinars and talk to those who will be involved in events for that month.

This is another social media source that people can access to receive the latest news and information within the IGSI! You have always been able to obtain the latest news on IGSI through the Society's website www.irishgenealogical.org. Plus, you can locate us on the other social media platforms such as *Facebook* and *Twitter*. You can find the first (July 2022) podcast on the IGSI's You Tube channel now.

Online Books and Other Digital Publications

by Gigi Hickey

How I admire pre-Internet genealogy enthusiasts! The effort required back then to research family history is beyond my imagination. What we accomplish in a few keystrokes might have taken days of travel, hours of looking at microfilm, and long waits for responses by (snail) mail. Finding published genealogical accounts was not easy.

County histories and family genealogies produced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were rich with biographies and other details. However, because these books had usually been published in relatively small numbers, they could be difficult to locate. Today's powerful search engines deliver digitized versions of these histories and genealogies in seconds.[1] Add the possibility of finding e-books on Irish genealogy topics which can be immediately downloaded, sometimes for free — it's mind-boggling!

While books are generally secondary sources, they frequently point us to locations and sources we might otherwise miss. Digital books may be a resource you've found in the past only by accident or good fortune. We hope this issue and its 'Online Books' theme will help your research become more strategic.

As editors, one of our first steps in formulating the July 2022 journal was to survey readers of the *Ginealas* e-Newsletter about preferred online tools. In this issue, Co-President Donna Jones shares a story about her research success with Internet Archive; finding the name of the officiating priest on a civil marriage record led her to an online book identifying the Ohio church where he served (and where other family members may have been baptized). It's not too late for you to tell us about your digital experience. We invite you to click on the link on page 89.

Lois Abromitis Mackin helps us save travel time and money by polishing our skills to find books on the Internet. Her timely article describing five major pathways — originally published in 2018 — is well worth reprinting in this issue. Kathleen Strickland shows how to make the best use of Google Books by wisely formulating search queries; her advice about creating citations and saving downloaded items in a personal Google library may prevent us from wasting time with repeat searches.

Contemplating online books led us to consider a myriad of related topics. We've compiled several lists which can help you determine your "next steps," including: 1) Prior articles published in *The Septs* about finding newspapers, manuscripts, special collections and other published material on the Internet; 2) Sources for buying e-books and printed books about Irish genealogy and history; 3) Online resources for accessing research publications.

Mary Wickersham reviews the 2021 e-book edition of *Sources for Irish Family History* by James G. Ryan. In addition to commenting on the book's content, Mary gives helpful tips about using Calibre software for e-books.

Several articles in this issue engage us with stories about actual printed books. Rob Flanagan Stieglitz shares his family's fascinating connection to the famous *Book of Armagh*, a priceless Irish manuscript on display at Trinity College Library in Dublin. I contribute my review of *Scots-Irish Links, Consolidated in Two Volumes*, by David Dobson. These two volumes, published in 2022, incorporate Dobson's transcriptions previously contained in 19 separate parts.

Lois Abromitis Mackin's DNA column follows up with Autosomal DNA Results Part 2: Your Match List. Regardless of which major DNA testing company you may have used, you'll appreciate the images and guidance Lois shares regarding Match Lists and tools available.

Could you use a little help with your research? IGSI to the rescue! IGSI Co-President Ron Zweber tells how you have free access to research databases at the Hoffman Research Library and that IGSI researchers can assist with multiple Irish look-ups or dig deeper into your family history problem for only $20/hour.

Endnote

[1] Rick Crume, "Searching for Ancestors Online in Digitized Genealogy Books," *FamilyTree Magazine*, (https://familytreemagazine.com/websites/genealogy-guide-to-online-books/: accessed 18 Apr 2022).

Gigi Hickey has twice served on the IGSI board and, since 2011, as IGSI blog editor. After co-chairing the Celtic Connections Conference 2020, she became one of the co-Managing Editors of The Septs. *In addition to genealogy research, she enjoys quilting and piano-duets and her DAR chapter.*



Finding Books on the Internet

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

The author reviewed and updated her 2018 article on finding books on the Internet and graciously allowed us to reprint it.

Books! Books! Books! Books are a necessity for genealogical research. Most genealogists and family historians are pretty good at finding books in public or genealogical society libraries and many of us have highly developed book-purchasing skills.

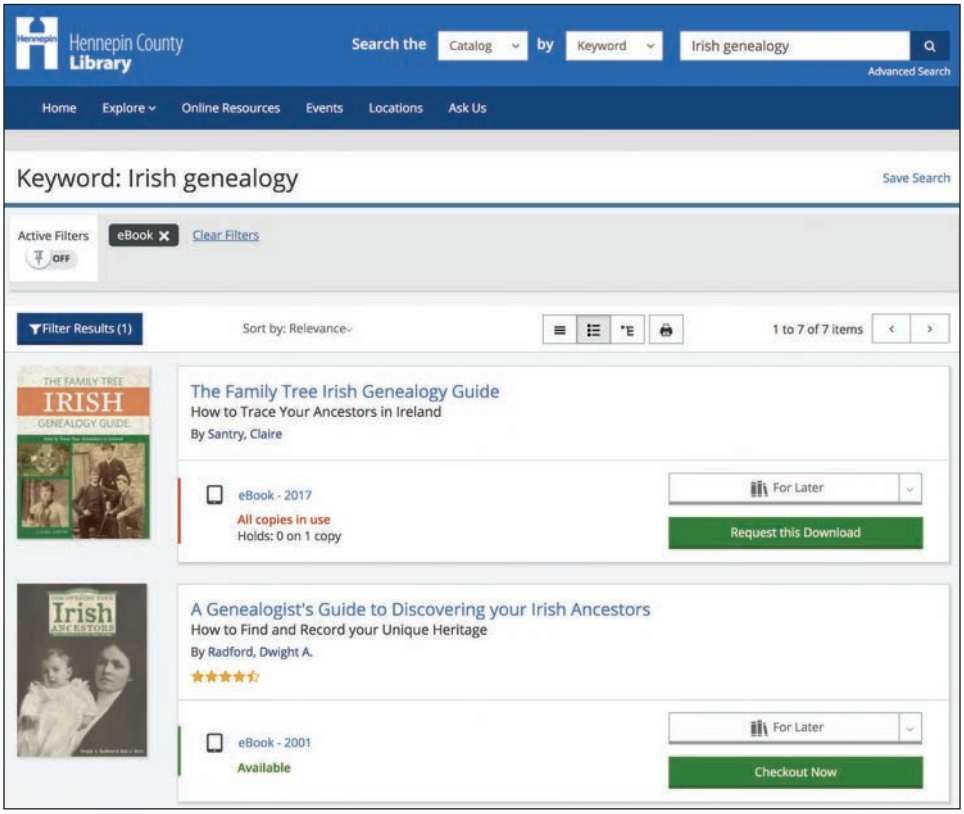
Given our appetite for books, though, most of us can save travel time and money, while making our research more efficient, by polishing our skills in finding and using books online.

There are at least five major pathways for finding books online:

- Using the catalogs of libraries and historical societies
- Using WorldCat
- Using Google search
- Using digitized book websites
- Using *FamilySearch*.

Let's take a few minutes to look at each of these methods.

Library and historical society catalogs. Most of today's libraries and historical societies have websites, and the vast majority of these websites include online catalogs. Using these catalogs users can find books in the library or historical society's collection by entering author, title, subject, keyword, and other information (e.g., format — such as e-book, publication date). Often catalogs have two search options, typically called basic and advanced. Advanced search usually offers more opportunities to specify the exact results desired. You may be able to filter, sort, save, or print search results for future use.



Local library e-book search

How does my local library catalog lead me to online books? Many libraries now include e-books that can be borrowed without leaving your home. For example, a 2018 keyword search for "Irish genealogy," specifying the format EBOOK, at my local public library resulted in a list of 10 items, including Irish genealogy guides by Claire Santry, Dwight Radford, and Chris Paton. From the search results, I can use my library card to check out available e-books and download them to my device.

Sometimes collections associated with larger libraries include digitized books. For example, the *Historic Pittsburgh* website (http://historicpittsburgh.org/home), hosted by the University of Pittsburgh Library System, in partnership with dozens of institutions, focuses on the greater Pittsburgh region. A 2018 keyword search for "Irish" brought up 1,111 hits, including books, newspapers and other serials, finding aids, manuscripts, and images. Filtering for "books" narrowed the results to 727, including a digitized version of Robert Garland's *The Scotch-Irish in Western Pennsylvania*. The same search in 2022 resulted in 3,238 hits, of which 1,652 are books.

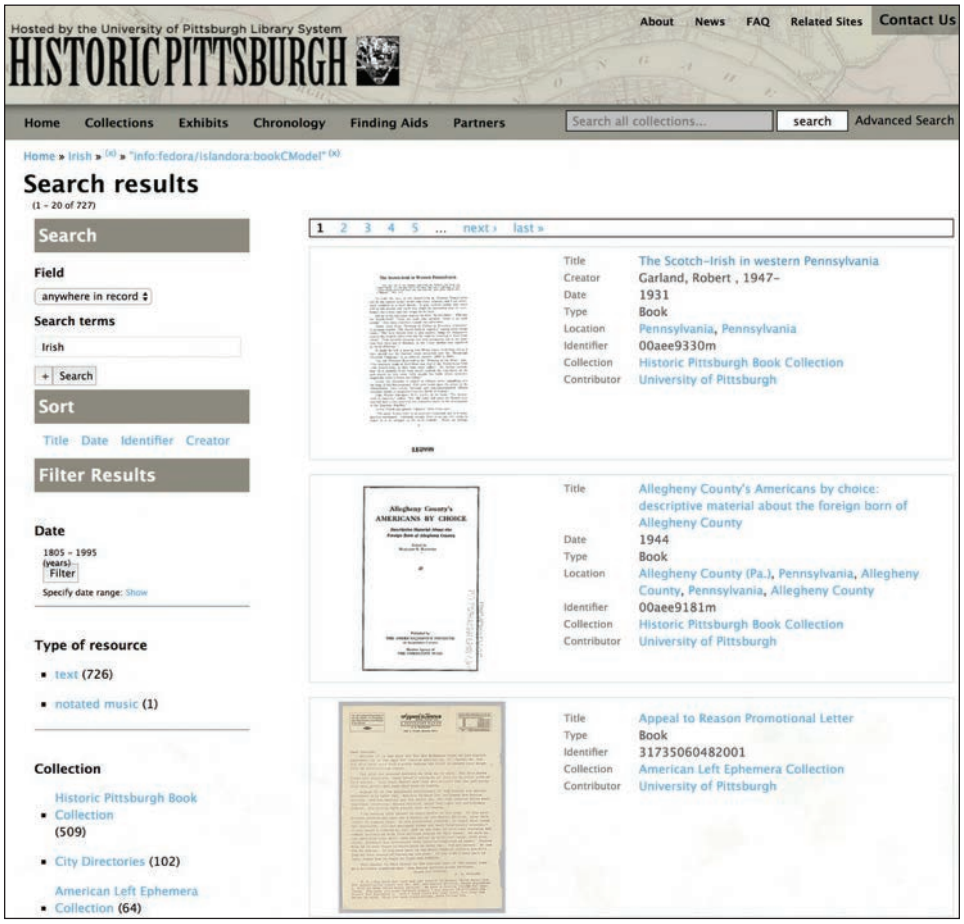
WorldCat. Accessible at www.worldcat.org, WorldCat bills itself as "the world's largest library catalog." It is an enormous network of library content and services. Its catalog allows users to search the holdings

of thousands of participating libraries, including worldwide collections significant to family history researchers (the Family History Library, the Allen County Public Library, and others).

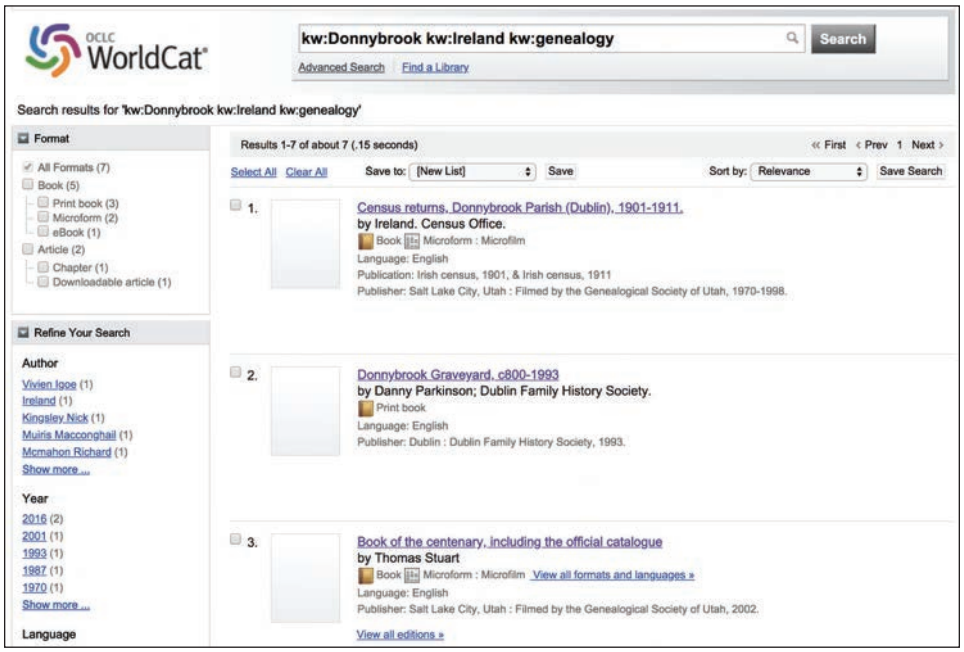
Using WorldCat search, you can find books, music CDs, videos, downloadable audiobooks, article citations, documents, photos, and digital editions. WorldCat even shows you the location of the closest library with a copy of the item you are looking for, and gives you a link to that library's catalog. If you create a free WorldCat account, you can create lists, bibliographies, and reviews of library materials.

WorldCat is a great way to locate books you know about using title and author. Using subjects and keywords, it's also a great way to develop a bibliography and discover resources new to you. A 2018 WorldCat search for keywords "Donnybrook," "Ireland," and "genealogy" located seven items, including a book of the 1892 centenary of the Masonic Female Orphan School of Ireland in Ballsbridge, Co. Dublin, with microform copies available at the Family History Library, the National Library of Scotland, Trinity College Library Dublin, and the University of Oxford. The same search in 2022 resulted in six hits.

Perhaps more usefully, the search identified census returns for Donnybrook Parish in 1900 and 1911 (available on microform from the Family History Library) and two books on Donnybrook and County Dublin graveyards, one of which is held in the Irish Genealogical Society collection in Mendota Heights, Minnesota. The WorldCat record for the IGSI library book tells me the book is available in limited view from *HathiTrust*, which means that if I click the *HathiTrust*



University library digitized books



WorldCat search results

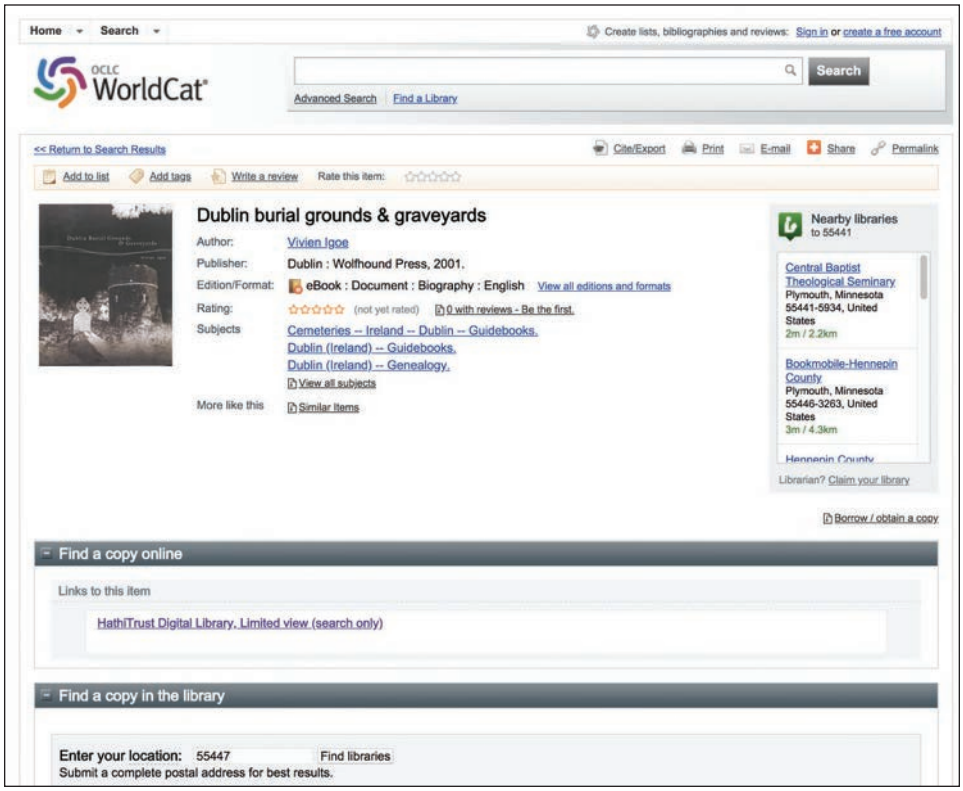
Digital Library link from the WorldCat page, I can do limited searching in the book without leaving home.

Google search. I repeated a slightly different version of the Donnybrook genealogy search on Google, using keywords "Donnybrook," "Ireland," and "graveyard." The search located a *Wikipedia* article, a *Find a Grave* cemetery entry, historical blogs and articles about Donnybrook, a link to the Ballsbridge, Donnybrook and Sandymount Historical Society, and more. Also located was an entry in the National Library of Ireland catalog for the Donnybrook graveyard book previously located in my WorldCat search.

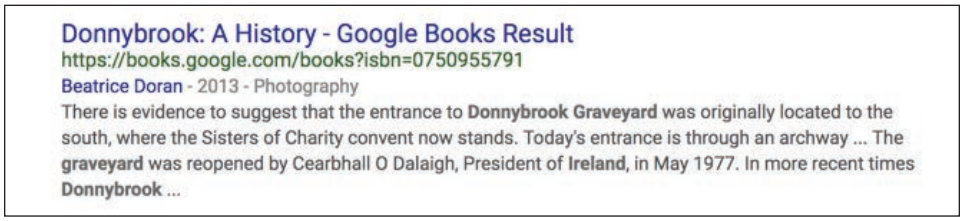
The Google search also found a hit for Donnybrook graveyard entries inside a digitized book, *Donnybrook: a History*, by Beatrice Doran (foreword written by the chairman of the Ballsbridge, Donnybrook and Sandymount Historical Society), with a preview in *Google Books*, and an opportunity to buy the e-book. The preview was extensive enough for me to see that there are other Donnybrook-related books I could search for by author and title.

Another digitized book located by my "Donnybrook" "Ireland" "graveyard" search was *Census of Ireland, 1871, Part II Vital Statistics, vol. II Report and Tables Relating to Deaths* (Dublin: Alexander Thom for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1875). In this full-text digitized book, I can read information about deaths and burials, including statistics on burials that took place in the city and suburbs of Dublin between 1861 and 1871.

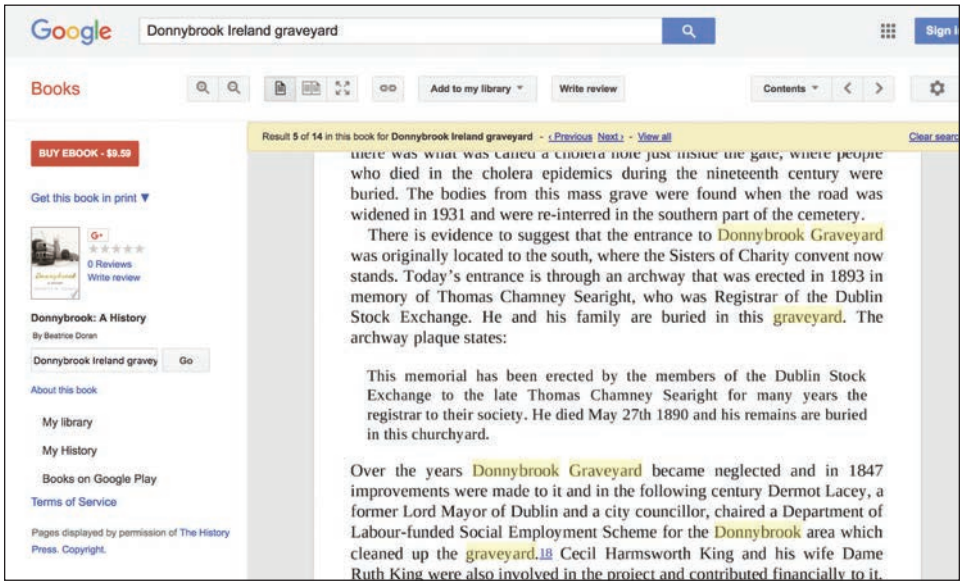
Digitized book websites. The Google search I conducted from the search bar of my browser included the digital books on the *Google Play* site (which incorporates the previous *Google Books* site). There



WorldCat digitized book entry



Google digitized book



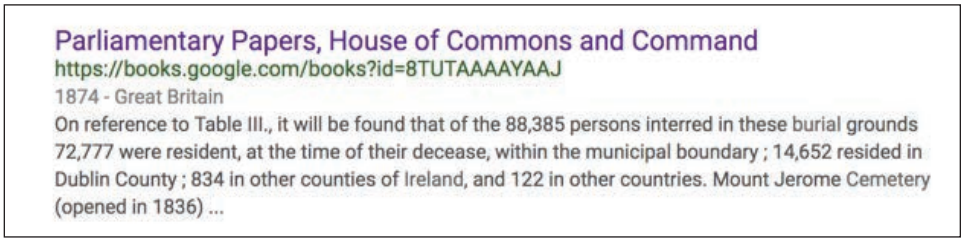
Google digitized book detail

are lots of other digitized book sites. Besides *Google Play*, *Internet Archive* and *HathiTrust Digital Library* are particularly noteworthy. These will often come up in WorldCat or Google searches, but it's also worth visiting the individual digitized book websites and searching within them.

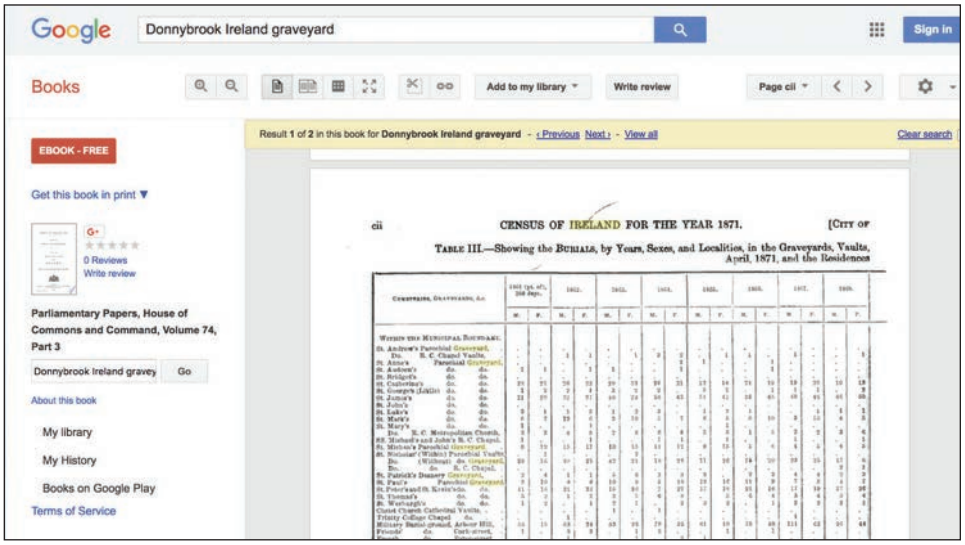
Internet Archive (https://archive.org/) bills itself as "a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more." (It's also the home of the WaybackMachine, a searchable archive of over 327 billion web pages.) A search of text contents for "Donnybrook" "graveyard" resulted in 21,695 hits for parish and county histories, published genealogical notes and queries, and more. Restricting these to the topic "genealogy" cut the number of hits to 455 digitized items from libraries in the U.S., Canada, Ireland, Great Britain, and Europe, including society journals and copies of the Donnybrook parish magazine from the 1890s and early 1900s.

HathiTrust (pronounced hottie-trust) is a partnership of academic and research institutions. *HathiTrust Digital Library* (https://www.hathitrust.org/) contains millions of titles digitized from libraries around the world. As with other digitized book sites, you can search and browse collections and read books online.

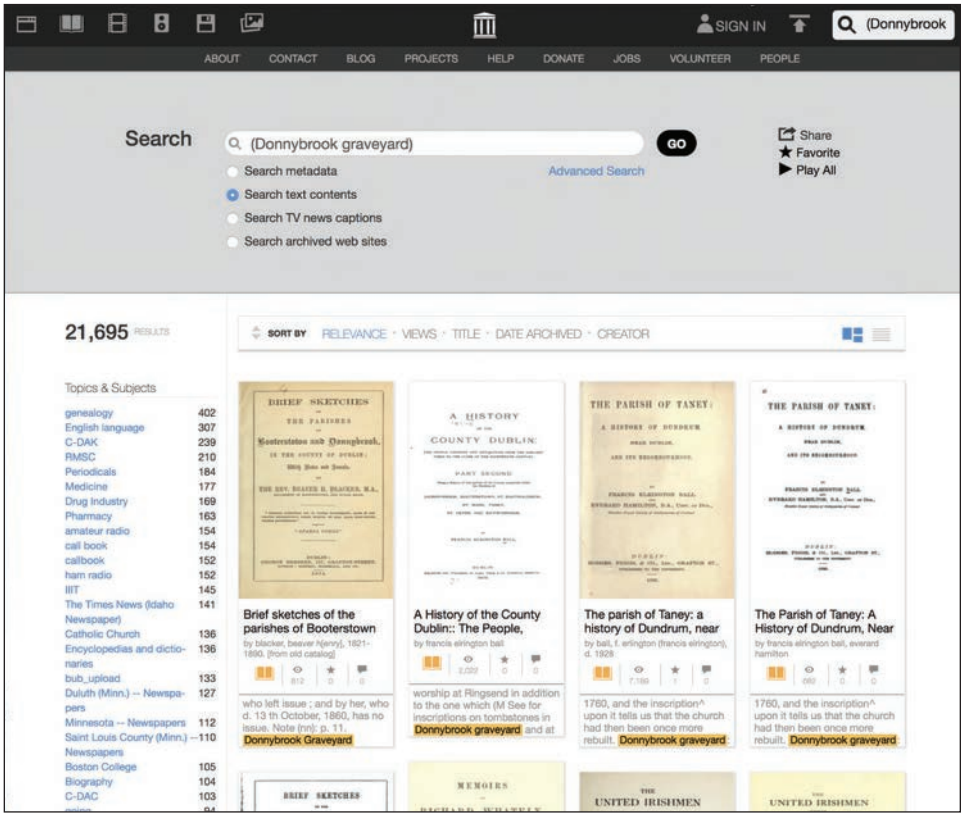
Repeating the "Donnybrook" "graveyard" search in *HathiTrust* full-text search resulted in 15,083 hits, with 7,801 hits for resources available in full view. (Alternatively, I could have searched catalog entries.) As at *Internet Archive*, the search hits included county and parish histories, society journals, family genealogies, and more. Each entry allows you to view either the catalog entry for the item (which, in turn, has a link allowing you



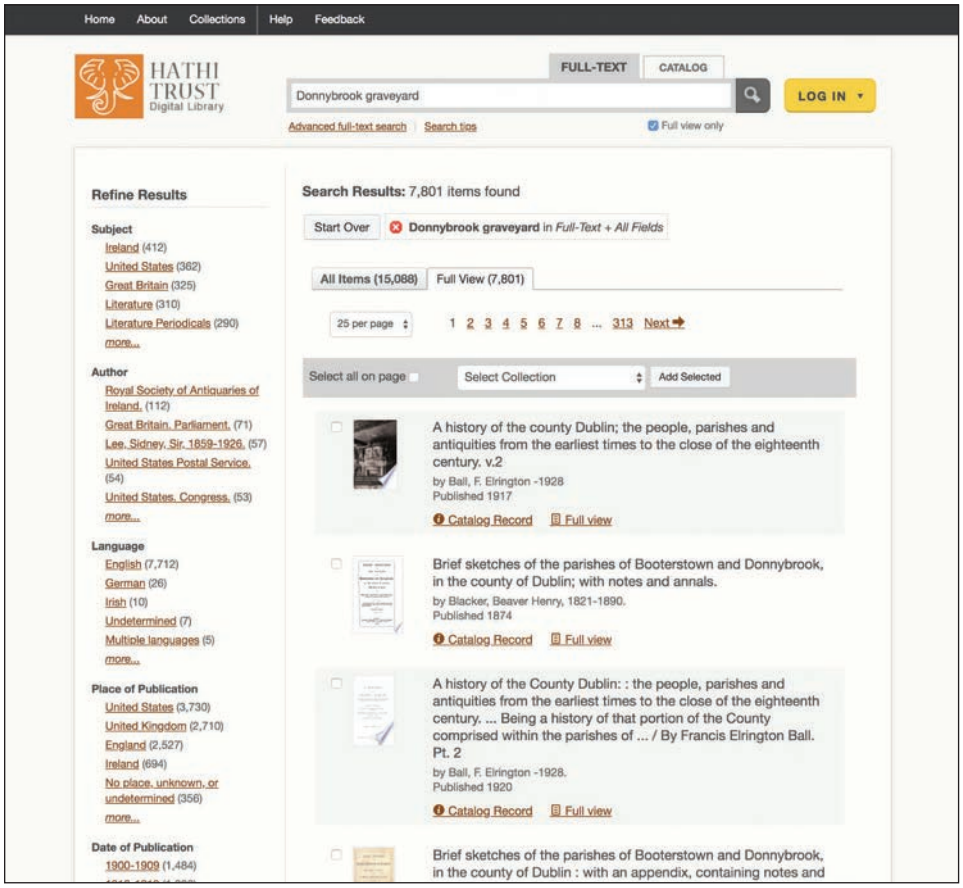
Google Parliamentary Papers hit



Google Parliamentary Papers detail



Internet Archive search results



Hathi Trust search results



Trinity College Dublin digital collections

to find the item in a library or access full- and limited-view digitized versions) or the digitized item itself.

In 2018, I wrote that *Google Play*, *Internet Archive*, and *HathiTrust* are the "big three" of digitized book sites, but there are many others. For example, the *FamilySearch* website includes many digitized books, findable from the Books search on the Search tab and from the Family History Library catalog. The Wisconsin Historical Society has a large collection of digitized Wisconsin county histories, findable by Googling "Wisconsin county histories." Or Google "Ireland digitized books" to access digitized materials from the National Library of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, and other providers.

In 2022, I would revise that paragraph by separating *FamilySearch* digitized books into its own category. The *FamilySearch* digital library, accessible from the Search tab by selecting Books from the dropdown menu, contains over 500,000 genealogy books, family histories, maps, yearbooks, and more. Repeating my "Donnybrook" "Ireland" search here resulted in 209,708 search results.

If you haven't used these resources, try several different sites. You'll soon find your own favorite way to access digitized books! (Excuse me, I have to go view the *Book of Kells* at Trinity College Dublin's digital collections now.)

The Key to *Google Books*: Strategic Searches

by Kathleen O'Malley Strickland

Is it possible to digitize and make public no less than all the contents of all libraries everywhere? At one time, the Google company considered it. While not attaining that goal, the company's *Google Books* nevertheless scanned more than 40 million books, with about 10 million of those available to read and download in PDF format.

The *Google Books* collection includes publications to read and download, previews of books you may be able to buy or to find in other libraries, government publications, community organization documents and more. It also holds some older issues of magazines, including *Ancestry*, the *Genealogical Helper*, the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and the *New England Genealogical Register*.

How to Search

Google Books works best when you are logged in to a Google account.

To get the most out of searching *Google Books*, it helps to keep in mind a specific question you want to answer along with a list of names with variations and a collection of key words: events, dates, places. During your search, the focus of the question may change. You may have to rearrange the words in your queries, deleting some to loosen the restrictions or adding more to narrow down results. You can also search for a given book title to see if it is available to read online at *Google Books*.

It can be difficult to manage a *Google Books* search for a specific person, unless the person was well-known—through status, occupation, notoriety etc. However, searching for a family name may turn up published genealogies. To facilitate a search for family names and specific people, first search for a place or event connected to them, and then search for the name within the resulting books and other publications. I searched, for instance, on a diphtheria epidemic in Canada, and then narrowed the search with the family name and town. Government publications I discovered contained the records of doctors who went into isolated settlements to check on families stricken with diphtheria. These doctors often recorded not only the names, but also descriptions of the family, their dwellings and the surroundings (access to water, distance to travel to purchase goods).

Queries

There are two entry points to *Google Books*:

- Books.google.com brings up a search bar. Enter search terms, for instance: Irish immigration Canada. Then begin working through these results. On the results page you can click the gear icon on the upper right of the screen and choose advanced search.
- Go directly to books.google.com/advanced_book_search to use the advanced search.

Queries produce four categories of views:

- **Read**: Click on a result with a "read" button and you'll reach the book's information page, where you can read the contents free of charge, download the item as a PDF, search inside, and download to "My Library." A "full view" button allows you to read the contents, but it cannot be downloaded.
- **Preview**: While not providing an entire book, the previews and snippets show some of the contents that reflect your query.
    - Click on Preview and the information page comes up. Go to Search Inside, add your search terms, and results will show you where in the book your key words appear.
    - Some of the pages may be viewable, with varying amounts of text as specified by the publisher. These pages will pick up your search term from "search within this publication." Previews cannot be downloaded or copied.
- **Snippet**: Provides a sentence or two corresponding to your query.
- **No Preview**: Even a No Preview result provides bibliographic information and an opportunity to buy or borrow the item. The references to libraries and bibliographies are useful wayfinders to additional information that may help in your research.

Anatomy of a Search

I created a search to find information about the Callaghan families who sailed from County Cork to Ontario, Canada, in 1825 with a group of several hundred destitute families who had received grants of land for farming in an area about midway between Toronto and Ottawa. The place became Peterborough County, Ontario, named after Peter Robinson, who was chosen by the British government to manage the choice, travel and settlement of the immigrants.

The Simple Search Box

- Enter Peterborough County in the box.
- At the top of the page, click "Any view" and from the dropdown menu click "Full view." This shows only publications that are wholly readable and can sometimes be downloaded as a PDF. Notice that each time a page is displayed from a publication, Google creates an overview page containing publishing details, table of contents, links to other contents, citations and so forth.
- Several items are promising.
    - *History of the County of Peterborough, Ontario*, published in 1884. Clicking on it, an overlay of the book title page appears. Clicking on the X at the top right of the screen closes the image and reveals the information page. At the top of the page, in the "search inside" box, I perform three separate searches: Calahan, Callahan, and Callaghan. Under Callaghan, two results from the book describe land granted to the family of Timothy Callaghan and that granted to Eugene Callaghan.
    - *A Sketch of the Early Settlement and Subsequent Progress of the Town of Peterborough* by Thomas W. Poole, 1867. Searching on Callaghan brings up Miss Mary Ann O'Callaghan, a teacher at the local Roman Catholic School.

The Advanced Search Boxes

- Enter Peterborough County in the "with all the words" box.
- Add "Irish" to the Exact Phrase box.
- At the top of the page, click "**any view**" and choose "**Limited preview and full view**." Results may show readable access, downloadable PDFs and previews containing partial contents.
- A **Preview** result, *The Ordinary People of Essex: Environment, Culture, and Economy of the Frontier of Upper Canada* by John Clarke, shows PDF results of the book's index when searching inside for "Peterborough." These results provide the names of publications with possible new avenues for research on the Peterborough settlement, including pioneer farm life.
- A result that shows "**snippet view**" returns up to three results of a sentence or two with your search term.
    - *Peterborough Connections: the Dorans of Ireland and Ontario* shows several snippets, while there are actually 86 results in the full book.
    - Checking WorldCat brings up a couple of libraries that hold this book and the possibility of interlibrary loan.
- Some results, in a search for "**Any view**," are labeled "**No preview**." Changing this search from "**Limited Preview and Full view**" to "**Any view**" shows a book *Frontier Propinquity*, which offers bibliographic information but nothing else.

Expand the Search

Add a bit to the search by typing "history" into the space for "subject" and choose "full view." *The Irish in America* by John Francis McGuire turns up. Published in 1868, the book devotes a section to the Irish immigrants who settled Peterborough, Ontario. Choose:

- "Read free of charge" and then search within the book for references to Peterborough.
- Buy the book from Amazon, AbeBooks or OnDemand Books.
- Borrow the book from a local library, or look for it on WorldCat.
- "Download PDF" to download the book.
- "Search inside" for terms such as Peterborough or immigration.
- "Add to My Library" lets you save the book in your personal *Google Books* library.

Modify the Search:

- With all of the words: Upper Canada
- With the exact phrase: Peterborough
- With at least one of the words: irish immigration pioneer

Leave *history* in the subject box.

Click "limited preview and full view," and note the resulting preview of *Ontario and Quebec's Irish Pioneers: Farmers, Labourers and Lumberjacks* by Lucille H. Campey, published in 2018. The preview items are intriguing. I could buy the book from Google Play or see if I can borrow it first. Checking out WorldCat, I see that a local library has a copy.

Tips:

Make a list of as many terms related to your search as you can. A few examples:

- Limit the time period, such as 1850-1950.
- Historical events (Civil War, epidemics, natural disasters)
- County history
- Family name (need to search on alternate spellings)

- Nationality, country of origin
- Location (town, county, region)
- Immigration
- Occupation
- Religion, churches
- Genealogy, History, Family History

Create a citation: On the overview page of the publication, in "About this Edition," click "Create Citation" and then Copy.

Add any item to "My Library": When you are logged in to a Google account, you can create a personal library in *Google Books* to organize your search results, avoid repeat searches, and save your downloaded material. To add an item from your research, click on the title and then click "Add to your library." Within the library, you can organize material by "bookshelf" and designate whether the shelf is public or private.

Be persistent! *Google Books* does not provide the easiest search features; looking at multiple combinations of terms can take a lot of time. However, with patience and careful searching, *Google Books* can turn up useful and sometimes unexpected material for your family history, as well as an abundance of other sources to follow up. Give it a try — you may find gold!

Kathy Strickland has a degree in History from North Central College in Naperville, IL, and is a freelance editor and writer, former editor of the Illinois State Genealogical Quarterly. *She has researched her family tree for many years and particularly likes writing vignettes about ancestors, both hers and other people's. She also enjoys researching sources and helping others to access them.*



Join IGSI at the Minnesota Irish Fair

August 12-14 at Harriet Island

We are looking for friendly IGSI members who live in the Twin Cities area to share the word about IGSI programs and services at the Irish Fair.

Sign on to help for 4-hour shifts:

Friday 2pm – 6pm

Saturday 10am – 2pm, 2pm – 6pm

Sunday 10am – 2pm, 2pm – 6pm

Three volunteers per shift can

- Visit with IGSI members and the Twin Cities Irish Community
- Share information about IGSI
- Enjoy food, music and everything Irish before or after your shift
- And maybe even connect with cousins and add to your family tree!

Email Volunteers@IrishGenealogical.org if you want to help!

Volunteers who sign up for four hours will be eligible for a free pass for the day they volunteer.

*Sign up **now** to volunteer at the Irish Fair!*

A Tale of Two Saints: My Connection to the *Book of Armagh*

by Rob[t.] Flanagan Stieglitz

The *Book of Armagh* (also known as the *Canon of Patrick and the Liber Ardmachanus*) is a priceless Irish manuscript written by the monastic scribe, Ferdomnach, in Armagh around the year 807 AD. It contains 6 pieces of writing:[1]

- A life of St Patrick written by Muirchu
- A Memoir of St Patrick's Mission by Tirechan
- *Liber Angeli* (*The Book of the Angel*) concerning the rights and usages of the Church of Armagh
- The Confession of St Patrick
- The complete New Testament
- A life of St Martin of Tours.

The book is on display at Trinity College Library in Dublin. Little did I know when I began researching my ancestry, I would find a connection to this celebrated Irish manuscript.

My mother was Virginia M. Flanagan (1922-2002), a third generation Irish American with all her great-grandparents having been born in Ireland. I asked my mother's first cousin, a male Flanagan, to have his Y-DNA tested. "A Y chromosome DNA test (Y-DNA test) is a genealogical DNA test which is used to explore a man's patrilineal or direct father's-line ancestry."[2] This test would trace my grandfather Flanagan's male lineage back 1000s of years. The results were fascinating, and the report stated: "A recent study was conducted at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, which found that a striking percent of men in Ireland (and quite a few in Scotland) share the same Y chromosome, suggesting that the 5th-century warlord known as Niall of the Nine Hostages may be the ancestor of one in 12 Irishmen. Niall established a dynasty of powerful chieftains that dominated the island for six centuries. Your Y chromosome matches this profile!"[3] "Legend has it that it was Niall of the Nine Hostages who, on a raid in Wales, captured a 16-year-old boy named Maewyn Succat and brought him to Ireland. He was enslaved for six years but would later escape and go on to become Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick."[4] Whether this legend with Patrick is true or not, my genetic connection to this semi-mythical Irish king is.

My great-uncle, Thomas B. Tighe (1907-1983), brother to my grandmother, Anna C. Flanagan née Tighe (1903-1978), was a journalist and a newspaper editor in Asbury Park, New Jersey. He visited Ireland in 1965 where he recorded his travels in a journal. On May 24, 1965, he visited Trinity College Dublin to view the *Book of Armagh* only to find the book was not on display at the time. After speaking with a guard and then a Reference Librarian, he was taken to where the book was being stored and given permission to photograph it. The reason for the Trinity staff to oblige him was stated in his journal. He explained that my grandmother's great-grandmother, Mary Weir, and her family at one time were the Hereditary Keepers of the *Book of Armagh*.[5] In addition to his handwritten entry in his journal, he included a three-page typed addendum entitled "The WEIR Family and the *Book of Armagh*."[6]

The connection with the family and an Irish saint has to do with the last Hereditary Keeper of the *Book of Armagh*, Florence MacMoyer.[7] Weir is an angelized version of MacMoyer.[8] MacMoyer, a school-teacher, and his cousin John MacMoyer (Moyer, Weyer), a Franciscan friar, were perjured witnesses against Archbishop Oliver Plunkett, who was falsely accused of treason in 1681. Oliver Plunkett was an Irish Catholic priest born in Loughcrew in County Meath, Ireland. Both enemies of Plunkett, Florence had to sell the *Book of Armagh* for five pounds to secure money to travel to England and testify at his trial.[9] Plunkett was put to death because of their testimony. He was canonized St. Oliver on October 12, 1975.[10]

These stories cannot be authenticated, but a fascinating family legend has been born surrounding this 9th-century Irish manuscript and two Irish Catholic Saints!



Image from article "St Patrick: The Legend and the Bishop," in History Ireland*, 19 Feb 2013 (https://www.historyireland.com/st-patrick-the-legend-and-the-bishop/ : accessed 24 Feb 2022); image used with permission of* History Ireland*, 20 Apr 2022.*



""*Saint Oliver Plunkett,*" Saint Oliver Plunkett.com, *National Shrine to Saint Oliver Plunkett, Saint Peter's Church, Drogheda, County Louth, Ireland, copyright approval via email Apr 2022 (http://www.saintoliver-plunkett.com/ : accessed 24 Feb 2022).*

Endnotes

[1] "Book Exhibition - the Book of Armagh," *Armagh Robinson Library* & No 5, n.d. (https://armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk/collections/past-exhibitions-and-displays/the-book-of-armagh/ : accessed 24 Feb 2022).

[2] "Y Chromosome DNA Tests — ISOGG Wiki," *Isogg.org*, 201. (https://isogg.org/wiki/Y_chromosome_DNA_tests : accessed 24 Feb 2022).

[3] "FamilyTreeDNA - Genetic Testing for Ancestry, Family History & Genealogy," *Family Tree DNA*, Matching Niall Of The Nine Hostages Match (https://www.familytreedna.com/my/match-niall.aspx : accessed 24 Feb 2022).

[4] "Three Million People in the World Are Descended from One Irish High King," *IrishCentral.com*, 9 Jun 2020 (https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/niall-of-the-nine-hostages-descendants : accessed 24 Feb 2022).

[5] Thomas B. Tighe, *Diary of My Trip to Ireland*, 20 May 1965, pp. 33-34 of 68 pages, Mary Weir and the Hereditary Keepers of the *Book Of Armagh*, copy stored digitally on Family Tree Maker owned by Robert Flanagan Stieglitz, Fargo, ND.

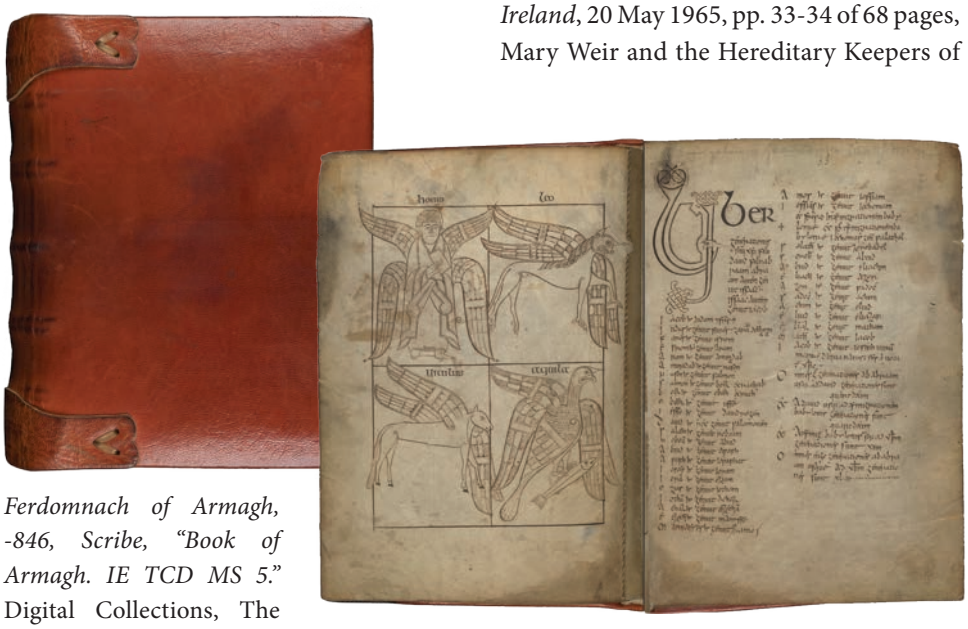
[6] Tighe, Diary of My Trip to Ireland, 20 May 1965, addendum, The WEIR Family and the Book of Armagh.

[7] "Florence MacMoyer — Irish Biography," *Library of Ireland* (https://www.libraryireland.com/biography/FlorenceMacMoyer.php : accessed 24 Feb 2022).

[8] John Grenham, "Irish Genealogy Records for the Surname MacMoyer/Mhaoir," *johngrenham.com* (https://www.johngrenham.com/findasurname.php?surname=Mac%20an%20Mhaoir : accessed 24 Feb 2022).

[9] "MacMoyer (Moyer, Weyer), John ('Fr Francis' 'Maor Na Canoine') | Dictionary of Irish Biography," *Dictionary of Irish Biography.ie* (https://www.dib.ie/biography/macmoyer-moyer-weyer-john-fr-francis-maor-na-canoine-a5268 : accessed 24 Feb 2022).

[10] "12 October 1975: Canonization of the Irish Martyr Oliviero Plunkett | Paul VI," *Vatican.va*. (https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/homilies/1975/documents/hf_p-vi_hom_19751012.html : accessed 24 Feb 2022).



Ferdomnach of Armagh, -846, Scribe, "Book of Armagh. IE TCD MS 5." Digital Collections, The Library of Trinity College Dublin, *2022, used with permission of The Board of Trinity College Dublin granted via email to Robert Flanagan Stieglitz on 19 Apr 2022.* (https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/concern/works/3j333696h?locale=en : accessed 14 Apr 2022).

Rob Flanagan Stieglitz was born in New Jersey and is now happily retired in Minnesota for most of the year. He started researching his family history in 1999, is a graduate of the Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate Program, and has had articles published in The New York Researcher, Irish Lives Remembered, *and* Irish Roots.

Working with Autosomal DNA Results, Part 2: Your Match List

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

When you receive the results of your autosomal DNA test from your testing company, they come to you in two parts: an ethnicity analysis and a match list. In the last issue we took a quick look at the ethnicity analysis part, including genetic communities and chromosome painting of ethnicity results. In this issue we'll look at how to approach your match list.

Each testing company uses a slightly different name for its match list. *Ancestry* and *MyHeritage* call it "DNA Matches". *Family Tree DNA* (*FTDNA*) calls it "Family Finder Matches". *23andMe* calls it "DNA Relatives", and *LivingDNA* calls it "Relatives". Our last issue provided a table pointing to the exact location of the match list on each website's DNA pages at the time the article was written — testing companies periodically redesign their websites.

We'll look at three steps you can follow: familiarizing yourself with match lists, understanding the tools your testing company provides, and working with your matches. Doing these three things will get you up and running. Should you test or upload DNA results to a different site, you'll need to repeat the steps to get yourself up to speed on the new site.

Familiarize Yourself With Match Lists

Match lists look different at each testing company, but they have common components. At all testing companies you can expect to see these pieces of information for each match:

- The name or pseudonym of the match
- The match's sex (often shown by a male or female avatar or a photo added by the match)
- The amount of DNA shared, expressed in centiMorgans[1] (*Ancestry*, *FTDNA*, *MyHeritage*, *LivingDNA*) or percent (*Ancestry*, *23andMe*, *LivingDNA*)
- A predicted relationship or relationship range
- A place to enter notes about the match

Match lists at several companies include additional features:

- *Ancestry* and *FTDNA* can designate matches as maternal or paternal.
- *Ancestry* and *FTDNA* indicate whether matches have trees linked to their DNA kit. *Ancestry* uses trees linked to test kits to suggest common ancestors.
- *FTDNA* includes ancestral surnames if entered by the tester, indicates whether the tester has taken other tests in addition to the autosomal Family Finder test, and shows Y- and mitochondrial haplogroups when available. *FTDNA* also indicates whether there is a match on the X-chromosome and shows the longest block of shared DNA. The *FTDNA* match page offers two options for viewing, detail view and table view, that you can switch between.
- *MyHeritage* indicates the number of shared segments, the largest segment, whether the match appears in your family tree or in another tree on its site. It also tells whether the trees have Smart Matches,[2] whether the trees have ancestral places in common, and whether there is a Theory of Family Relativity[3] for the match.
- *Ancestry* and *MyHeritage* allow you to star the match (indicating that it is significant to you) or assign it a color dot.[4]
- *MyHeritage* and *LivingDNA* show your match's country of origin. *LivingDNA* shows how active each match is on the site and indicates how many matches you share with a given match.

The figure on the next page illustrates match lists from *Ancestry*, *23andMe*, *FTDNA*, and *MyHeritage*. The test kit shown belongs to the author's husband and is used with his permission.

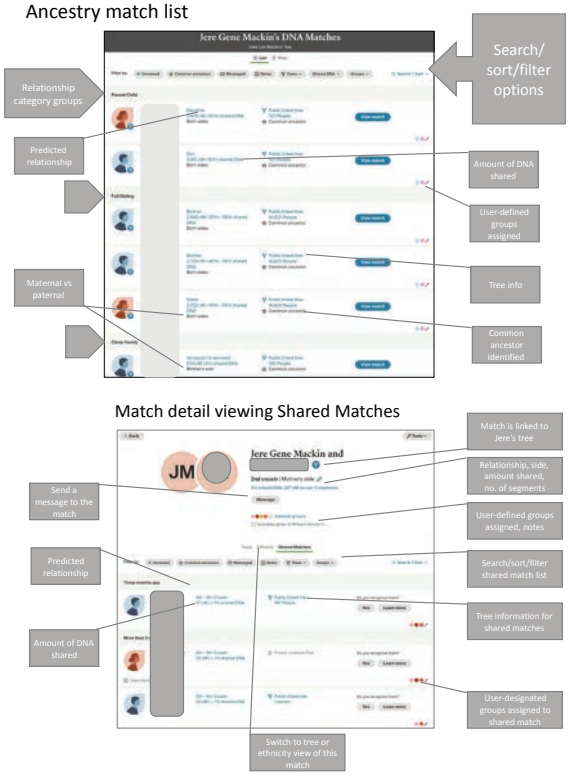
Understand the Tools Your Testing Company Provides

All testing companies give you a set of tools; the toolset you get depends on which company you've tested at. We'll look now at some of the common tools.

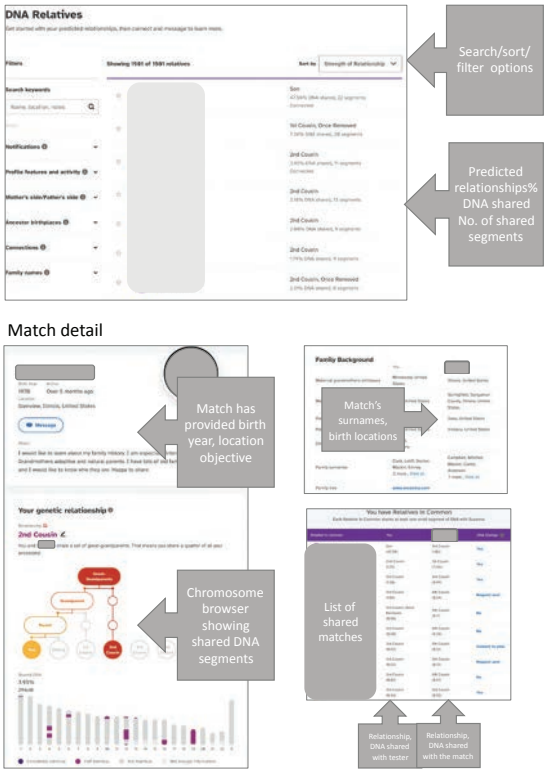
Shared/in common with matches. All the testing companies give you a way to see other testers who match both you and the match you are viewing. This feature may be called Shared Matches (*Ancestry*, *MyHeritage*, *LivingDNA*), Shared Relatives (*23andMe*), or In Common With Matches (*FTDNA*). *FTDNA* also offers the opposite of shared matches with its Not In Common With tool.

Shared matches can be very useful in identifying unknown matches. For example, if you click the Shared Matches tool for an unknown match, you may discover that

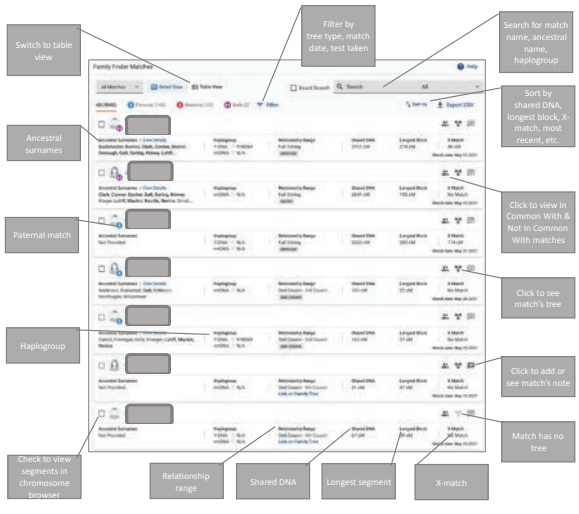
Ancestry match list



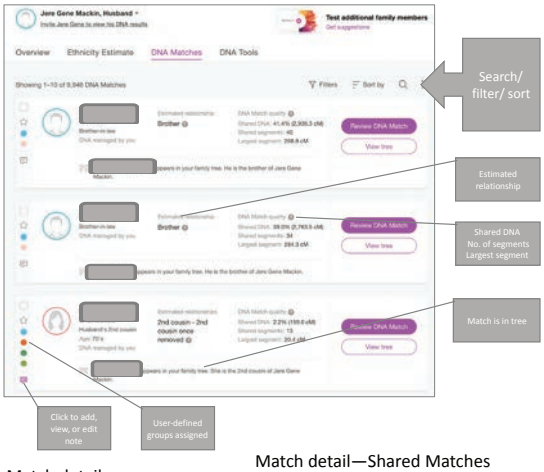
23andMe match list



FTDNA match list (detail view)



MyHeritage match list



Examples of match lists from Ancestry, 23andMe, FTDNA *and* MyHeritage *and some detail pages. Comment notes by author explain some of the features of each group as displayed on their page.*

you share one or more of your known matches with the unknown. This suggests that the unknown match is descended from the same part of your family as your known match. Depending on the composition of your tree and whether your parents' ancestries are distinct from each other, you may be able to use shared matches to determine whether unknown matches are paternal or maternal.

At *FTDNA*, you can use the Not In Common With feature similarly; say your match list includes a known paternal cousin. Selecting Not In Common With matches for that cousin will identify matches who are not related to the part of your family you share with your cousin.

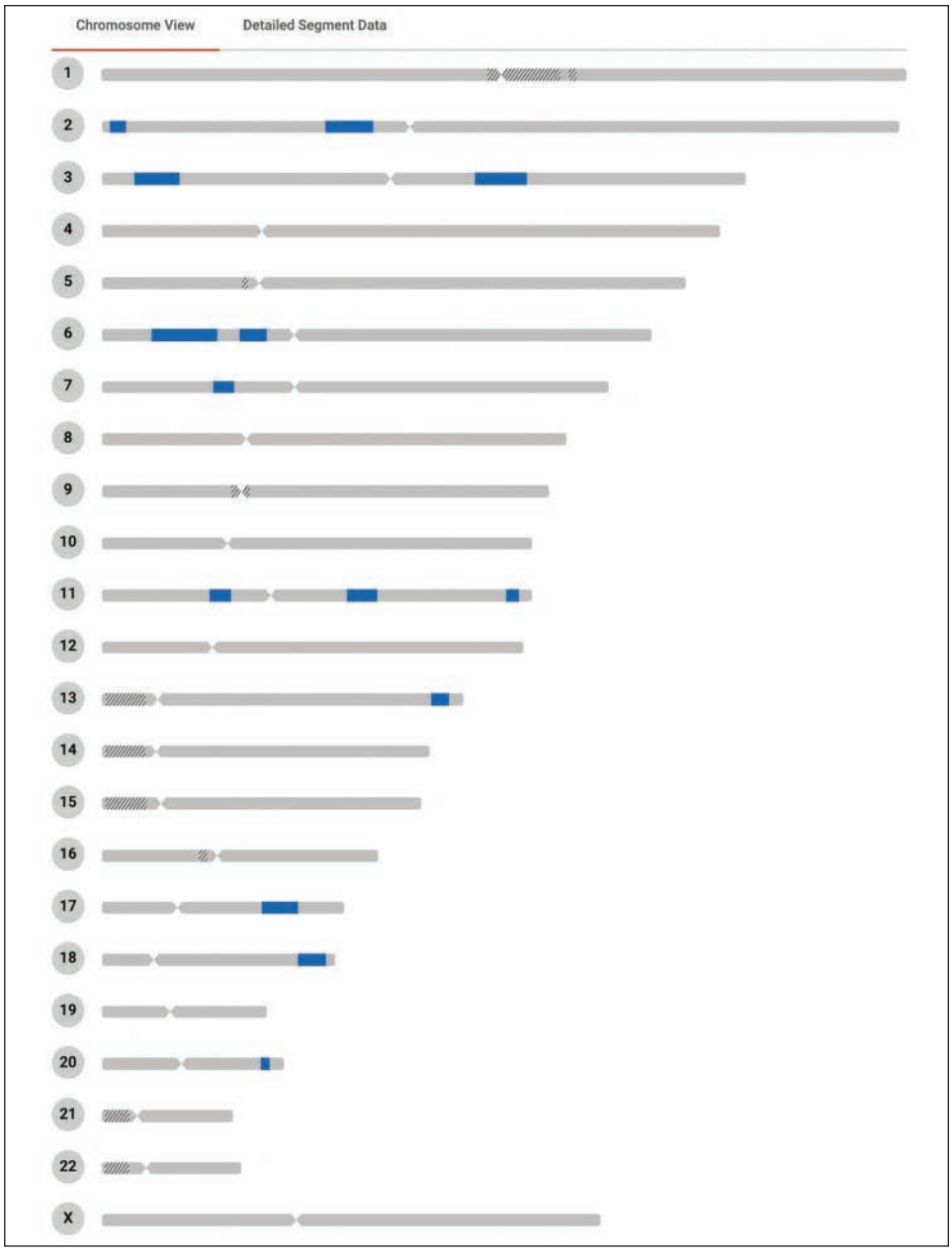
The shared matches feature at *MyHeritage* and *23andMe* provides additional information, showing how much DNA you share and how much your match shares with each of the shared matches. This is quite useful!

Chromosome browsers. If you tested at *23andMe*, *FTDNA*, or *MyHeritage*, you have access to a tool called a chromosome browser. This tool provides a graphic representation of the tester's chromosomes, with the DNA segments shared with one or several matches highlighted. Chromosome browsers often include a table of matching segments or another way of giving you the exact start and stop points and the length of the matching DNA segments shown. *23andMe* and *FTDNA* include all 23 chromosome pairs in their chromosome browser; *MyHeritage* includes only the 22 autosome pairs and excludes the X-chromosome. The illustration below shows the chromosome browsers from *MyHeritage* and *FTDNA* comparing the tester to a second cousin. *23andMe*'s chromosome browser is shown in the illustration of *23andMe*'s match list above.

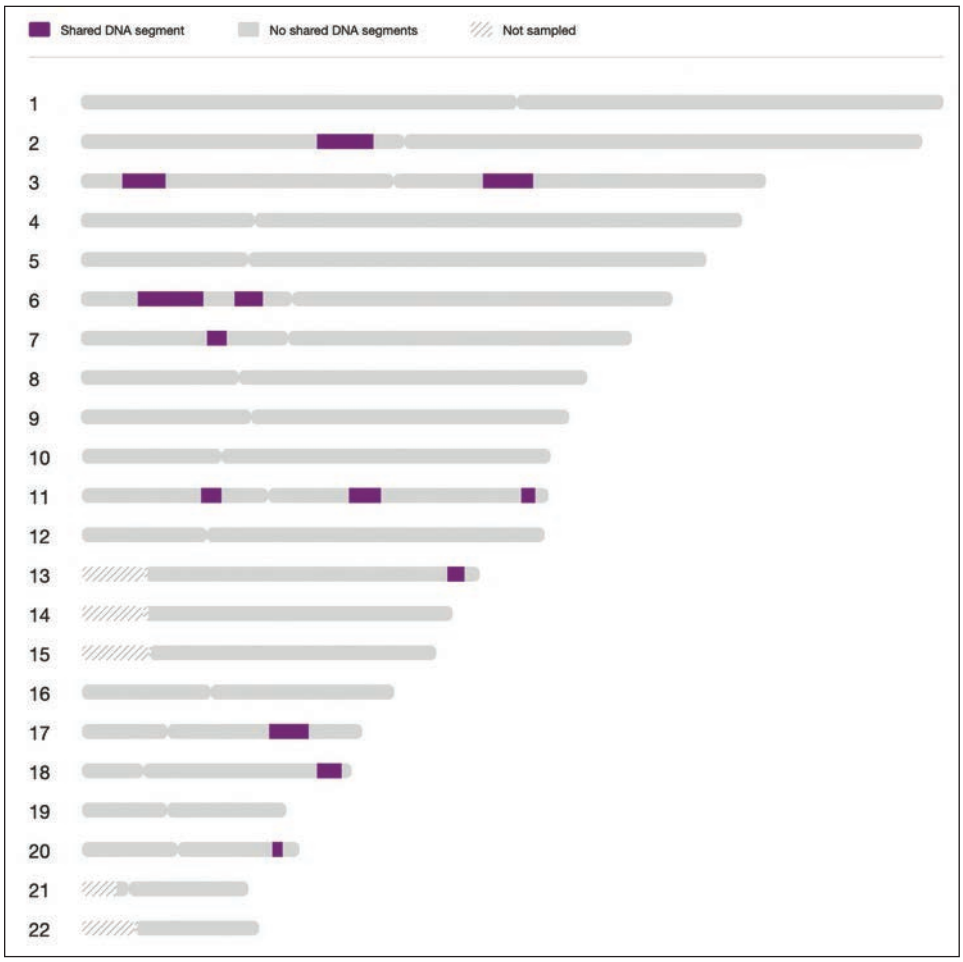
Searching, sorting, and filtering tools. All of the testing companies offer some method of searching, sorting, and filtering matches. Typically, you can search your match list for particular names or surnames. If your testing company provides trees, you may also be able to search for matches with trees and/or search match trees for surnames or locations. Sorting options typically include newest or unviewed matches, largest matches, and strength of relationship.

Work With Your Matches

1. Take a few minutes to **become familiar with your testing company's match list** — you'll need to know what information it contains and how it's laid out. *FTDNA*'s match list is one level; the basic view gives access to all the information for a match. *Ancestry*, *23andMe*, and *MyHeritage* have multi-level views — a summary list view, plus a detailed view of each individual match accessed through a View Match



FTDNA chromosome browser



MyHeritage chromosome browser

button. If you're on a multi-level site, click a few matches to learn what you see in the detail view. Try out your testing company's searching and sorting options, and find out where and how to access tools such as Shared Matches or chromosome browsers. As you explore, take advantage of your testing company's Help buttons and links.

2. Begin to **look at your matches**, starting with the largest ones.

3. **Identify matches you already know.** Does your match list include relatives you recognize? If so, use the notes feature provided by your testing company to record who this match is and how they're related to you. You may want to include the names of the ancestral couple you share with your known match. If you're using *Ancestry* or *MyHeritage*, consider whether to assign a star or a color dot to the match, for example, a dot for maternal matches or a dot for paternal matches. Finally, if the known match is not in your tree at *Ancestry*, *MyHeritage*, or *Family Tree DNA*, add them; this will enhance the testing company's ability to identify matches as maternal or paternal; these designations, in turn, will help you identify unknown matches.

4. Use match trees, shared matches, and *Ancestry* suggestions of common ancestors to **identify the larger[5] matches you don't know**. If the unknown match's tree contains an ancestor you share with the match, and the amount of DNA you share is suitable for the relationship suggested by the ancestor match, you've just identified a new cousin! If there is no tree, a tree that's very limited in size, or a completely private tree, turn to the matches you share with the unknown match. If the shared matches list includes one or more of your known matches, you can conclude that the unknown match is probably related through the same part of your tree as the known matches. If *Ancestry* or *MyHeritage* has suggested common ancestors, either through a ThruLine or a Theory of Family Relativity, review the connections. ThruLines and Theories of Family Relativity are based on trees, and trees may contain errors, so you need to review and verify the suggested relationship! As you are reviewing an unknown match, be sure to look at the match's profile. Profiles can include photos (clues to a match's age), birth dates, residences, indications of genealogical interests, and objectives for testing. Don't forget to use the notes feature to record notes about your observations and conclusions.

5. **Send messages** to matches you want to pursue. These could be matches connected to important problems you are working on, matches you can't quite identify, or matches you want to contact for some other reason. Make your first contact friendly. Include specifics about the match, especially on *FTDNA*, where you are contacting matches through the personal email they supplied. Include the name of the match kit you are writing about, the name of your matching kit (this is especially important if you manage more than one kit), and something about the match (but not necessary the number of cM, as some testers might not know what that means). Provide surnames and places associated with the families you think the match is connected to. If your company has its own internal messaging system (*Ancestry*, *23andMe*, *MyHeritage*, and *LivingDNA*), consider including your

personal email if you are comfortable giving it to a stranger.

As you work with your match list, you will be able to identify more and more of your matches. Each match you identify will help you identify other matches. As you work, be sure to use notes and dot systems — they are excellent, quick ways of recording what you've already figured out about individual matches.

Endnotes

[1] "In genetic genealogy, a centiMorgan (cM)… is a unit of recombinant frequency which is used to measure genetic distance. It is often used to imply distance along a chromosome… The number of base pairs to which it corresponds varies widely across the genome (different regions of a chromosome have different propensities towards crossover). One centiMorgan corresponds to about 1 million base pairs in humans on average." "CentiMorgan," *ISOGG wiki* (https://isogg.org/wiki/CentiMorgan : accessed 20 June 2022).

[2] SmartMatches are a result of automated comparison of people in your family tree with people in other family trees on *MyHeritage*. They also result from comparison of people in your tree with people in records on *MyHeritage*. Users must confirm or reject each Smart Match.

[3] Theories of Family Relativity (TFR) are similar to Ancestry's ThruLines. They suggest possible ways you may be connected with a match by comparing trees. Unlike ThruLines, TRFs show the path of connection between you and your match, which can extend through multiple trees on *MyHeritage* and *FamilySearch*.

[4] Color dots are user-defined labels you can use to filter your matches. You create your own categories, assigning a color to each one, then assign the various categories to individual matches. Filtering by a dot category brings up only the matches you have assigned to that category. You can use this feature any way you like. For example, you could assign dot categories for Maternal and Paternal matches, family surnames, family lines (paternal grandfather's family, paternal grandmother's family, etc.), or problems you are working on.

[5] What does "larger" mean? Generally speaking, you'll definitely want to work with matches in the thousands or hundreds of centiMorgans, and you'll likely want to examine matches down to about 30 centiMorgans. Today's databases give many of us so many matches that we may be overwhelmed if we try to work with matches less than 30 cM. Be aware that very small matches — less than 7 cM — have an increased likelihood of being false matches. If small matches tempt you, read Blaine Bettinger's "A Small Segment Round-up," 29 December 2017, *The Genetic Genealogist* (https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2017/12/29/a-small-segment-round-up/ : accessed 21 June 2022). My own practice is to work mainly with larger matches, exploring matches less than 25–30 cM only when they are connected with a problem or a particular family that I'm working on.

Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*



The Minnesota Irish Fair

August 12 – 14 at Harriet Island

The Irish Fair will again be held at Harriet Island in St. Paul. According to Fair publicity:

Our 2022 Irish Fair is going to be bigger and better than ever! We are putting together a fantastic line-up of international, national and local music, dance, storytelling, sports, children's activities, cultural exhibits, marketplace activities and more.

And IGSI will be part of this annual event. Look for our booth. Stop and say hello. Better yet, plan to help us staff the IGSI booth that weekend.

E-book Review: *Sources for Irish Family History — 2021*

Reviewed by Mary Wickersham

Have you ever wondered whether you were the first to research your family history? Did someone else write about your ancestors in the past? Genealogy is not a new undertaking, as you will find in *Sources for Irish Family History: A listing of books and articles on the history of Irish families*, 2021 Edition, compiled by James G. Ryan.

As a bibliography, *Sources* lists "books, monographs and periodical papers dealing with specific Irish families." This second edition is a welcome update to the first (2001). This second edition is a welcome update to the first (2001). Its 282 pages include 65,000 references relating to 2500 families.

IGSI has a copy of the first edition in our library collection, but this new Sources will not be found on our shelves. Flyleaf Press, the publishing arm of Ancestor Network Ltd., published this new edition of Sources as an e-book only. You can purchase and download it from them https://www.ancestornetwork.ie/product/sources-2021/ for €18 (about $19 US).

The book is in EPUB format (using ".epub" file extension). *Ancestor Network* notes that EPUB is not compatible with Kindle and some other e-book tools; it recommends that readers use Calibre [https://calibre-ebook.com/]. Calibre is free for Windows PC, Mac, iOS, Android, and Windows-compatible portable memory devices (e.g., thumb drives).

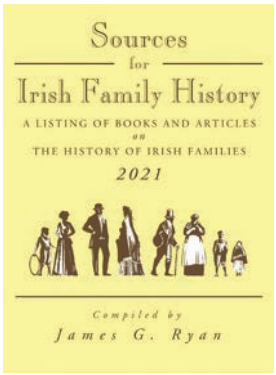
Sources' layout is straightforward: the table of contents provides links to each of the book's chapters. Chapters are titled with the initial of the surnames. Hunt for your surnames, but don't miss the valuable content in the opening chapters:

- introduction
- points to note on the contents
- explanation of the sources used and how to find the original source
- how to submit entries, and
- definitions of abbreviations.

In "Points to Note on the Contents", Ryan helpfully lists sources for large collections of pedigrees and genealogies which are not repeated in *Sources*, encouraging readers to investigate those resources separately.

As you scan the book and find items of interest, you will need to seek the original publications. If no online resource is provided, refer to the earlier chapters (Abbreviations; Finding the Original Source) to locate print publications in libraries or other repositories. For resources in online repositories, links are provided. As you visit each linked website you will need to search again using each site's tools — "deep" links are not provided, as those are subject to change without notice.

In Calibre, use your device's Find command (Ctrl+F on a PC; Command+F on a Mac) to quickly search within the book to find relevant content. My own search led me to entertaining articles in early 1902 genealogy publications on Internet Archive. Back to searching within this valuable resource!



Sources for Irish Family History: A listing of books and articles on the history of Irish families, compiled by James G. Ryan. 2021 Edition. Ancestor Network (e-book).

Book Review: *Scots-Irish Links, Consolidated Edition, in Two Volumes*

Reviewed by Gigi Hickey

While this issue's theme is "Online Books," it may be timely to remind ourselves that we should not expect to find everything online. Non-digital books — printed on paper, bound, and located on shelves in libraries and bookstores — can be important sources of information.

That's certainly true of David Dobson's 2022 publication, *Scots-Irish Links, Consolidated Edition, in Two Volumes*. Widely recognized as an authority on Scottish emigration, Dobson has published over 150 books for Genealogical.com.

His Scots-Irish Links booklets, the first of which was published in 1994, were compiled overwhelmingly from primary source material located in Scotland with the objective of providing potential links for making Scots-Irish connections. The series ultimately grew to 17 Parts. That collection is now consolidated into two big softcover volumes, each with over 900 pages. Also included in the second volume are two previously-unpublished Parts: *Scots-Irish Links, 1825-1900, Part Two* and *Addendum to Later Scots-Irish Links, 1725-1825*.

Dobson's transcriptions about the Scots-Irish, aka the Ulster Scots, were based on research in the National Records of Scotland, the National Library of Scotland, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, the National Archives of the UK, and the University of St. Andrews.

These consolidated books are facsimile reprints of the seventeen Parts, meaning they retain the title pages, copyright pages, introductions, and lists of References and Abbreviations that originally appeared when each Part was published. Many of the entries are based on primary sources which themselves should provide further useful material. References identify publication, volume and folio number, or the archive, and the documentary details. For example, some of the references are to wills, testaments, deeds or sasines (i.e., property), which may render vital details.

But, best of all, each volume includes a comprehensive index of names at the back. No longer do researchers have to look at each of the 17 separate Parts to ensure they've exhausted the search for a specific name.

My family history connection to Scotland is through Henry McKlveen (1758-1840) and his wife Isabel. Family lore claims they were born in Scotland although other parts of the family story are dubious and unconfirmed. The indexes of *Scots-Irish Links* disclosed many spelling variations for this surname, more than I'd seen anywhere else. In Volume I: McElwayan, McIlvaine, McIlveyne, McIlwain, McIlwayne, McKilvaine, with even more spellings in Volume II: MacKilwaine, McIlvain, McIlwaine. Some entries recorded the person being "mustered in the barony of Raphoe, County of Donegal" in the 1600s. Whether any of these individuals were ancestors of "my" McKlveens, who later settled in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, remains open to further research.

The two-volume set of *Scots-Irish Links, Consolidated Edition* is available for $165 plus shipping from the Clearfield Company of the Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland (Genealogical.com). Alternatively, you will soon find the books on the shelf among IGSI's collection at the MGS Hoffman Research Library.

Scots-Irish Links, Consolidated Edition, in Two Volumes, by David Dobson. Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Company, 2022.

Next Steps...

Have we piqued your interest? Are you looking for more information about books to be found on the Internet? For websites and databases to explore for resources? Or for places to purchase e-books to add to your personal Irish genealogy library? Check the next pages for a few recommendations.

Articles in early issues of *The Septs* from 2018 to as far back as 2008 discuss family history resources to be found on the Internet… and we may have missed some. All back issues of the journal are available to members on the website. Just login and search issue themes or years under "*The Septs*".

Or check out the Learn section of the IGSI website. Click on the links to learn more about researching your ancestors and the resources available to you.

Articles from Earlier Issues of *The Septs* on the Theme of Internet Resources

Title	Author	Issue & Page Numbers
Digital Treasures from Colleges and Universities	Lori Thornton	January 2008, pp. 7-10
Genealogy and the Internet	Tom Rice, CG	January 2008, pp. 28-32
Finding Books, Articles and Manuscripts Online: Online Library and Book Catalogs	Tom Rice, CG	April 2008, pp. 88-91 or reprinted in July 2018, p. 88-90
Uncovering County Histories: Their Location, Creation, and Uses for Genealogists	D. Joshua Taylor	April 2008, pp. 75-80
Newspaper Research: Finding the Sources, Finding the Facts	Gary R. Toms	January 2011, pp. 6-12
Researching Irish Newspapers for Answers	Brian W. Hutchison	January 2011, pp. 13-21
Irish Records and Irish Newspapers	Dr. Perry McIntyre	January 2011, pp. 22-27
Using Canadian Newspapers to Find Genealogical Information	Laura M. Hanowski	January 2011, pp. 28-33
Finding Your Family in the "Papers"	Kathleen O'Malley Strickland	January 2011, pp. 38-40
Irish Research: Finding Manuscripts and Journals Anywhere	Kathleen O'Malley Strickland	April 2012, pp. 59-60
Use Newspapers to Create Context for Genealogical Facts	J.H. Fonkert, CG	April 2012, pp. 62-64
E-Newsletters and E-Magazines	Gigi Hickey	July 2016, pp. 77-78
Using Special Collections	Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.	January 2018, pp. 6-9
NUCMC & More: Finding Elusive Records	Paula Stuart-Warren, CG®, FMGS	July 2018, pp. 81-82



Reading a book at the beach. Photo by Karolina Grabowska @ Pexels.com.

A Few Sources for Purchasing Books and E-books about Irish Genealogy and History

Resources	URL	Comments
American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society	https://shop.americanancestors.org/search?x=0&y=0&q_input=e-books&q=e-books%20-product_type%3AMembership%20-product_type%3ASingle-Use&pass-through=true	Leading resource for American family history research; bookstore offers several e-books and publications for Irish/Scottish research.
AncestorNetwork.ie	https://www.ancestornetwork.ie/product-category/e-book/	In 2014, Ancestor Network acquired Flyleaf Press, a specialist in Irish genealogy publishing.
Books.ie	https://www.books.ie/	Irish-based online bookstore offers a diverse range of books.
BooksIreland.org	https://www.booksireland.org.uk/store/ebooks	Source for Irish and Scots-Irish eBooks from the Ulster Historical Foundation.
Genealogical.com	https://genealogical.com/store/?gpc_search=1&pa_format=ebook	Leading — and oldest — publisher of genealogy books in the United States.
Genealogyebooks.com	http://www.genealogyebooks.com/	E-books about England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales; formerly Lurgan Ancestry and genesPDF.
Irish Genealogy News.com	https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/new-irish-genealogy-records-2011-2021.html	Source of Claire Santry's *New Irish Genealogy Resources 2021 — A handy e-book* setting out Irish family history records released from 2011 to mid-March 2021.
Irish Times article	https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/35-of-the-best-independent-bookshops-in-ireland-1.3722920	"35 of the best independent bookshops in Ireland" — This list, arranged by county, includes such well-known booksellers as Kenny's of Galway.

Above is a limited listing of sources for purchasing books and e-books about Irish genealogy and history. E-Book URLs are provided when possible.

Online Resources for Accessing Research Publications

Resource	URL	Comments
Ancestry $	www.ancestry.com	Many books can be easily searched by surname and location. *Ancestry's* catalog lists more than 50 Irish-related publications in their category "Family Histories, Journals & Biographies.
Cyndi's List	https://www.cyndislist.com/books/ebooks/?page=1	Cyndi's list of e-book resources.
Family Search Digital Library	https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/	Over 500,000 genealogy books.
Free Irish Genealogy eBooks	http://freeirishgenebooks.blogspot.com/	Free e-books from Peter J Clarke, many with Irish Pedigree Resources.
Genealogy Gophers	https://gengophers.com/#/	80,000 genealogy books.
Google	https://www.google.com/	Use Google's general search to find books on smaller sites.
Google Books	https://books.google.com/	Designed to help you search within books, it provides links to books for purchase or loan. Items under copyright are searchable, with snippets of text or sample pages available for viewing; items in public domain can be viewed.
HathiTrust	https://www.hathitrust.org/	Digitized content from various sources, including Google, Internet Archive, Microsoft, and member institutions. Items under copyright are searchable; items in public domain can be viewed or downloaded.
HeritageQuest Online	Access via a library website	28,000 local and family histories. Login required; many libraries provide access via their website and your library card.
Internet Archive	https://archive.org/	Access to millions of books through many libraries; some are Irish family histories. Includes the Allen County (Fort Wayne, Indiana) Public Library collection.
My Heritage $	www.myheritage.com	A handful of Irish or Irish-connected family histories and peerage books.
NUCMC (National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections)	https://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/	From the Library of Congress; provides a gateway to archival and manuscript catalogs in WorldCat, too.
WorldCat	https://www.worldcat.org/	Locate resources and the libraries which hold them.

Above are some links to help you in your hunt for research publications. $ = subscription site.

Discovery on Internet Archive

by Donna Jones

Internet Archive is an amazing online resource for digitized books. In the Learn section of the IGSI website, in More Help – Links there are articles, podcasts and videos about using the Internet Archive.

My Irish second great-grandparents were Michael Keenan and Mary Keeny/Keeney. They lived outside of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, in the 1880 census and Michael worked for the railroad. I recently found baptism records for their third and fourth daughters. One of the baptismal records listed Anna Keenan as a sponsor. Who was Anna and how was she related to Michael?

I started researching Anna and could not find a civil birth or baptism record in Ireland. I already had documents and newspaper articles that her maiden name was Keenan. However, one of Anna's daughters indicated her mother's maiden name was Keeney on several documents. I found a civil birth registration for Anne Keeny and the date of birth matched U.S. records. I had her Cuyahoga County marriage registration to Peter Murray in 1887 but could not find a church record. I went back and reviewed all the documents and noticed that I had overlooked that the civil marriage registration included, "JJ Farrell, legally joined them in marriage".

I searched the Internet Archive for books about the Cleveland Diocese and found *A History of Catholicity in Northern Ohio and in the Diocese of Cleveland: Biographical V2*, by Michael W Carr, 1909. On page 262, there was a biography for James J Farrell, born in Kilkenny, Ireland, and he was at St. Mary's Church in Hudson, Ohio, near Cleveland in 1887. The church was built in 1850 and the congregation at first was comprised of mostly Irish railroad workers. I wrote to the church and am still waiting for a response. I suspect that my 2nd great-grandparents were initially in Hudson and perhaps my great-grandmother and her sister were baptized there.

I started searching for Michael Keeney rather than Keenan in Ireland and one of the records I found was that he had married Mary Keeney in 1872. I have more documentary evidence than what is in this article and it all started with my favorite 2nd great-aunt, Anna.

Donna Jones lives in North Carolina. Elected co-president in 2022, she brings customer service skills and experience to her roles with the Society.



Donna's philosophy: As a specialized society in Irish research, we are here to assist with your education. Learn is the fruition of her vision.

Online Books Member Survey

The Septs' editors surveyed our members on their use of tools to find and use online sites for accessing research publications. The survey was announced in our eNewsletter *Ginealas* in April and June 2022.

The limited number of responses received may indicate a lack of familiarity with those online tools. The few members who responded tended to be experienced researchers, as many were familiar with most of the tools mentioned in the survey.

Resources which were designated most useful: WorldCat (highest ranked), FamilySearch Digital Library, HathiTrust, Internet Archives (tied for second place), and Google Books (ranked last in this group).

One respondent used HeritageQuest Online's books and found it very useful.

Another respondent used NUCMC (National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, from the Library of Congress) and found it okay. That member also found Genealogy Gophers okay.

Give these resources a try and let us know how you fare.

The survey will remain open for a few more weeks at https://forms.gle/15huKxbvQDRGPNqE7



Join TIARA for the Virtual Celtic Connections Conference (CCC) 2022. Registration began on April 9, 2022 and is on-going. The conference begins on July 9, 2022 at 10:00 AM and continues until midnight September 30, 2022. Participants will have access to 52 pre-recorded lectures, 15 chat sessions, 5 roundtables and an Ancestors Roadshow. All for just $99!

TIARA's 2022 CCCC will focus on Irish, Scots-Irish, Scottish and Welsh Genealogy and Research Topics. There will be six conference tracks: Researching the Celtic Diaspora, Emigration and Immigration Patterns, Unique Research Resources, DNA, Methodologies, and Case Studies.

Twenty-two national international speakers, including John Grenham, Fiona Fitzsimons, Maurice Gleeson, Chris Paton, Paul Milner, Donna Moughty and our own TIARA members Pamela Guye-Holland, Sheila Benedict and Susan O'Connor will present fifty-two pre-recorded lectures. The pre-recorded lectures are available for almost three months twenty-four hours a day. Chat sessions will be held on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons throughout the conference. Roundtables are scheduled for Sunday afternoons. A complete list and calendar of event is on the CCC website.

A planning committee chaired by Janis Duffy and Greg Atkinson has been meeting since 2020 and they are excited to present CCC 2022. The first Celtic Connections Conference was conceived and prodded into action by the late Mary Choppa, a former President of TIARA in 2014. Mary sadly passed away in 2021. TIARA is dedicating CCC 2022 in Mary's memory.

Updated information about the Conference can be found on the CCC website at celtic-connections.org. Any questions? Contact info@celtic-connections.org.

July – September Webinars

Saturday, July 16 | 10:30 AM – Noon CDT | *An Overview of Irish History*
Presenter: Paul MacCotter
In this overview journey through Irish history MacCotter touches briefly on key issues and challenges, myths and legends, and replaces them with the true picture of who are the Irish and what is their history.
A free event for IGSI members; $20 for non-members

Saturday, August 6 | 10:30 AM - Noon CDT | *An Irish Farm History*
Presenter: Chris Paton
What does it mean when your ancestor is listed as a farmer? What exactly did he do? What records are available and how do you locate them? Chris Paton will draw together the many potential land and vital record resources to tell the story of one Kilkenny farm.
$15 for IGSI members; $20 for non-members

Wednesday, September 14 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM CDT | *Turning Dry Facts into Exciting Details*
Presenter: Carol Baxter
Does telling the family story sound boring like reading from an encyclopedia? Is a recitation of the family history just names and dates? Carol will help us put our families is a broader context. Please note this is a Wednesday evening.
$15 for IGSI members; $20 for non-members

Check the Activities Page of the IGSI website for full information and to register.

Renew Your Membership in the Irish Genealogical Society International

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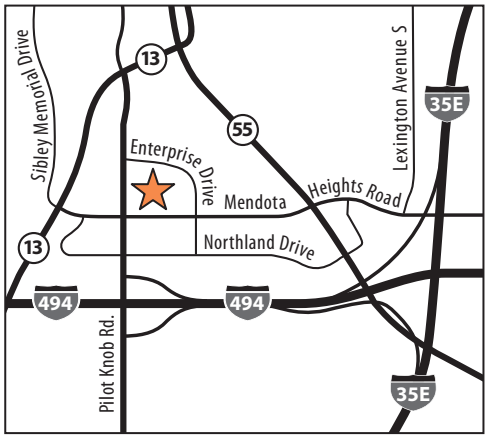
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Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc. (IGSI)

Library and Offices located at the Minnesota Genealogy Center





Library Hours

Wednesday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Thursday: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Friday

Hoffman Research Library

★ 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100,
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
651-330-9312

During severe weather, or if traveling a long distance, please call before coming to the library to check if open.

The library is a self-supporting research library staffed by voluteers. If you are a member of the IGSI and are coming from out of town, contact Librarian@IrishGenealogical.org so we can have an Irish researcher available to meet you.

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The Septs

OCTOBER (DEIREADH FOMHAIR) 2022 $10.00

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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Genealogy Library Open

The Hoffman Research Library, located in the Minnesota Genealogy Center in Mendota Heights, is open for research. Full service times are scheduled for 2022.

The Hoffman Research Library is a private genealogy research library created for members of the organizations in the MGS Partners' Group. Access to the library materials is free to members of IGSI and other MGS Partner societies. Non-members and the general public are requested to pay a per visit $10 donation for use.

The Hoffman Library will be open only if there are two volunteers available to staff the building. As COVID continues, some volunteers have stepped back from regular schedules creating a volunteer staff shortage. (Won't you consider becoming a MGC/library volunteer to help ensure research access for all?)

Note: Effective March 1, 2022, masks are recommended for everyone visiting the Hoffman Research Library, but optional for the fully vaccinated. 

Hours of service:

Wednesday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Irish Saturdays

Stop by the library on the second Saturday of the month between 10 AM and 4 PM for Irish research help from IGSI volunteers.

NOVEMBER 12, 2022
DECEMBER 10, 2022
JANUARY 14, 2023
FEBRUARY 11, 2023
MARCH 11, 2023

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Printed in the US.

The Septs – A Quarterly Journal

1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367
Website address: http://www.IrishGenealogical.org
ISSN 1049-1783 • Indexed by PERSI

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The Septs, the quarterly journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc., is one of the primary benefits of IGSI membership and is published in January, April, July and October. U.S. and International members receive a print copy of the journal through the mail. Those with Electronic memberships receive the journal electronically.

Contributions and article ideas are welcome. Material intended for publication should be submitted before the 28th of February, May, August and November. Contributors should email articles or materials to the Managing Editors at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org or to the Editor at SeptsEditor@IrishGenealogical.org. Decisions to publish and/or edit materials are at the discretion of the journal staff.

Irish Genealogical Society International, Inc.

2022

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Write for *The Septs*

Each issue of *The Septs* has at its core a specific theme with related research articles. Issues may also include articles on topics unrelated to the theme, e.g. family stories submitted by IGSI members.

Research articles on the theme of the issue should be 1500 - 3000 words. If writing on a theme, please contact the Managing Editor of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org in advance of deadline dates to ensure that your article is considered for the proper issue.

Members who wish to share family research stories, articles on genealogy sources and resources, or writings on general Irish culture and history should contact the Managing Editors of *The Septs* at SeptsMnged@IrishGenealogical.org. The recommended length for articles unrelated to the theme is 750 - 1500 words.

Themes of Upcoming Issues

2023 | January | Canada

Locating and researching Canadian records for ancestors who either settled there or passed through on their way to America.
Deadline for articles: November 15, 2022.

2023 | April | Leinster Province

Researching in the 12 Irish counties of Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow; stories about finding family in Leinster locales.
Deadline for articles: February 15, 2023.

2023 | July | Census Substitutes

Making full use of surviving Irish religious, land and tax surveys and records; commercial directories, school registers; and more.
Deadline for articles: May 15, 2023.

2023 | October | Tips & Tools

An appraisal and review of various tips and tools for genealogists, considering technology as mind maps, timelines, data correlations, and more.
Deadline for articles: August 15, 2023.

Cover Photo: *Compass.*
Photo by Walt Stoneburner @ Flickr.com.

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Keeping in Touch

From the Co-Presidents, Donna Jones and Ron Zweber

In this ever-changing world where information is communicated and shared through multiple channels, IGSI has through the years adopted multiple ways to communicate with our members. At the beginning of this year, we were communicating through our website, direct emails, blog, *Facebook*, *Twitter*, *Ginealas* and *The Septs*. The first five channels can be implemented very quickly whereas *Ginealas*, our e-newsletter, is by-monthly and *The Septs* is our quarterly journal.

We are proud to announce the addition of podcasts on *YouTube* as our latest channel for communicating to our members and the public. Our channel is Irish Genealogical Society International.

IGSI was very fortunate to have Dave Miller, a resident of Green Bay, Wisconsin, join the board of directors in January of this year. Several longtime IGSI volunteers had worked with Dave on past projects and he came highly recommend.

In 2019, Dave retired from a 29-year career as a meteorologist for the TV station WFRV in Green Bay. Given his TV experience and his love of genealogy, Dave volunteered to lead IGSI's podcast launch with a series called "This Month at IGSI".

In the first three monthly podcasts, Dave highlighted that month's webinar, Irish Saturday at the Minnesota Genealogy Center library, the upcoming IGSI trip to Ireland, an interview with the president of Irish Fair of Minnesota and an interview with a representative from the office of the Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago. A real advantage to members is that the podcast is in the five-minute range.

We hope you will subscribe to this podcast as another opportunity to keep up with the offerings at IGSI.

The October podcast can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfTqmgSsfDA. Or use this link to access all of the podcasts https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Ja1YHyxy8D2kyfExI5tFg/videos.

November Fundraising

IGSI is participating in two major giving events in November, with a goal of raising $6,500 by the end of 2022.

- November 17 is Give to the Max Day in Minnesota, when most charities throughout Minnesota coordinate appeals for donations. Early giving for Give to the Max Day has begun. Help us jump start our effort!
- November 29 is Giving Tuesday, when many charities throughout the world make appeals for donations.

If you wish to donate, please visit the Donate page on our website. You can donate via credit or debit card using *PayPal*, or if you would prefer to send a check for your contribution, please send it to:

IGSI
1385 Mendota Heights Rd., Ste 100
Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Thank you for your past support for IGSI. You may have already made a generous donation to IGSI this past year. If so, we are very grateful.

Maps and Ancestral Townlands

by Mary Wickersham

Do you study maps for clues about your family history? This issue of The Septs explains why and how to use maps for clues about where our ancestors may have lived. New clues may lead to written records and an eventual visit to an ancestral home.

Jane Halloran Ryan illustrates how Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps — available at the Library of Congress website — can help with research. Sanborn maps show locations of structures your ancestors occupied in the U.S. during the 1860s to 1960s, describe the structures, and, with city directories, identify neighbors who may also be family.

Brian Mitchell's reprinted 2007 article, "The Importance of Place in Irish Family History," is enduring. Brian encourages the use of Griffith's Valuation and Estate Records and describes administrative divisions and how to use them to locate Irish records. Newly-updated links will draw you to helpful resources.

Mike Collins shares "Do You Know Your Ancestral Townland?" He writes about Brian Friel's play, *Translations*, set in rural Ireland in the 1830s when early Ireland maps were being drawn. The play provides insight on how anglicized place names were assigned. Mike also provides many helpful links, and tells us how to use Geohive to see the 1837 map of Ireland in glorious detail.

In my article about Google Maps, I list four applications of Google Maps for genealogy research and provide an example for each.

Lois Mackin helps us to visualize DNA segments: chromosome browsers, chromosome paintings, and chromosome maps. She provides illustrations of each of these tools and explains which are available from various DNA testing companies.

Rob[t.] Flanagan Stieglitz walks us through the process he followed to identify his Flanagan second g-grandfather in Griffith's Valuation, mapping the farm location on a Griffith's map, and locating it and other ancestral homesteads in person. We can follow his example and apply it to our own research.

I wisely started with a map.

J.R.R. Tolkien



Máire Ní Ghruagáin (Mary Grogan) writes about the history of tenant right in Ireland, providing a timeframe of how legal control of land was transformed throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, evolving through the Great Famine and Irish Home Rule Movement toward "Tenant right", defined as a tenant's right to sell his land holding.

If you receive your copy of *The Septs* in print, log in to view the issue online to easily access links.

This issue of *The Septs* may be the first in which three articles were written by recognized cousins. Jane Halloran Ryan and Máire Ní Ghruagáin reside in County Clare; I am a cousin to both.

Jane notified me she is a match to me soon after I uploaded my DNA test results to *MyHeritage*. We do not know (yet) which ancestor we share, but it is likely a McNamara.

Máire is a member of the McNamara clan who originated in Clooney, Quin, County Clare. I met Máire during a 1997 visit to Ireland. Máire maintains my sister Sheila Northrop and I — her U.S. cousins — sparked her interest in local history. Máire and cousin P.J. Reidy have taken us on treasured tours of our McNamara ancestors' homes and gravesites and introduced us to many other cousins. Máire has led parish historical walks for 25 years. She co-authored a history of the Newmarket-on-Fergus parish with Canon Reuben Butler in 2016. IGSI has a copy of her book in our collection.

Maps and other connections can lead you back to ancestral homelands. Give them a try.

Mary Wickersham has served IGSI in several board positions and twice co-chaired the Celtic Connections Conference. A member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Mary gives genealogy talks on research tools and techniques. She became IGSI Web Editor in 2018 and one of The Septs *co-Managing Editors in 2021.*



Using Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Your Genealogy Research

by Jane Halloran Ryan, M.A.

This article will discuss how Sanborn Fire Insurance maps can be used to evaluate and enhance family research.

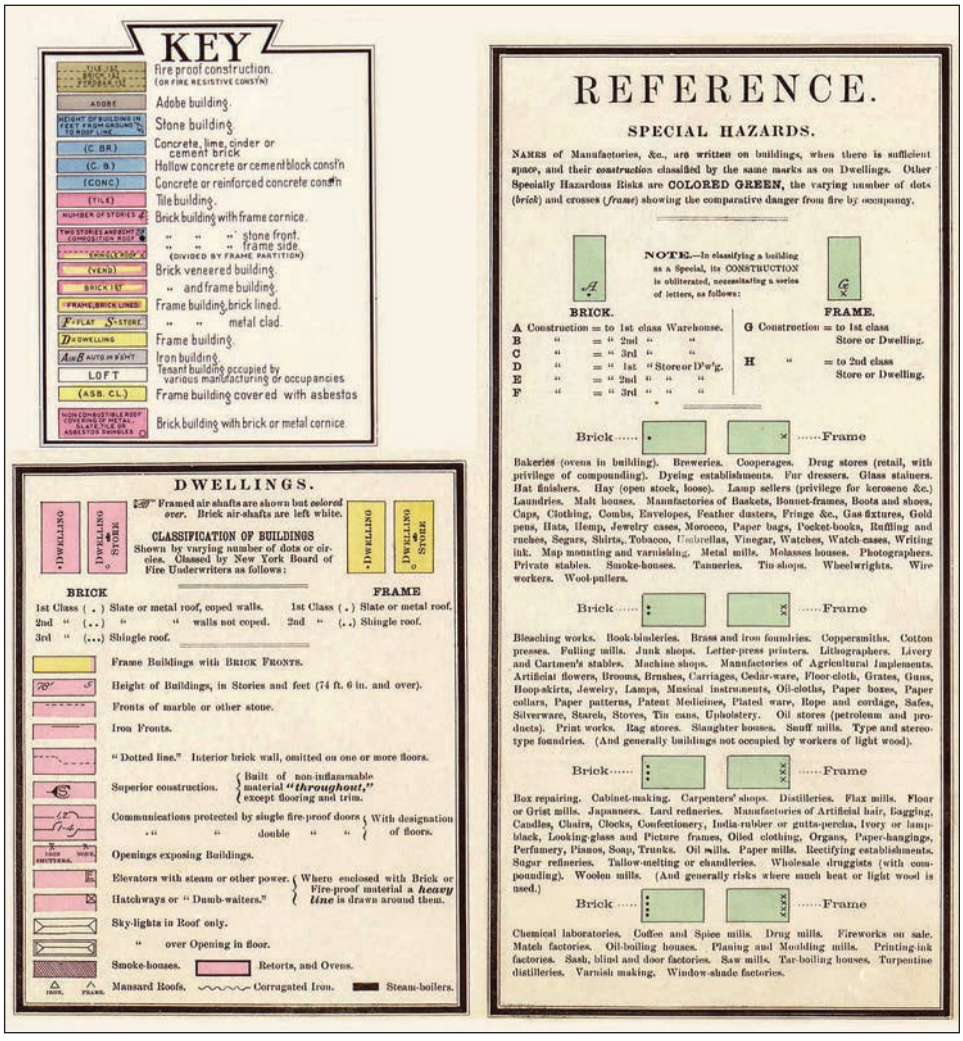
The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps are sets of maps created in the mid-nineteenth century to assess fire risk in various towns and cities across the U.S. These maps were created because, at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, cities were rapidly expanding industrial facilities and urban housing. This concerned the insurance industry, which needed to know the risk of fire for each industrial building, as well as the location of any water resources and fire and rescue facilities within each city.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, available online through the Library of Congress, assessed insurance risks for many buildings throughout the United States from the 1860s through the 1950s. The maps charted city and town neighborhoods to indicate all buildings and structures (both commercial and residential) in urban areas. They used a key or legend to note building features, including materials used in the structure, the type of business, if building was a residence and, if so, the number of families that it was meant to contain, and other details. The Sanborn Maps also included information about the local fire departments in each city/town. They noted the equipment available, the water system in the locality, particulars about the firetrucks, and the location of fire stations (if more than one).

For many immigrants, settling in an urban area was quite common due to the proximity and availability of factory work. For this reason, the Sanborn maps can be particularly useful to get a sense of "place" for an ancestor's or family's location.

To understand and interpret the collection, it is important to be familiar with the legend (or key) to the maps.

Below is an example of the key to a Sanborn map:



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map key (https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/articles-and-essays/introduction-to-the-collection/ : accessed 14 August 2022).

The keys provide the ability to read and to understand the significance of the maps' content. For example, the type of building is noted by color: a pink building is made of brick, whereas a yellow dwelling has a timber frame.

The height of buildings is noted, as are other features such as front porches, attached sheds, and types of roof. If a dwelling had a

commercial element to it, such as providing groceries, this was also noted.

The collection homepage for the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps at the Library of Congress shows the number of maps available by state. It also lists available maps for cities and towns within each state.

An example of how to use the maps in conjunction with either a census or city directory is shown below.

My great-granduncle, John McNamara, emigrated from Tyredagh Upper, Tulla, Co. Clare, Ireland in approximately 1892. He settled in Norwalk, Connecticut, with some cousins already residing there, including first cousin William Hickey.

The following families were all enumerated in the 1900 U.S. Census:

John McNamara, his wife Anne, and their child Nora, resided at 15 Franklin Avenue.[1]

John's cousin, William Hickey, lived at 17 Franklin Avenue[2] with his wife, Margaret, and their family.

Maria Clune and her family and Patrick Clune and his family resided at 58 Belden Avenue and 60 Belden Avenue, respectively.[3] These Clune families were related to one another, as well as to John McNamara and William Hickey.

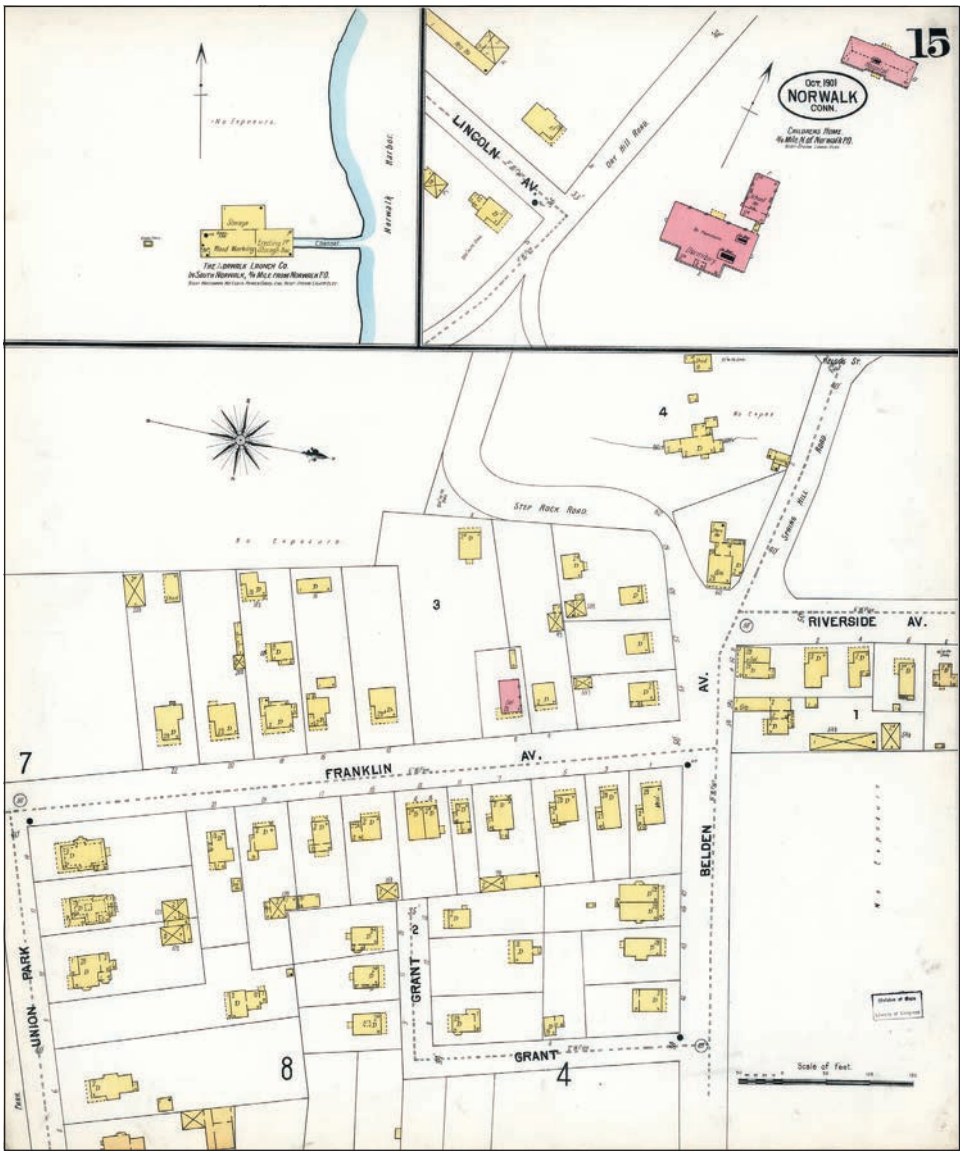
Using the 1901 Sanborn Fire Insurance map for Norwalk, the location of these four related families can be viewed at right:

This map gives a clearer picture of my ancestor's neighborhood and his neighbors' proximity to one another. This can be used to analyze any further family facts or research as a location and place becomes clearer.

City Directories are another source that can be especially useful in conjunction with the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map collection. Using these directories to search for family addresses and then cross-referencing them with the appropriate map can often give further insight into the families living within a particular city or even neighborhood.

Once a location for a specific family is found, further information can be gleaned about the type of house in which they resided by reviewing the relevant Sanborn map.

In Maria Clune's case, she resided in a two-and-a-half-story house, half of which



1901 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Norwalk, Connecticut

was used as a saloon and the other half as a dwelling. The building was timber-framed and the roof for both parts of the building was made of wood shingles. The front porch, which was only one story high, had a tiled or slated roof. The back of the dwelling portion of the building had a small one-story room with a wood-shingled roof.[4]

The main structure where Patrick Clune resided at 60 Belden Avenue was partitioned between a grocery business and a dwelling house (note the "D" on the map). There was also a small extension to the left back of the main grocery building consisting of a single story with a tiled or slated roof (noted by "o" on the map). The dwelling portion of the building was noted to be at the right side of the building, it was two stories high and had a slated roof (o). There was a slight change to the back porch of the dwelling portion which would indicate that part of the back porch was included with the dwelling, and the other part of the back porch was included with the grocery. What was considered the stable or shed was now a storehouse with an entryway to the grocery building. Of note was that the storehouse was given a solid "dot" which would indicate that it was composition or asphalt shingles. This would indicate that the storehouse roof had been changed. The front porch of the grocery had a dotted line, which indicated that the front porch was partitioned.[5]

At 17 Franklin Avenue, William Hickey resided in a two-story dwelling with a wood-shingled roof. The front porch was one-story and the back porch was a one-and-a-half-story, both of which had a wood-shingled roof. The whole building was timber-framed.[6]

By viewing a specific area where several related families lived, it is possible to get a greater insight into their lives and their familial connection with one another. It confirms that four related families resided within a short distance of each other, and that two of those families were recent immigrants. This might indicate that the two established families may have been a source of support and community for the recently arrived families.

In conclusion, the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps can be used to find the location of families who may be related to one another within a neighborhood. These maps are being added continuously to the Library of Congress website and are well worth a look for greater context within individual family research.

Endnotes

1 1900 U.S. Census, Fairfield County, Connecticut, population schedule, Norwalk, enumeration district 0088, sheet 22, dwelling 521, family 535, John McNamara household; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com : accessed 14 August 2022); citing NARA and FHL microfilm 12400134.

2 1900 U.S. Census, Fairfield County, Connecticut, population schedule, Norwalk, enumeration district 0088, sheet 22, dwelling 522, family 536, William Henry Hickey household; digital images, *Ancestry.com*, (https://www.ancestry.com : accessed 14 August 2022); citing NARA and FHL microfilm 12400134.

3 1900 U.S. Census, Fairfield County, Connecticut, population schedule, Norwalk, enumeration district 0087, sheet 10, dwelling 222, family 264, Maria Clune household; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com : accessed 14 August 2022); citing NARA and FHL microfilm 12400134.

4 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut*. Sanborn Map Company, Oct, 1901. Map. (https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn01160_003/); digital image, Library of Congress, and (http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3784nm.g3784nm_g011601901 : accessed 14 August 2022*)*.

5 1900 US Census, Fairfield County, Connecticut, population schedule, Norwalk, enumeration district 0087, sheet 10, dwelling 209, family 262, Patrick Clune household, digital images, *Ancestry.com* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 14 August 2022*)*; citing NARA and FHL microfilm 12400134.

6 Ibid.

Jane's interest in genealogy stems back to her mother's and grandmother's interest in genealogy in the late 1970s. In her own family history she has uncovered ancestors from sea captains to judges and rebels to the religious. Jane Halloran Ryan is a professional genealogist based in Tulla, County Clare. She is the founder of Dalcassian Origins*, a family history and research service website.*



The Importance of Place in Irish Family History

by Brian Mitchell

The following article by Brian Mitchell was first published in The Septs *in April 2007. It stands the test of time, remaining relevant to researchers now as in the past. The author provided updated links for this reprint of his article.*

In Ireland place and kin hold a very strong emotional bond. It is said that when Amelia Earhart (the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic) landed in front of McCallion's cottage, she asked: "Where am I?" An astonished Dan McCallion, who was out herding his cattle, replied: "In Gallagher's Pasture."

The key to unlocking Irish family history origins is the knowledge of place. In tracing your roots in Ireland the most important piece of information to treasure, to be gleaned from either family folklore or record sources, is any information as to a place of origin of your ancestors.

I live in the village of Eglinton which is located in the townland of Muff (318 acres in size), in the civil parish of Faughanvale, in the Diocese of Derry, in the Barony of Tirkeeran, in the district electoral division of Eglinton, in the registrar's district of Eglinton, in the poor law union of Londonderry, in the probate district of Londonderry, County Londonderry, Province of Ulster, Ireland.

Successful genealogical research is rooted in geography as all major Irish record sources are organised by what appears to be a confusing array of administrative divisions. Records of value to the family historian were gathered by one or more of these divisions. I have summarized the major administrative divisions of Ireland in the table at right.

County

From a family historian's perspective the most effective way to view Ireland is as a country which is subdivided into counties, which in turn are subdivided into parishes, and which in turn are subdivided into townlands. As many records of genealogical value were compiled on a parish basis it means that realistic genealogical research, in the absence of indexing and databases, requires knowledge of the parish in which your ancestor lived.

Irish Administrative Divisions

Administrative Division	Description
PROVINCE	The largest geographical division. Ireland is divided into 4 provinces: Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster.
COUNTY	Ireland is divided into 32 counties. This division, begun in the 12th century, reflected the imposition of the English system of local government in Ireland. Their boundaries reflected the lordships of the major Gaelic families.
BARONY	This subdivision of a county is now an obsolete division, but in the 19th century it was widely used. Ireland was divided into 327 baronies which tended to reflect the holdings of Irish clans. Baronies and counties became established in the government land surveys of the 17th century.
PARISH	From the seventeenth century the so-called civil parish, based on the early Christian and medieval monastic and church settlements, was used extensively in various surveys. There are 2,508 civil parishes in Ireland. Most record sources of value, both civil and church, to family historians were compiled and recorded by parish. Ecclesiastical parishes were grouped into **dioceses**.
TOWNLAND	The smallest and most ancient land division in Ireland. Parishes were, in effect, subdivided into townlands, a few hundred acres in extent. There are 60,462 townlands in Ireland. In identifying a townland address you have effectively identified the ancestral home.
POOR LAW UNION	Districts, centred on a large market town, were created in 1838 for the financial support of the poor. Ireland was originally divided into 130 Poor Law Unions. In 1898 the poor law union replaced the civil parish and barony as the basic unit of local government. Poor Law Unions were subdivided into 829 **Registration Districts** (to gather civil birth, marriage and death details) and 3,751 **District Electoral Divisions** (to gather census returns).

Administrative divisions form the geographical basis for genealogical research. Records of value to the family historian were gathered by one or more of these divisions.

If sources are not indexed you need to know where your ancestor lived before you can begin to select appropriate records to search. As a general rule the knowledge of the county of origin of your ancestor is insufficient information for locating them.

Ireland is subdivided into 32 counties. This division, begun in the 12th century, reflected the imposition of the English system of local government in Ireland. County boundaries reflected the lordships of the major Gaelic families, for example: the O'Donnells of Donegal, the O'Kanes of Coleraine (renamed Londonderry in 1613) and the O'Neills of Tyrone. Ireland's counties are grouped into four provinces: Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster.

On 6th December 1921, with the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, the partitioning of Ireland came into effect: Northern Ireland, with its capital in Belfast, and consisting of the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry (also referred to as Derry) and Tyrone remained part of the United Kingdom; and the remaining 26 counties of Ireland, governed from Dublin, became the Republic of Ireland.

In the 17th century substantial numbers of English and Scottish families settled in the northern part of Ireland during the so-called Plantation of Ulster. The Province of Ulster consists of the six counties of Northern Ireland and of the counties of Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland.

Parish

From the 17th century the so-called civil parish, based on the early Christian and medieval monastic and church settlements, was used extensively in various surveys. There are 2,508 civil parishes in Ireland. Civil parishes frequently break both barony and county boundaries indicating they were drawn up at an earlier period. County Derry, for example, was subdivided into 46 civil parishes which contained 1248 townlands, with an average size of 408 acres.

Church of Ireland parishes normally conform to the civil parish, though Roman Catholic parishes do not as they are generally larger. The Roman Catholic Church, owing to the Reformation of the 16th century, had to adapt itself to a new structure centred on towns and villages. The Presbyterian Church does not have a parish structure, with the congregations generally forming where there was sufficient demand from local Presbyterian families. Thus, Presbyterian congregations in Ireland are very much associated with the nine counties of the northern province of Ulster.

Researchers can identify Ireland's network of civil parishes at www.johngrenham.com/places/civil_index.php and Roman Catholic parishes at www.johngrenham.com/places/rcmap_index.php by selecting the county of interest on displayed map of Ireland.

Townland

A driving force among most people tracing their family history is to identify an ancestral home. In Ireland, this means identifying the townland your ancestor lived in. The townland is the smallest and most ancient of Irish land divisions. The townland was named at an early period, and it usually referred to a very identifiable landmark in the local area, such as a mountain, a bog, an oak forest, a village, a fort or a church. There are 60,462 townlands in Ireland.

There are 66 townlands, for example, in the parish of Faughanvale, County Derry. These townlands vary greatly in area as their size was generally based on the fertility of the land. The fertile lowland townland of Muff is some 318 acres in size, while Killywool which extends into the Loughermore Hills contains 1,471 acres.

The townland is loosely based on the ancient Irish land measure called the *ballyboe*, which means cow townland. As a ballyboe was based on the area that could support a fixed number of cattle, it is not surprising that their size varied depending on land quality.

The establishment in Ireland in the 17th century of a framework of land tenure based on the townland ensured the continued usage and, therefore, survival of townland names. The townland became standardised as a basic division in the 17th century surveys recording the changes in ownership and occupation resulting from the land confiscations of that period.

Townland names, originally in Gaelic, were anglicised from the 17th century by settlers with no knowledge of the Irish language. This resulted in a number of different spellings of the same place name. For example, in Clondermot Parish, County Derry, the same townland appears as Coolkeeagh in Griffith's Valuation of 1858, as Killkeeraugh in the 1831 census and as Culkeeragh in the Tithe Book of 1834.

There are many place names in Ireland (some of which appear on maps and others that don't) which are even more localised than a townland name. In 1991, the Federation for Ulster Local Studies published *Every Stoney Acre Has a Name: a Celebration of the Townland in Ulster*.

The General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland (Alexander Thom, Dublin, 1861; reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1986) identifies all of Ireland's 60,462 townlands together with their 1st edition Ordnance Survey map number. The "Placenames" search facility at https://www.johngrenham.com/places/ allows you to search the entire Townland Index, together with street listings from Dublin, Cork and Belfast cities, more than 65,000 entries in all.

Between 1829 and 1842, Ordnance Survey Ireland completed the first ever large-scale (6 inches to 1 mile) survey of an entire country. These maps were surveyed on a county basis. For example, the 1st edition map (dimensions 33" by 23") for the village of Eglinton will be found in OS sheet number 14 for County Londonderry. You can purchase Ordnance Survey Ireland maps at https://store.osi.ie/.

A database of administrative placenames (townlands, parishes, names of urban centres etc.) for Ireland, in both Gaelic and English, can be searched in *The Placenames Database of Ireland* at www.logainm.ie.

At www.placenamesni.org you can identify the location, origin and meaning of over 30,000 placenames from all over Northern Ireland.

The Ordnance Survey Ireland historic map archive at https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html contains the original pre-Famine 6" mapping series (dated 1837-1842) and post-Famine 25" survey (dated 1888-1913) for the Republic of Ireland (but not Northern Ireland).

For the townlands of Northern Ireland, you can view historic maps — including first edition (1832–1846), second edition (1846–1862), third edition (1900–1907), and fourth edition (1905–1957) Ordnance Survey maps — together with the modern maps and aerial photographs — with Public Record Office of Northern Ireland's Historical Maps viewer at www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-proni-historical-maps-viewer.

A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland (2nd edition, Brian Mitchell, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 2002) locates for every county in Ireland the following administrative divisions: baronies, civil parishes, dioceses, Roman Catholic parishes, Presbyterian congregations (for the nine counties of Ulster), poor law unions and probate districts. All main record sources are organized by at least one of these divisions.

Record Sources

Civil registration in Ireland of births, deaths and Roman Catholic marriages began on 1st January 1864 while Protestant marriages were subject to registration from 1st April 1845. For the purpose of civil registration, Ireland was divided into about 800 registrar districts, which were grouped into 140 poor law unions.

The only clue to address in the existing indexes to Irish civil birth, marriage and death registers is the name of the poor law union in which the event was registered. This means, for example, that the only address information provided in the indexes, in the General Register Offices in Belfast and Dublin, for people born in County Derry are the four poor law union names of Coleraine, Londonderry, Limavady and Magherafelt.

Prior to the commencement of civil registration of births in Ireland in 1864 you have to rely on church baptismal registers to confirm birth details. Access to church registers is gained through knowledge of the parish address and religious denomination of your ancestor.

As a general rule, access to Irish census returns and census substitutes is through knowledge of the parish address of your ancestor. For example, the Tithe Applotment Books, detailing landholders, were compiled and published between 1823 and 1837 by civil parish. Seventeenth century surveys, such as the Civil Survey of Ireland carried out between 1654 and 1656, were arranged by county, barony and civil parish.

Griffith's Valuation Maps and Clachans

Owing to the destruction of most mid-19th century census returns in Ireland, Griffith's Valuation is a record of extreme importance to family researchers. It is, in effect, a census substitute for post-Famine Ireland. Griffith's Valuation was a survey of every parish in Ireland between 1848 and 1864 that detailed every rateable head of household and occupier of land against a townland or street address. The results of the survey were published in volumes by poor law union.

A significant feature of Griffith's Valuation is that maps were compiled to accompany this source. It effectively means that the locations of all properties in the mid-19th century — houses and farms — can be identified once you have found your ancestor in Griffith's Valuation.

Griffith's Valuation for all Ireland, and their associated valuation maps, are available to search and view online, free of charge, at www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation by Family Name and

Place Name. A Family Name Search provides transcript details, the original document page and appropriate Valuation map for any selected occupier. A Place Name Search enables you to find everyone who lived in a particular place, such as a townland, village or street in a town/city.

Every lot number in Griffith's Valuation (recorded under the heading "No. and Letters of Reference to Map") was marked on a copy of the Ordnance Survey map (at a scale of 6 inches to 1 mile) at the Valuation Office, Dublin. Copies of Griffith's maps for the 26 counties of the Republic of Ireland can be found in the Valuation Office, Irish Life Centre, Dublin, while those for the six counties of Northern Ireland are held in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 2 Titanic Boulevard, Titanic Quarter, Belfast. At the heart of many townlands was a village settlement, called a *clachan*, which consisted of a cluster of farm houses in "farm towns" without church, shop or public house.

Historically, clachans were the nuclei of Ireland's network of townlands. The clachan was the dominant form of rural settlement in 18th century Ireland and it was still widespread in the 19th century in "the more harsh environments of Gaelic Ireland", i.e., in marginal areas less suited to economic farming. During the 19th century these clachan settlements were broken up into the dispersed farms which dominate the Irish landscape today.

Clachans were associated with a communal system of farming known as rundale where farms consisted of infield and outfield sections. The infield, which carried most of the crops, was divided and subdivided among co-heirs into unenclosed arable strips which were redistributed periodically. The outfield, which included rough pasture and bog land, was grazed in common. Within these village settlements the bonds of kinship were close and strong and new houses were added to the clachan as holdings were subdivided among co-heirs.

By the time of Griffith's Valuation, the rundale system of agriculture had outlived its purpose and was in decay. However, Griffith's Valuation and the accompanying maps confirm that many of the associated clachan settlements, especially in the less fertile uplands, were still in existence in the middle years of the 19th century.

For example, Griffith's Valuation reveals that, in 1858, eight Hassan families who farmed in the townland of Coolnamonan in the civil parish of Banagher, County Derry, in the foothills of the Sperrin Mountains, lived in a clachan (number 13 on map) that was also named as Coolnamonan. They were farming scattered fields in and around their village settlement, i.e., the fields associated with each farm were not in one consolidated unit. This was simply a reflection of the old rundale system of agriculture whereby a tenant had his proportion in many different places. For example, on the map on page 103, Patrick Hassan's farm (number 9 in the map) consisted of seven portions (A, B, C, D, E, F and G) distributed to the north and south of his home.

Griffith's Valuation details for the Hassans of Coolnamonan are tabulated below and mapped on the next page.

Researchers interested in learning more about clachans should read the works of E. Estyn Evans, a former Professor of

Hassan Families of Coolnamonan, Banagher Parish, County Derry

Head of Household	Map Reference		Details of Property	Land (acres)
	Land	House		
James Hassan (Jonny)	7	13a	House, offices & land	5
James Hassan *(Tonry Due)*	8	13f	House, offices & land	18
John Hassan		8ca	House	
Patrick Hassan	9	13d	House, offices & land	42
Thomas Hassan	10	13e	House, offices & land	12
Michael Hassan *(Jack Roe)*	12	13c	House, offices & land	4
Nelus Hasson	13	13g	House and garden	2
Alick Hassan	14		Land	4
John Hassan	15	13b	House, offices & land	25
Michael Hassan *(Roe)*	16	13h	House, offices & land	18
James Hassan *(Tailor)*	17	17a	House, offices & land	10

Geography at Queen's University Belfast. His books include:

- *Irish Heritage*, Dundalgan Press, Dundalk, 1942
- *Irish Folk Ways*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1957
- *The Personality of Ireland: Habitat, Heritage and History*, Blackstaff Press, Belfast, 1981.

In *Irish Heritage* Evans produces two maps of the townlands of Beltany Lower and Beltany Upper in the civil parish of Tullaghobegley in west Donegal, one dated 1834 and the other 1902/1903. The map of 1834 clearly shows two village clusters at the heart of these two townlands, also called Beltany Lower and Beltany Upper. By 1902, the clachans were gone, and scattered dwellings and separate land holdings dominated the townlands of Beltany Lower and Upper.

The Personality of Ireland includes photographs of clachans which survived into the 20th century in County Donegal.

Estate Records

The framework of land tenure established in Ireland from the early years of the 17th century was based on the townland. If you know the townland of origin of your ancestor a search for records associated with land ownership could be made and, if found, examined.

The pattern of great family estates established in the 17th century remained largely unchanged until the latter years of the 19th century and the Land Acts. Estates, because of their size, were run on a business basis with records kept of rentals, surveys, leases, and title deeds.

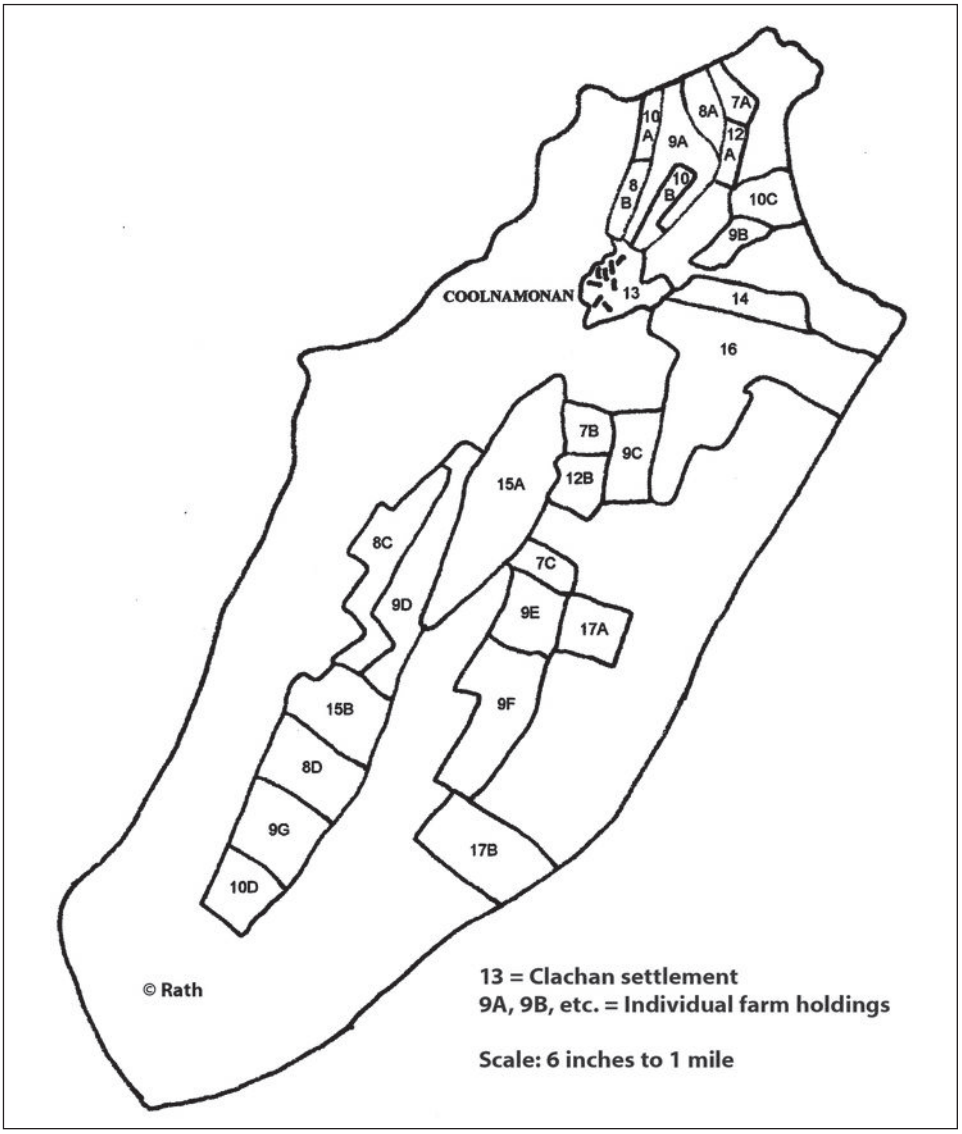
Record offices in Ireland and England hold large collections of documents relating to landed estates. The village of Eglinton, for example, in Faughanvale Parish, County Derry, was located, from 1615 until 1877, within the manor of the Grocers' Company of the City of London.

The Livery Companies of the City of London agreed to undertake the Plantation of Derry and the County of Coleraine (renamed Londonderry on 29 March 1613). The Grocers' Company, anciently called "The Pepperers", was ranked second only to the Mercers amongst the London Companies. Founded in 1345, this Company dealt in spices, drugs and tobacco.

The Manor of Grocers, 15,900 acres in size, was conveyed on 17 October 1618; its proportion, consisting of 19 townlands in Faughanvale Parish, 15 in Cumber Lower and 9 in Clondermot, stretched inland from Lough Foyle in County Derry.

Continued on page 105

Hassan Farms in Coolnamonan 1858



Source: Griffith's Valuation

Do You Know Your Ancestral Townlands?

by Mike Collins

From his cottage in County Cork, Mike Collins emails a letter each Sunday morning to more than 30,000 people of Irish ancestry who live all over the world. Topics include Irish genealogy & family history, Irish surnames, Irish culture & customs, and Ireland travel. You can read more about "A Letter from Ireland" and subscribe — for free: https://www.aletterfromireland.com/.

Mike has generously allowed us to reprint one of his recent letters about ancestral Irish townlands with tips about seeing the locations on an 1837 historical map.

Brian Friel was laid to rest a number of years back in his ancestral homeland of Glenties in County Donegal. Do you know Brian or any of his plays? They included: *Philadelphia Here I Come, Dancing at Lughnasa* and *Translations* to name but a few. His plays were always based on the Irish family setting, often exploring themes of emigration and the disappearing Irish culture.

In today's letter, I would like to chat about a play of his called *Translations*. This play deals with a subject very close to the hearts of many of the readers of this letter. It is all about mapping the townlands and villages of our ancestors in Ireland.

Mapping the Colony

The play *Translations* is set in the early 1830s in rural Ireland and the setting is a fictional village in County Donegal called "Baile Beag" (pronounced Balla-b'yug). The Gaelic people of the area still spoke in their native Irish tongue. The surrounding fields and villages were known by the Irish names they had held for centuries. Ireland was emerging from the punishing penal laws of the 1700s — there were still hedge schools and mass rocks, but these were slowly being replaced with new National Schools and Churches across the land.

It was also a decade that saw the first major land mapping initiative on the island of Ireland. Maps were drawn for one of two reasons: firstly to help travellers and seafarers make their way through uncertain territory, secondly to divide and put a value on the land — usually for the benefit of a colonising force.

This time provides the setting for Brian Friel's play *Translations*. The locals spoke Irish Gaelic while the recently-arrived map surveyors spoke English. Some locals were then called upon to translate between the two.

Along with the drama, abductions and love-triangles — a central theme in the play revolves around the question — "how do you name the local townlands and villages correctly on the new map?". How should these places be interpreted for mapping and translation into English? Ironically, it was an English cartographer who cared most about preserving the local culture and traditions by translating Irish placenames in a way that encapsulates the way they sounded when spoken in Irish:

Places like "Baile Beag" (small home/village) became "Ballybeg".

"Drom Dubh" (black ridge) became "Drumduff".

"Poll na gCaorach" (pit of the sheep) became "Poolkerry".

Many of the anglicised place names we know today, e.g., those beginning with Bally, Drum, Carrig, Knock and so on — can trace their naming back to this time in the early 1800s. These early maps capture the surroundings and buildings that were familiar to many of our Irish ancestors — the churches, schools, villages, mills, barracks and much more. These maps — surveyed between 1829 and 1842 — are highly regarded by cartographers and are particularly relevant for those of us interested in genealogy as well as social history.

Would you like to look at this historical map — the subject matter of *Translations*? All you need do is follow the instructions to examine a part of Ireland of particular interest to you (better done on a larger screen than a smart phone).

Here is what you need to do in order to see the 1837 historical map of any of your ancestral locations in Ireland:

First, go to Geohive website here: https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html.

Once you are in the Geohive website — see the four-square icon at the top left of your screen?

Click on it and you will open up a window with a number of map choices.

Select "Mapgenie 6 Inch First Edition" to see Ireland as it was in 1837.

Now, zoom in on the map to an area of your interest by double-clicking on that area of the map (you can also use the + and - on the top right side of your map to zoom

in and out). As you zoom in further, you will eventually reach a map where you can see the individual fields and houses in a townland or village.

Can you find any of your Irish ancestral homelands (townlands, villages, streets, etc.) on this map?

So, I wish you happy browsing and time-travelling with this wonderful collection of old maps. In the meantime, may Brian Friel rest in peace as he lies in his ancestral homeland of Glenties (coming from the Irish "Na Gleannta" — pronounced "na-glownta" and meaning "The Glens"). He served us well with a brilliant collection of works that remind us just what it means to be human — and Irish.

Mike and Carina Collins are a husband-and-wife team based in County Cork,



Ireland. Their genealogy adventure started when they noticed people asking questions on Facebook *about Irish surnames and the homelands of Irish ancestors. Mike and Carina started to answer based on their local knowledge, and the answers to these questions grew to become a weekly email called "A Letter from Ireland." A major recent initiative has been their Letter from Ireland podcasts: https://www.aletterfromireland.com/irish-podcasts-2/.*

Continued from page 103

The Grocers' Company built a village at the heart of their manor and, in 1618, Captain Pynnar recorded that a bawn, 100 feet square with 4 flankers, was in the process of being built at "Grocers Hall alias Muff". This village was renamed Eglinton in 1858 in honour of the 13th Earl of Eglinton who was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland at the time.

The Irish Society, in 1836, praised the Grocers' Company for improving the village, which "from being a wretched hamlet, is now a pretty neat town". Documentation relating to the Grocers' estate in Ireland, which includes rentals, surveys, leases, deeds, and court minute books, are held in the Grocers' Company papers in the Guildhall Library, Aldermansbury, City of London.

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 2 Titanic Boulevard, Titanic Quarter, Belfast, holds microfilm copies of some of the papers relating to the Grocers' estate in Ireland, such as rent rolls from 1847 to 1878 and Richard Fowler's survey of the estate (with maps) in 1820 and Henry Wiggins' survey of 1836.

You need a high degree of patience to examine such sources with no guarantee of finding anything relevant to your family history.

Brian Mitchell has been involved in local, family and emigration research in Derry and North West Ireland since 1982. He supervised construction of a database containing one million records (dating from 1628 to 1930) extracted from major civil and church registers of County Derry, available at www.derry.rootsireland.ie.



Brian is a Member of Accredited Genealogists Ireland (MAGI) and the author of several Irish genealogy reference books, including A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland *and* New Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy. *He is a genealogist with Derry City and Strabane District Council, email at genealogy@derrystrabane.com.*

Let Your Email System Know that IGSI Email is Not Spam

by Mary Wickersham

Please take a moment to ensure that your email provider is not treating IGSI email as spam:

- Check your email Junk/Spam folder; if you find a message from us there, move it to your normal inbox.
- Add webeditor@irishgenealogical.org to your Safe Senders list.

If you don't know the steps to follow, use a search engine with "add sender to safe senders list with [email service provider name here]." Some companies refer to the list as an Allow List or Whitelist, so look for those terms, too.

How Google My Maps Can Help You with Your Genealogy

by Mary Wickersham

Since Google Maps™ mapping service was first introduced in 2005,[1] most of us have used it to find our way to a restaurant, venue or on vacation. Have you used Google Maps for genealogy? Here are some examples for using maps with your research:

- Visualize locations of ancestors to help you find their records
- Track ancestors' movements and migration patterns
- Support FAN Club analysis by plotting people's places in proximity to one another and particularly to our ancestors
- Plan research-oriented travel

You may use Maps.Google.com for directions, but — for more sophisticated tools such as uploading and mapping a list of locations — go to www.MyMaps.Google.com, then click Create a New Map. "My Maps allows you to identify specific locations, add photos, notes and connect locations together."[2]

To store and edit maps, you must be a registered user of *Google* to keep and edit your maps. Consider setting up a Gmail address simply for this purpose. Registration is free; create a login ID (Gmail address) and password.

Plan to experiment with Google My Maps, getting comfortable with the numerous features. Tutorials are readily available on *YouTube* and within *Google*, "My Maps Help."

Hopefully, the examples here will motivate you to give it a try. Among the valuable features of My Maps is the ability to click on a marker and get detailed information, to scroll in and out to view a map at different scales. The screenshots shown here do not do the maps justice. You can change the base map style to view terrain, satellite, and six other map styles. (Examples here are the base map view)

Visualize the locations of your ancestors. Understanding locality boundaries may help you find records specific to a limited area rather than a larger region.

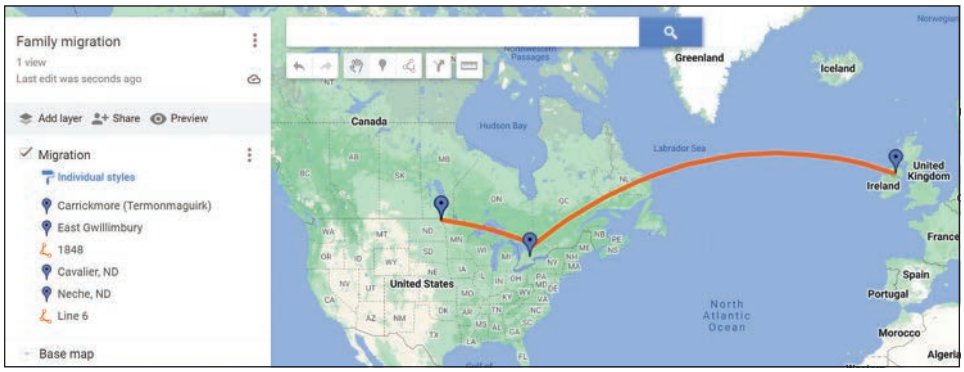
In Screenshot 1, *Wolfe events in Co Sligo, 1870s — 1880s*, I searched Google Maps for locations in Ireland where the Wolfe family had been known to reside. I saved each spot, with a marker, to the Wolfe family list, then edited the title and details to include the year and specific event. Pop-ups appear to display the details as each marker is clicked. You may use the link beneath Screenshot 1 to view this map, click links, and zoom in for a closer look.

Track ancestors' movements. In addition to marking locations, My Maps offers a line drawing feature that allows us to show migration paths. Screenshot 2 shows a migration path from Ireland to Canada to North Dakota.[3]

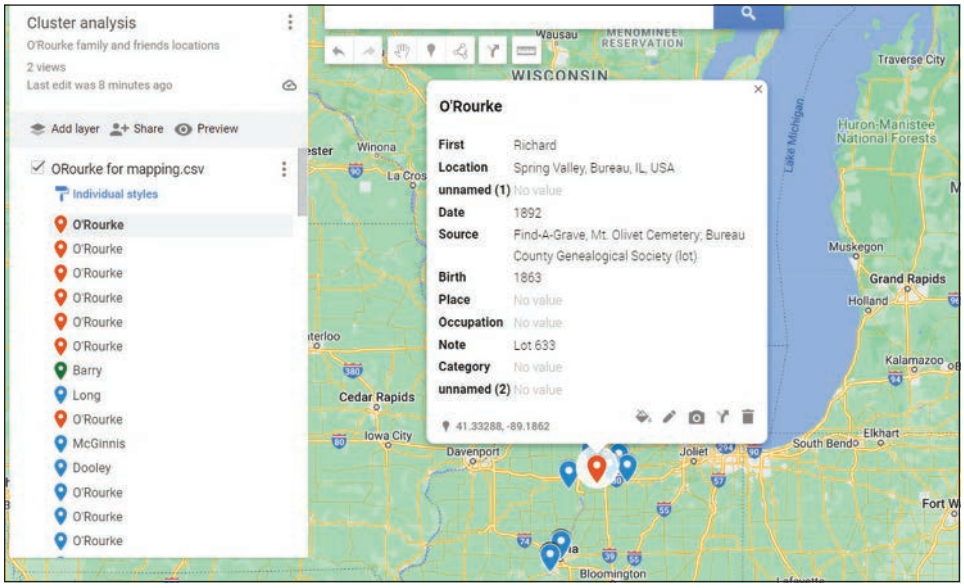
Support FAN Club analysis. Plotting the FAN Club members' locations on a map gives us a unique perspective for correlating our data.



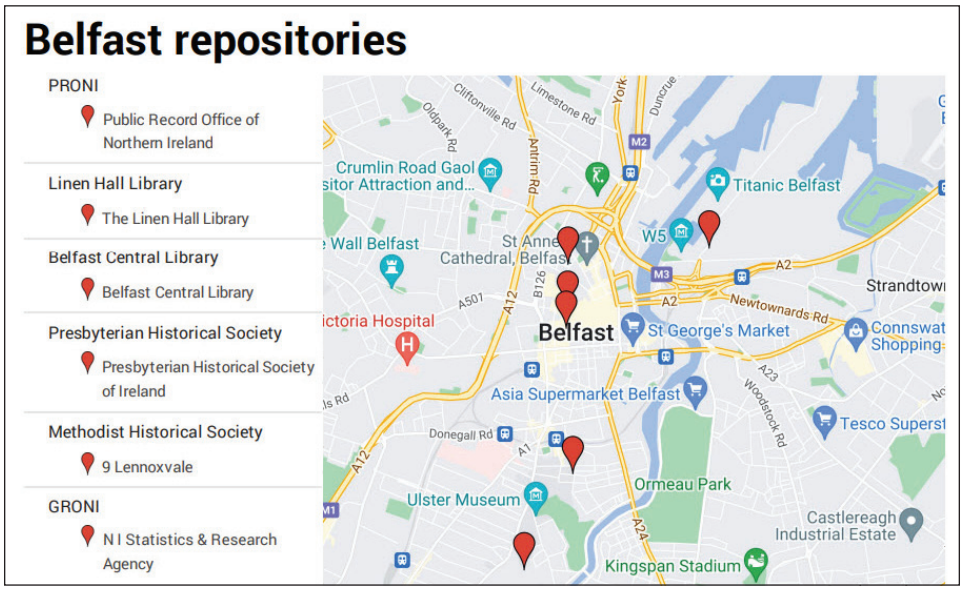
Screenshot 1 – Google. (n.d.). [Google My Maps Wolfe events in Co Sligo 1870s — 1880s]. Retrieved August 24, 2022, from https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1yx2xwZCMx5vYNW1GXo1PhPw7ABZ-5YE&usp=sharing



Screenshot 2 — Family migration map



Screenshot 3 — Cluster analysis map



Screenshot 4 — Belfast repositories map

FAN Club analysis involves tracking our ancestors' Friends, Associates and Neighbors, thus providing clues or leading to further information about our people. My Maps can import a list of locations and plot them on the map. I created the map by listing locations for my O'Rourke FAN Club, which settled in Illinois.[4] (Screenshot 3)

Plan research-oriented travel.

Use Google's mapping tools to create a repository travel plan as you would for any trip.

You can group destinations by layer. In Screenshot 4, I created a layer for each repository in Belfast.[5] I can check or uncheck any layer to control its display on the map.

Conclusion

There are many ways to use Google Maps with your genealogy research. It is a powerful tool for identifying political boundaries for record lookups, displaying ancestors' migration, conducting FAN club analysis, and planning research trips.

If my example inspires you to use maps differently in your research, visit www.MyMaps.Google.com and follow the prompts.

Endnotes

[1] Reid, Elizabeth, Vice President of Engineering, Google Maps. A look back at 15 years of mapping the world, 6 February 2020; (https://blog.google/products/maps/look-back-15-years-mapping-world/ : Accessed 24-Aug-2022).

[2] The National Archives, U.K., Google Earth and My Maps; (https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/projects-and-programmes/plugged-in-powered-up/digital-engagement-toolkit/platform-guides/google-earth-and-my-maps/ : Accessed 24-Aug-2022).

[3] *Google*. (n.d.). [Google My Maps *Family migration*]. Retrieved August 24, 2022, from https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1h3tAnXseaUdXL9d46GH0afbELpc&usp=sharing.

[4] *Google*. (n.d.). [Google My Maps *Cluster analysis*]. Retrieved August 24, 2022, from https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=10-u00CRuF2dZihmDRfI7iQmN51ZsJTo&usp=sharing.

[5] *Google*. (n.d.). [Google My Maps *Cluster analysis*]. Retrieved August 24, 2022, from https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=10-u00CRuF2dZihmDRfI7iQmN51ZsJTo&usp=sharing.

Mary Wickersham has served IGSI in several board positions and twice co-chaired the Celtic Connections Conference. A member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Mary gives genealogy talks on research tools and techniques. She became IGSI Web Editor in 2018 and one of The Septs *co-Managing Editors in 2021.*



Thank You to the Irish Fair Volunteers

From Jeanne Bakken, IGSI Volunteer Coordinator

The Irish Fair was held August 12th — 14th at Harriet Island in St. Paul, MN.

The weather was near perfect this year and the fair was busy. The Irish came out to celebrate their heritage and enjoy good food and music.

A big *thank you* to all our members who volunteered at the IGSI booth this year to answer questions about our organization and to help those interested in their genealogy.

Mike Flynn and Mark Hartnett set up the IGSI booth on Friday and took everything down on Sunday. They staffed the booth both Friday afternoon and Sunday afternoon.

The following volunteers staffed the IGSI booth on Saturday and Sunday:

Richard Burbach	John and Pat Sammons
Dave Gaffaney	Kay Swanson
Eileen Kelly	Pat Schoenfeld
Jeanne Laine	Ron Zweber
Walt Rothwell	

Dave Miller was also there to record the latest podcast for IGSI. You can check it out on the IGSI *YouTube* channel. Our *YouTube* channel can be found at Irish Genealogical Society International.





It was a success because of our great volunteers! Thank you.

Basic DNA Tools, Part 1: Visualizing Your Chromosomes

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

This issue of *The Septs* is examining maps. Did you know that genetic genealogists use maps too? In genetic genealogy, you are not mapping geographical features, you are mapping your autosomal DNA matches and your ethnicity information on your chromosomes!

Genetic genealogists use three kinds of map-like plots to view DNA segments:

- Chromosome browsers
- Chromosome paintings
- Chromosome maps.

One caveat: chromosome browsers and maps are only available if you have DNA kits at three of the four major testing companies (*23andMe*, *MyHeritage*, *Family Tree DNA* (*FTDNA*)) or on *GEDmatch*.[1] (This is because *Ancestry* does not give access to DNA segment data.)

Chromosome browsers are tools provided by three of the four major testing companies — *23andMe*, *MyHeritage*, and *FTDNA*. Chromosome browsers are graphic depictions of matching DNA segments on the chromosomes of the DNA tester. *23andMe* and *FTDNA* display 22 chromosomes plus the X-chromosome in their browsers; *MyHeritage* displays only the first 22 chromosomes.[2]

On the browser, the tester's chromosomes are depicted as gray outlines, and the segments shared by the tester and the DNA match being examined are shown in color. All three companies that have chromosome browsers allow users to view more than one match in the browser for comparison purposes.

Three browsers are illustrated below and on the next page. Figure 1 shows a comparison between the tester and a single second-cousin DNA match sharing 162 cM on *FTDNA*, while Figure 2 shows a comparison between the tester and several DNA matches sharing 294 cM and 134 cM on *23andMe*.[3] You will notice that, because the browser is comparing the test kit to two matches, the second illustration shows two bars for each chromosome (one for each match). In addition to the graphic depiction of the matches, all three companies' chromosome browsers allow users to download tables showing the stop and start points of the shared DNA

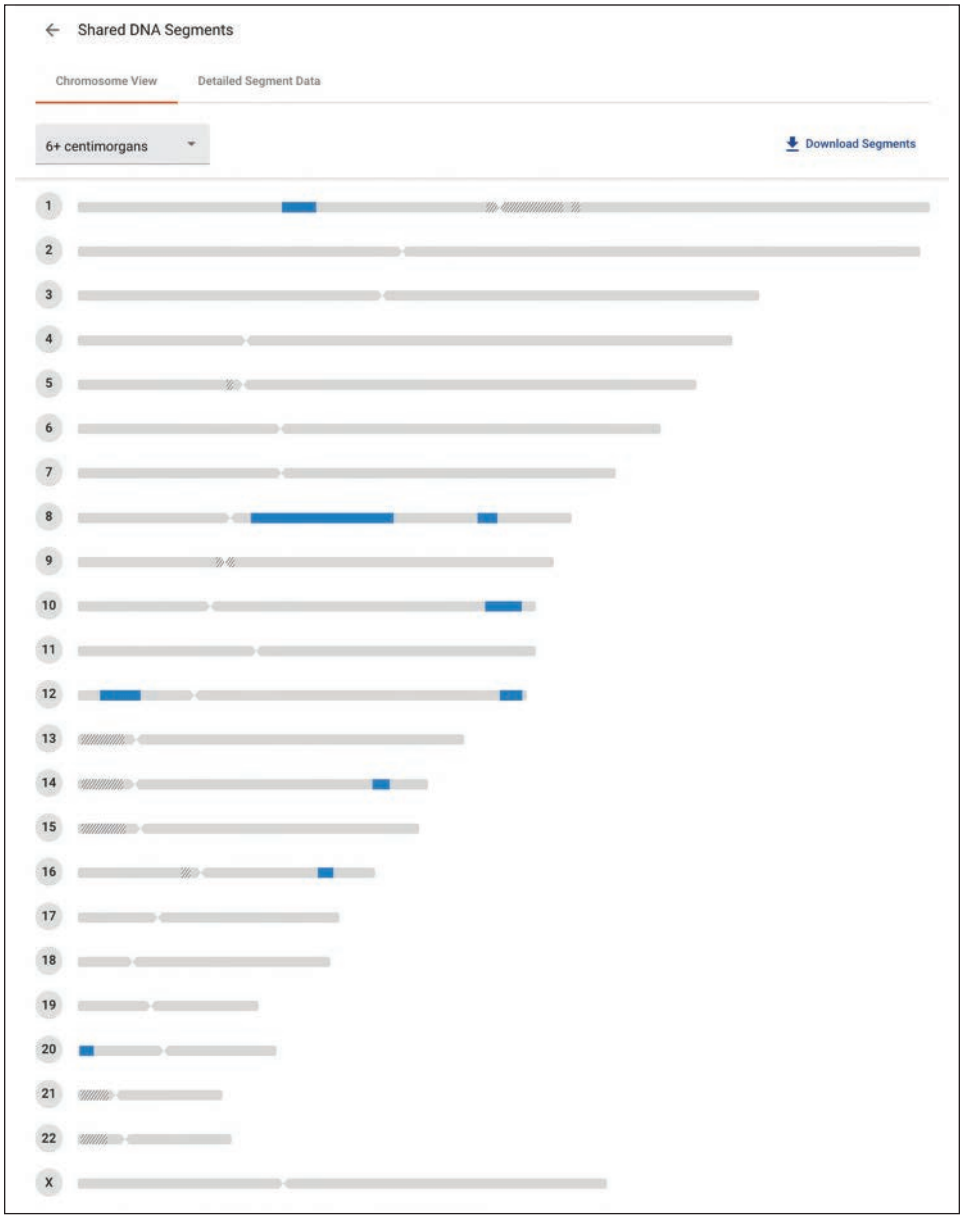


Figure 1 – FTDNA chromosome browser



Figure 2 – 23andMe chromosome browser

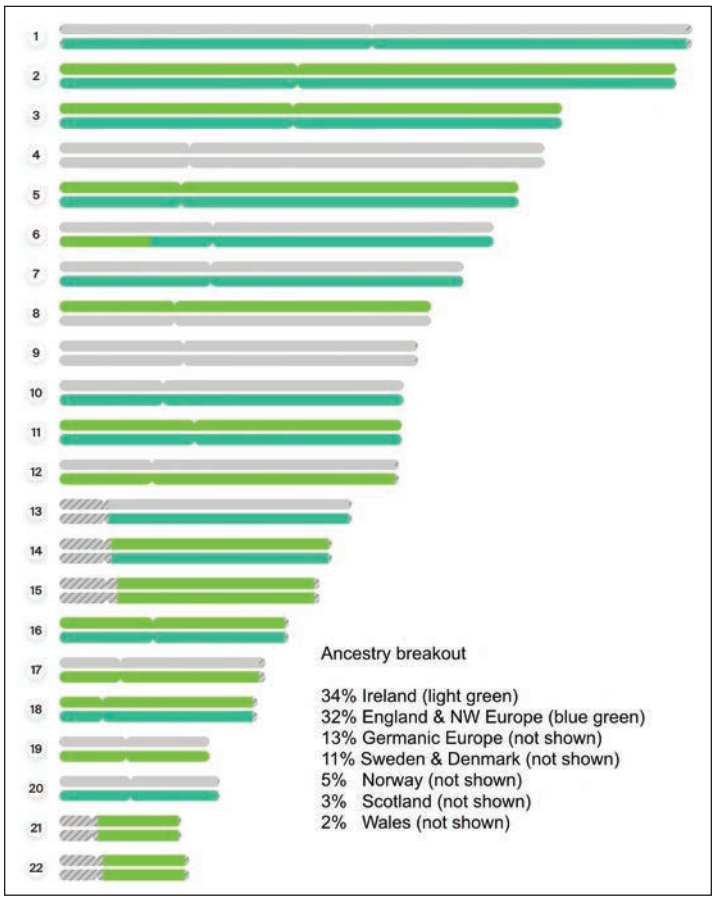
Match Name	Chromosome	Start Location	End Location	Centimorgans	Matching SNPs
[redacted]	1	60198430	70594528	13.83	2877
	8	119312168	125706332	9.3	1639
	8	52070410	94835740	36.78	8876
	10	121515323	132719878	26.24	4280
	12	126847838	133777645	21.33	2644
	12	6939850	20048258	18.64	3651
	14	90868442	96133776	10.93	1865
	16	73519412	78050161	6.8	1349
	20	63244	5296005	17.77	1933

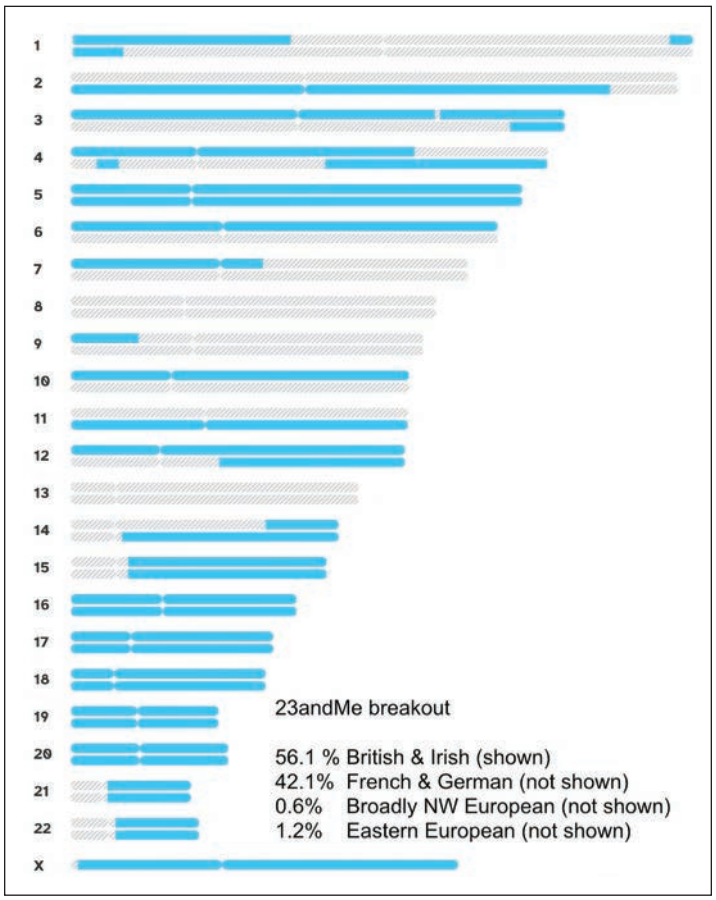
Figure 3 – FTDNA chromosome browser segment table

segments. Figure 3 presents the *FTDNA* segment table from the single-match comparison.

Chromosome paintings are a slightly different tool provided by a different trio of testing companies: *Ancestry*, *23andMe*, and *FTDNA*. Chromosome paintings break out a DNA tester's ethnicity estimate into segments on the tester's chromosomes. Unlike the chromosome browsers, which show chromosome pairs as one unit, the chromosome paintings split out testers' ethnicity breakouts into the two chromosomes of each pair. The three illustrations on page 111 show chromosome paintings from *Ancestry*, *23andMe*, and *FTDNA*. Testers can highlight specific populations in their breakout on the chromosome painting. This is shown in the *Ancestry* and *23andMe* illustrations. *23andMe* and *FTDNA* (but not *Ancestry*) allow users to view and download tables showing the start and stop points for the DNA segments allocated to each ethnicity category. Alert viewers of these illustrations will notice that the three companies differ in the composition of the categories they use, how they allocate DNA to categories, and how they identify chromosome segments assigned to each category.

Chromosome maps allow testers to plot the DNA segments they share with matches on any site that provides segment start and stop points[4] on a single map of their chromosomes. As the ISOGG Wiki points out, chromosome mapping tools have been available since 2013, when Kitty Cooper first made her mapping tools available to the public.[5] In 2018, chromosome mapping became both less technical and more widely used by genetic genealogists when Jonny Perl launched his award-winning *DNAPainter* website.[6]





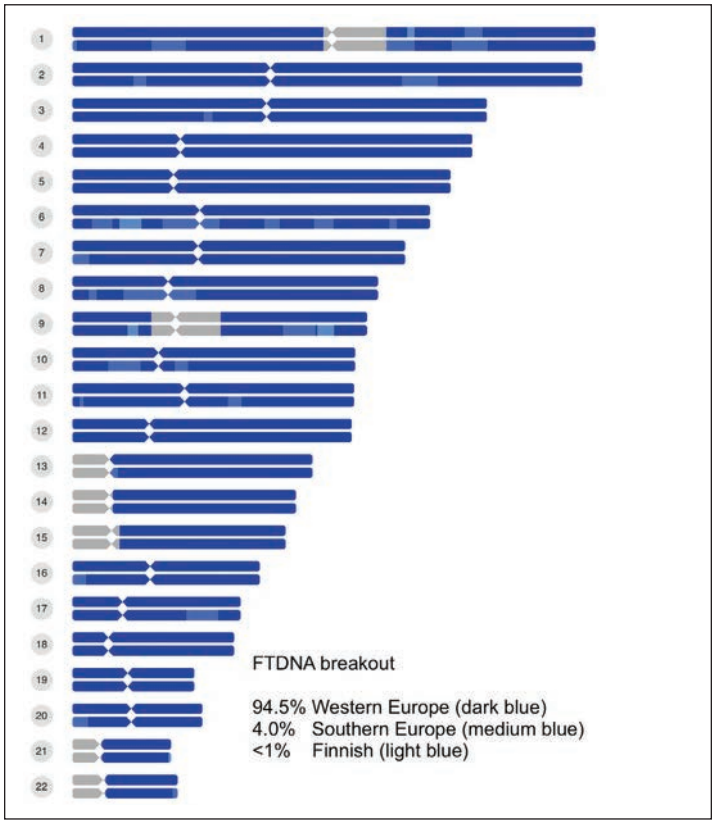


Figure 4 – (above left) Ancestry *chromosome painter.jpg*

Figure 5 – (above right) 23andMe *chromosome painter.jpg*

Figure 6 – (at left) FTDNA *chromosome painter.jpg*

Among the many tools at *DNAPainter* is a chromosome mapper where you can map matching DNA segments, assign your DNA matches to your paternal or maternal side, and attribute matches to specific ancestors or ancestral couples. You can also import ancestry composition data from *23andMe*'s chromosome painter and bulk data from other sites.[7]

Creating maps at *DNAPainter* is simple: all you do is create a mapping profile, click Paint a New Match, and copy and paste matching segment data from tables downloaded from *23andMe*, *MyHeritage*, *FTDNA*, or *GEDmatch*. Help files linked to *DNAPainter*'s Paint a New Match screen show you exactly how to access or download data tables from each testing site and guide you through the process of assigning DNA segments to ancestors or ancestral couples.

DNAPainter is a freemium site. The basic site, including the blog, help pages, and other tools is free. The site offers an example chromosome map profile you can play with. Establishing a free account enables you to create one chromosome map. If you want to create more than one map, you need a subscription, which will give you the ability to create multiple maps, use bulk import, and take advantage of the site's many other tools. At the time this article was written, twelve-month subscriptions were $55 (U.S.).

Chromosome maps are an incredibly useful genetic genealogy tool for those who have test kits at testing companies that provide segment data (remember, these are *23andMe*, *MyHeritage*, *FTDNA*) and/or at *GEDmatch*. Once you've set up a map for yourself or another tester whose kit you manage, you can add to your map as new matches and match data become available. Depending on how many matches you can access segment data for, you may be able to map a significant part of your genome.

Figure 7 below shows Jere Mackin's chromosome map, which contains 208 mapped segments comprising about 36% of Jere's DNA. Some features you will notice as you look at Jere's map are

- The map has two horizontal lines for each chromosome pair, representing the paternal and maternal chromosomes. When you paint a match, you assign the match's DNA segments as Paternal, Maternal, or Unknown; you can change these assignments later. In the live, online version of the chromosome map, you can click the All, None, Paternal, and Maternal buttons below the map key to view only Jere's paternal or maternal matches.
- Individual matches are shown in groups. In Jere's map, the groups represent the most recent common ancestral pair for the matches assigned to the group. This assignment can either be made when you paint a match or later.
- Colors assigned to the match groups (shown on the chromosomes and in the key) are user-selectable. In the case of Jere's map, shades of four colors were assigned to the groups related to Jere's four grandparents. Clicking a group's name in the key brings up a detailed view of the chromosomes where segments assigned to the group appear. In this detailed view, you can see the stop and start points of the segments Jere shares with the matches in the group and how the segments overlap with each other.
- The *DNAPainter* map includes the X-chromosome from Jere's 23rd chromosome pair. Since Jere is male, he has only one X-chromosome, which he inherited from his mother. If we were looking at the chromosome map of a female tester, we would see two X-chromosome bars, one for our female tester's paternal X-chromosome and one for her maternal X.

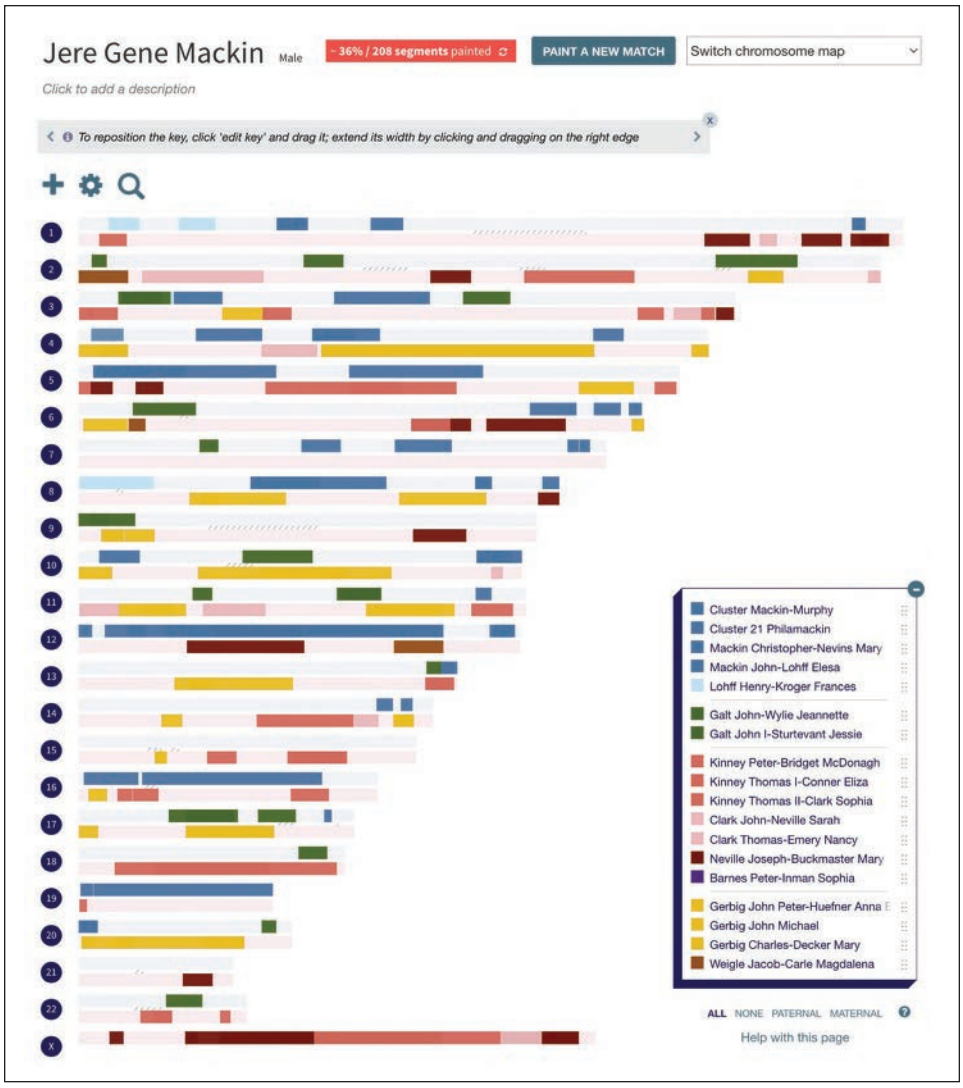


Figure 7 – DNAPainter *chromosome map*

In Jere's chromosome map, the three DNA matches depicted in the chromosome browser illustrations (Figures 1 and 2) for *FTDNA* and *23andMe*, along with another *FTDNA* match, are part of the blue group named Mackin John-Lohff Elesa in Jere's chromosome map. Detail of this group is shown below (Figure 8); the genealogical relationship of the matches in the group to their common ancestors John and Elesa are also shown.

In the group detail you can click the name of a tester in the group to see the segments shared with that tester. In the illustration, the name of the tester shown in the *FTDNA* chromosome browser illustration is highlighted. You can see the same information that you saw in the *FTDNA* chromosome browser: this match shares segments with Jere on chromosomes 1, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 20. You can also see information you cannot see in the *FTDNA* chromosome browser, including where this tester shares DNA segments with other mapped cousins, whether they tested at the same testing company or not. By grouping and mapping DNA matches, you can get a more complete picture of the DNA Jere inherited from his paternal great-grandparents John Mackin and Elesa Lohff.

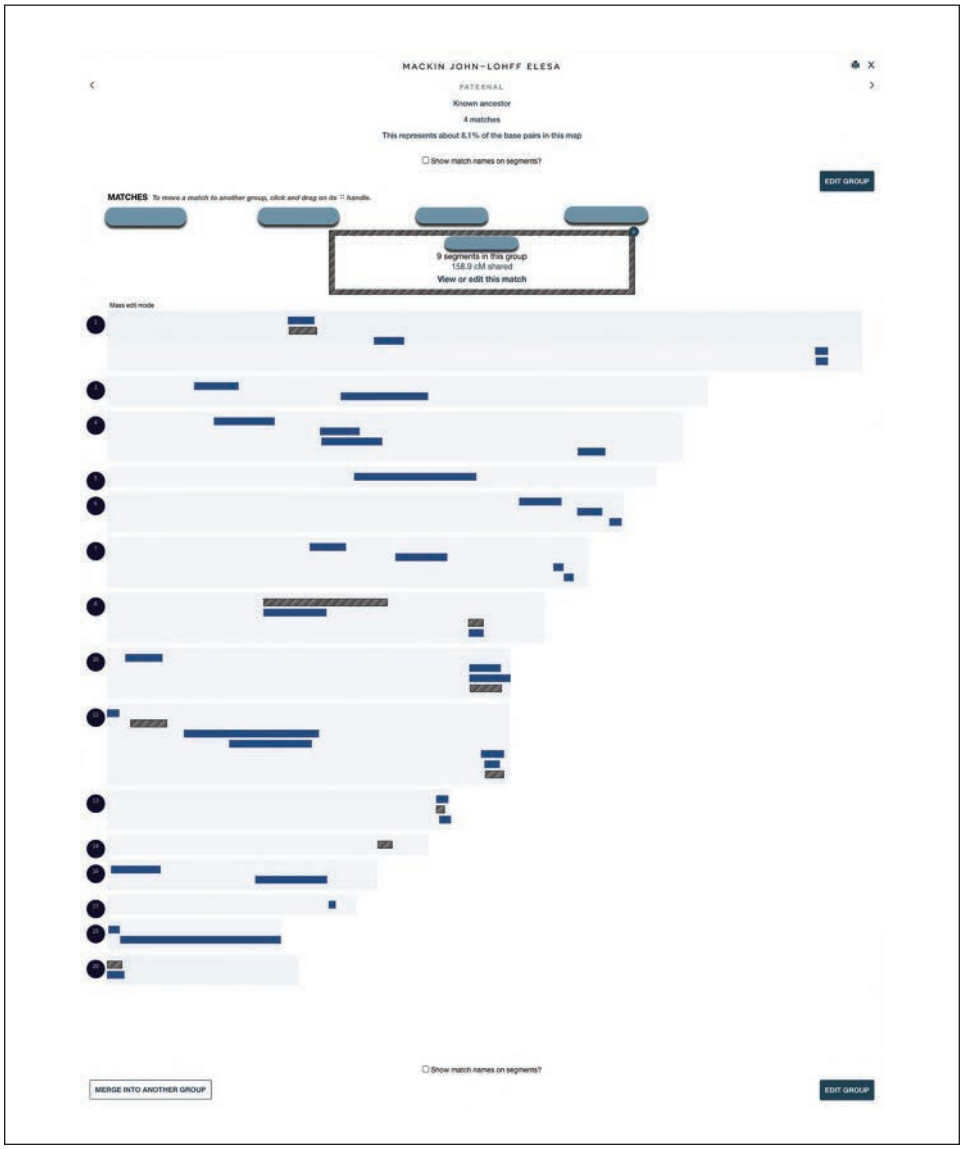


Figure 8 – DNAPainter *group detail*

The group detail view of *DNAPainter* allows you to edit the group as a whole, edit individual matches, edit individual segments, move matches to another group, or merge the group into another group. (This is just one example of the thoughtful, user-friendly design of this website!)

The bottom line. Using chromosome browsers, paintings, and maps to visualize your DNA ethnicity and match information enables you to learn much more than you would from simply viewing ethnicity percentages and individual matches. Once you've mapped as many of your known matches as you can, you can use your map to

- Lay out segments shared with DNA cousins who tested on any site that provides segment data
- Explore the DNA segments you've inherited from specific ancestors
- See whether ethnicity predictions for DNA segments match the known ancestry of matches on those segments
- Work toward identifying unknown matches who share DNA segments you've mapped. It's likely that a paternal or maternal DNA segment you share with both known and unknown matches comes from the same ancestral couple (or from ancestors of the couple).

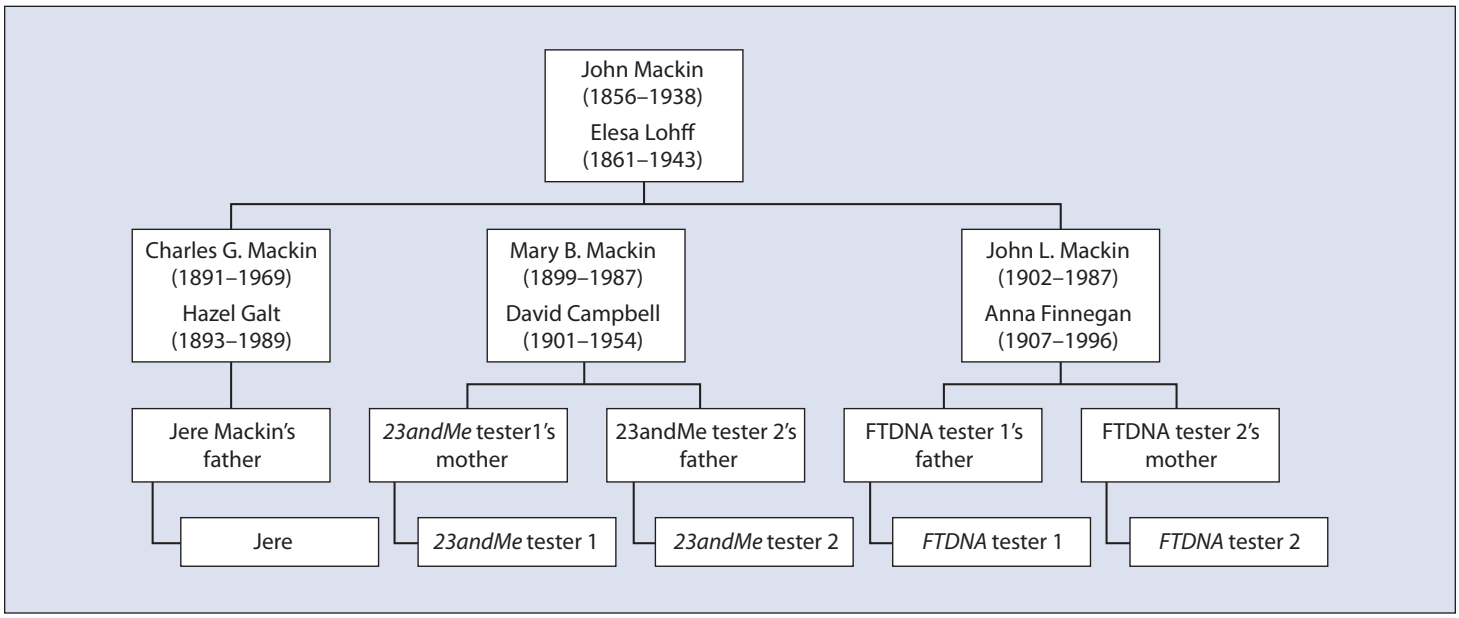


Figure 9 – John Mackin pedigree chart

Endnotes

[1] If you want your kit to be available on all possible testing company websites, you do not have to test at all of the companies. However, if you want to be in the *Ancestry* or *23andMe* match pools, you do have to test with them. Once you have taken a test, you can download a zip file of your DNA data and upload it to *FTDNA*, *MyHeritage*, or *GEDmatch*, a third-party site (meaning that it is independent of the testing companies). If you want to take full advantage of matching and tools at *MyHeritage* or *FTDNA*, you will need to pay a nominal fee ($19 at *FTDNA*, $29 at *MyHeritage* unless you have a site subscription, in which case the Advanced DNA Features are free).

[2] Although the 22 or 23 chromosomes displayed in the browsers are, in fact, chromosome pairs consisting of one chromosome from the tester's father and one from their mother, the browsers depict the chromosome pairs as units. This is because the browser cannot tell which chromosome of the pair (paternal or maternal) the match falls on.

[3] The test kits shown throughout this article are those of Jere G. Mackin and are used with Jere's permission.

[4] Detailed segment data is available from *23andMe*, *MyHeritage*, and *FTDNA*. *Ancestry* does not provide this data, but you may find that some *Ancestry* matches have uploaded their DNA to *GEDmatch*, which does provide segment detail.

[5] "Chromosome mapping," *International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki* (https://isogg.org/wiki/Chromosome_mapping : accessed 15 August 2022).

[6] *DNAPainter*, https://dnapainter.com/. The site's home page links to a 20-minute webinar presented at Rootstech 2022. The website also includes a Where to Start section, a Help section, a blog, and a page of articles and resources. There is also a dedicated *Facebook* group, https://www.facebook.com/groups/127620554606673/.

[7] Bulk data imports are a subscription feature and are outside the scope of this article. For more information on bulk imports, see https://dnapainter.com/help/import. The *DNAPainter* blog (https://dnapainter.com/blog/) also includes articles on bulk importing.

[8] See the site's subscription page for a full feature comparison, https://dnapainter.com/subscribe/landing.

Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D., is a professional genealogist focusing on American and English research. She has three degrees in history and has studied at major genealogical institutes. She writes for Minnesota Genealogist *and is the 2013 winner of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Founders Award for visionary leadership.*



The Road to Your Ancestral Home: Griffith's Valuation and Google Maps

by Robt. Flanagan Stieglitz

The goal of many genealogists with Irish immigrant ancestors is to identify their ancestral home and any family left behind. The joy of locating that home/farm can only be matched by visiting. If the locales of your ancestors were not known to you or any family members beforehand, the research to identify them can be long and arduous.

Growing up in New Jersey in the 1950s and 1960s with my mother's family, the surnames Branegan, Flanagan, Finnegan and Tighe were household words. All eight of my mom's great-grandparents emigrated from Ireland between 1851 and 1867. Fortunately, there is a valuable resource to locate their homes: Griffith's Valuation of Ireland.[1] "The survey was a property tax survey conducted in the mid-nineteenth century under the supervision of Sir Richard Griffith. The survey involved the detailed valuation of every taxable piece of agricultural or built property on the island of Ireland and was published county-by-county between the years 1847 and 1864."[2] Not only did the survey contain tax values, it also provided an associated map for each piece of property. Because each of my mother's "great grandfathers" were born between 1835 and 1844, and immigrated between 1857 and 1874, it is quite possible to locate their homes on Griffith's Valuation maps.

PARISH OF CLOONFINLOUGH.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.		Names. Townlands and Occupiers.	Names. Immediate Lessors.	Description of Tenement.	Area. A.	R.	P
		CLOONFREE— *continued.*					
49		Thomas Healy,	William Mahon,	Land,	5	2	20
50	a	John Carberry,	Same,	House, office, and land,	10	3	0
–	b	Thomas Healy,	Same,	House, office, & garden,	0	1	0
51	a	Anne Leaven,	Same,	House, office, and land,	5	2	20
52	a	James Flanagan,	Same,	House, office, and land,	10	3	0
53	a	Edward Neary,	Same,	House and land,	17	0	14



Image 1 – (above) Griffith's Valuation – Parish Of Cloonfinlough- Townland Cloonfree – Valuation of Tenements[3]

Image 2 – (at left) Farm location on Griffith's Valuation map *– Parish Of Cloonfinlough- Townland Cloonfree – Map View* [4]

Griffith's is not a census; therefore, it does not include all the names of those residing on a piece of property. Only the head of household's name is provided. Consequently, this makes finding ancestors a bit more difficult since only the names of my mother's immigrant great-grandfathers' fathers are listed.

Traditional in-depth research is required to ensure you have accurately determined in which town or townland your family lived in Ireland.[4] My Branegan and Tighe lines' townlands were provided in a journal written by my great-uncle when he visited Ireland in 1965.[5] My Flanagan and Finnegan ancestors were much more challenging to locate. Each step of my Flanagan genealogical research can be found in the Winter 2020 issue of *The New York Researcher*.[6] A follow-up genealogical proof narrative for my Flanagan research is found in the 2021 Autumn issue of *Irish Lives Remembered*.[7] The details of the Finnegan research will be found in the Winter 2022 issue of *The Irish Genealogist*.[8]

My second g-grandfather, Thomas Flanagan came from Cloonfree, Cloonfinlough, Strokestown, County Roscommon.[9] His parents were James Flanagan and Mary O'Gorman.[10] James Flanagan can be found in Griffith's Valuation in the townland of Cloonfree, Parish Cloonfinlough.[11] Along with the pertinent information needed for taxation purposes, a reference to the farm location is provided in an associated map. See Image 1 above, where the farm location is indicated by the number/letter 52 a.

The Griffith's map (Image 2) may be accessed on the *Ask about Ireland* website.

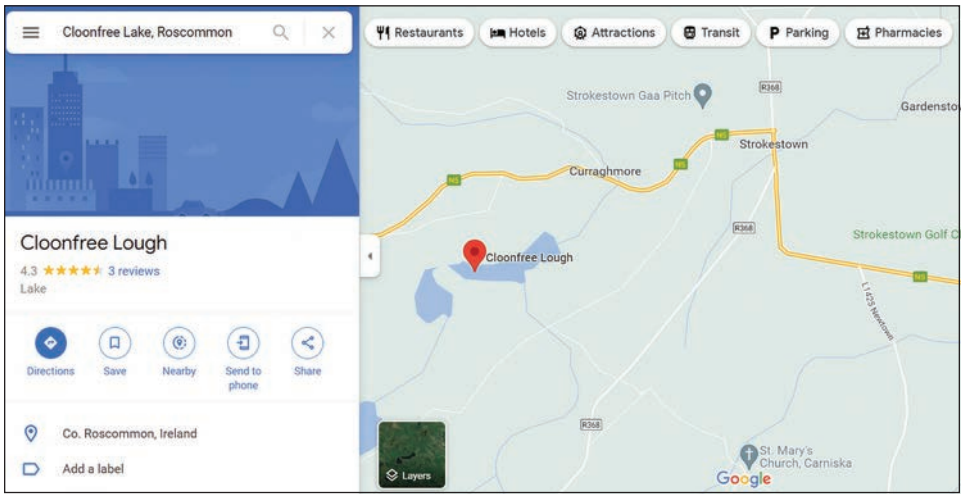
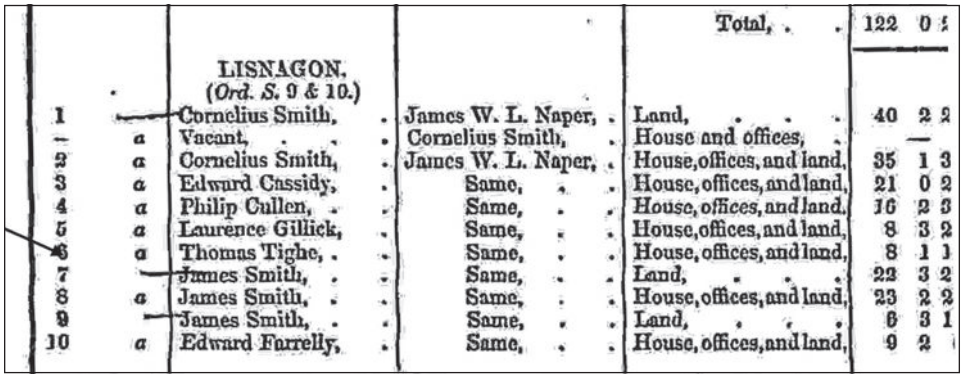


Image 3 – Google Map shows contemporary roads that easily direct one to the Cloonfree or Cloonfree Lough location of the farm. Google Maps-*Cloonfree-County Roscommon.*[13]



				Total, . .	122	0
		LISNAGON. (*Ord. S.* 9 & 10.)				
1		Cornelius Smith,	James W. L. Naper,	Land,	40	2 2
–	a	Vacant,	Cornelius Smith,	House and offices,		
2	a	Cornelius Smith,	James W. L. Naper,	House, offices, and land,	35	1 3
3	a	Edward Cassidy,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	21	0 2
4	a	Philip Cullen,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	16	2 3
5	a	Laurence Gillick,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	8	3 2
6	a	Thomas Tighe,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	8	1 1
7		James Smith,	Same,	Land,	22	3 2
8	a	James Smith,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	23	2 2
9		James Smith,	Same,	Land,	6	3 1
10	a	Edward Farrelly,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	9	2

Image 4 – Griffith's Valuation – Parish Of Kilskeer- Townland Lisnagon- Valuation of Tenements.[14] *The homestead is indicated by the number 6, letter a.*

the home was still there. Thomas B. Tighe, Anna's grandfather, was born in Lisnagon, Parish of Kilskeer, County Meath.

Griffith's map below indicates the location of the house (Image 5), which can also be found on *Google Maps* (Image 6).[17]

I was confused when I arrived at the old Tighe residence because the home at



Image 5 – Griffith's Valuation – Parish Of Kilskeer- Townland Lisnagon- Map View[18]

I visited Ireland in 2003 and located the old Flanagan homestead. I was a bit disappointed to find there were no buildings left on the property. The last Flanagan, Patrick, lived on the farm until at least 1911.[15] After selling the farm, Patrick immigrated to the United States in 1913.[16] Upon leaving, I buried a small locket on the edge of the farm property that contained photos of my mother, Virigina Flanagan, and my grandfather, C. Raymond Flanagan.

The same mapping technique was used to locate my grandmother's (Anna Tighe's) paternal homestead in Ireland. This time

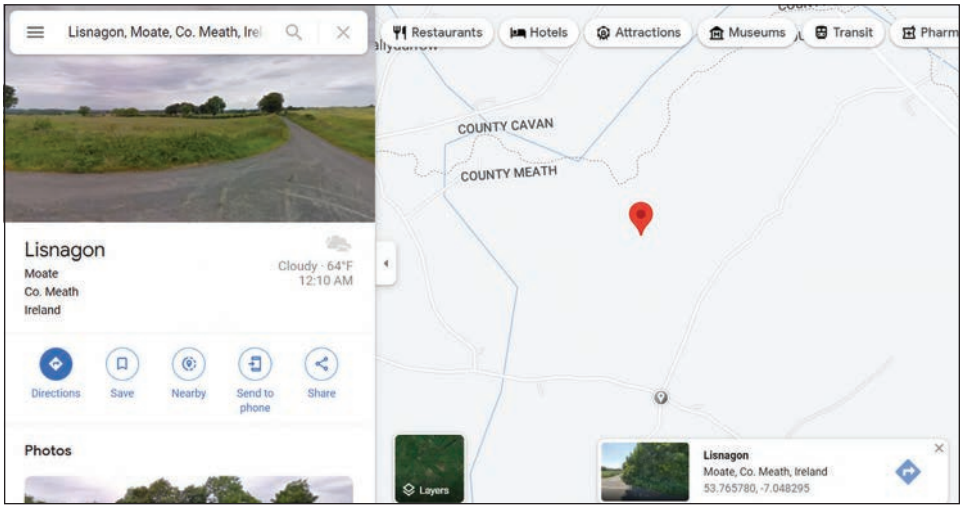


Image 6. Google Maps-*Lisnagon, County Meath* [16]





Image 7 – (above) Tighe/Smith home Lisnagon, Kilskeer, County Meath[20]

Image 8 – (at right) The Tighe Home (2003 photo), #6a Griffith's map[21]

location #6a looked nothing like the one in the photo my great-uncle Thomas Tighe included in his *Irish Trip Journal* (above left, taken in 1965).[22] My Uncle Thomas indicated in his journal that just opposite the Tighe house was the home of his brother-in-law, James Smith, Catherine (Smith) Tighe's brother.[23] The above right photo, taken in 2003, is of the home located at #7 on Griffith's map (James Smith – occupant) just opposite #6. Although neglected and overgrown with vegetation it is clear that these two homes are the same. While there, I met an older gentleman walking past and asked if he knew the previous owners of the house in the photo. He responded, "Aye, that's the old Smith house." Based on Griffith's Maps it appears that my great-uncle was given incorrect information, although I see how some confusion could occur. The Tighe home was located just opposite the Smiths' in Lisnagon (Image 8).

I realized that searching for the homes my Irish ancestors left to come to America would be difficult, and that family history research often seems never-ending, but I was determined to succeed. In addition to locating the ancestral homes of my Tighe and Flanagan lines, I was able to locate both my Branegans in Ardee, Ardee, County Louth, and my Finnegans in Garrymore, Ballintemple, County Cavan. Discovering them has given me a sense of closure and allowed me to walk in the footsteps of my ancestors.

Endnotes

[1] John Grenham, "What Is Griffith's Valuation?" *Ask about Ireland* (www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/irish-genealogy/what-is-griffiths-valuati/ : accessed 23 Dec. 2020).

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[16] "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (Including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957." *Ancestry.com*, S.S. *Cedric*, Port of New York, Patrick Flanagan, age 27, Cloonfree < Strokestown, Roscommon, 13 May 1913, (www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/NYT715_2068-0529?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&queryId=34f0b748216cf806830c8f0747c22765 : accessed 16 Jul 2022).

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[20] Robert Flanagan Stieglitz, *Family Tree Maker*, personal photos of Smith/Tighe residence Lisnagon, County Meath, digitally stored on computer, Nevis, MN.

[21] Robert Flanagan Stieglitz, *Family Tree Maker*, personal photos of Smith/Tighe residence Lisnagon, County Meath, digitally stored on computer, Nevis, MN.

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[23] Ibid.

Rob Flanagan Stieglitz was born in New Jersey and is now happily retired in Minnesota for most of the year. He started researching his family history in 1999, is a graduate of the Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate Program, and has had articles published in The New York Researcher, Irish Lives Remembered, *and* Irish Roots.



FamilySearch Digitization Project Marks 1st Anniversary of Completion

September 2022 marked the one-year anniversary of the completion of the FamilySearch microfilm digitization project. 2.4 million rolls of microfilm have been digitized, and are available for free access.[1] You need a (free) FamilySearch account in order to access the images.

Not all of the digitized images have been indexed, so you may need to resort to browsing through the images. Some records have access limitations due to contractual restraints and may only be available in certain locations, such as affiliate libraries. The Hoffman Library is a FamilySearch affiliate library.

Endnote

[1] Bradshaw, Laurie. *FamilySearch Completes Massive Microfilm Digitization Project*, 21 September 2021. (https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/author/laurie-bradshaw : Access 21 September 2022).

Tenant Right in the 19th Century: A Story of Concession Rather Than Right

by Máire Ní Ghruagáin

Most Irish who emigrated after the Great Famine, 1845-1849, and subsequent famines of 1861 and 1878 had a picture etched in their mind of hardship, misfortune or whimsical landlordism back in Ireland. The effects of inflationary rent increases compounded by the inability of tenants to pay rent resulted in many evictions. Yet the families who remained in Ireland had to deal with the issues of tenant right: the content and substance of various land acts throughout the 19th century which eventually transformed them from tenant farmers to peasant proprietors.

It is doubtful whether poor tenants understood the situation from their landlord's perspective, their economic necessity to the landlord, and the lack of preparedness for change on both sides. Religious differences further exacerbated the issues: the landlord class being almost exclusively Protestant and the tenant class exclusively Catholic. Folks separated by race, religion and tradition do not always see things from the same perspective. In hindsight, it is apparent that both the landlord and his tenants endured losses. From the landlord's point of view, the nationalist activists of the Tenant Right League and National Land League were his persecutors. From the tenant's perspective, it was resentment of the Protestant ascendancy.

What were some of these forces in 19th-century Ireland? During the Napoleonic Wars, the need for Irish produce lowered tariffs on exports to Britain of crops such as wool, wheat, barley and corn. The restoration of higher tariffs occurred after the wars; Irish produce was less in demand and an economic recession was a reality. Landlords went without rent payments, and tillage was seen as uneconomical in a livestock market, which replaced those of crops and wool.

Small land holdings were common within the landlords' estates as large families were the norm; a tenant's original holding of fifteen acres or so was divided and subdivided as farmers' sons were accommodated with their slice of the property. This continued subdivision of a finite-sized lot reached its height before the Great Famine. There was a great demand for additional small strips of leasable land, known as conacre, hired per season for growing potatoes. Even before Phytophthora infestans (potato blight) arrived, the land-tenure system in Ireland and the changes in the international marketplace had rung the death knell for small tillage holders.

A graphic image of the transformation of the land before and after the Great Famine is seen by comparing the Ordnance Survey maps of 1842 with Griffith's Land Valuation maps of 1848-1855, showing that land consolidation occurred sometime between these dates.[1] Along with knocking down fences to create larger tracts of cultivable and/or grazing land, dramatic clearances by mass evictions occurred. This drove the already desolate occupants from their original townlands to neighbouring towns where their new accommodations, already overcrowded and decrepit, were not improved.

The poor people sent to the roads and byways became the itinerants of Ireland, lending their haggard faces to many a foreign-produced, glossy magazine. Subsistence farming led to physical survival, but it was unsustainable if the landowner's intent was running a business. Post-famine, the costs of labour increased as mortality figures were highest for society's labouring class. Business practices invariably placed profit above people; in times of adversity and market forces in a changing world, the economy was subject to political decision-making.

An example of this David & Goliath conflict occurred in the town of Newmarket-on-Fergus, County Clare, in April 1850 and was highlighted in *The Limerick and Clare Examiner.* A letter to the editor entitled "State of Newmarket-on-Fergus: Illegal Extermination" described how a land manager had been charging residents additional rent long before the estate landlord's requirement of higher rent fees. The estate landlord persuaded his land manager to evict the residents under the threat that the manager would lose his position. Forty families were forced to leave these homes of last resort.[2] The observation was not lost on the founders of two organisations whose objective was the winning of tenant right.

The Tenant Right League of 1850-1859 and later the Irish National Land League were established to rescue rural tenants from such insecurity. The Tenant Right League was organised at the tail end of the Great Famine by Charles Gavan Duffy, William Sharman Crawford, Frederick Lucas, and James MacKnight. It set out to check the power of landlords and achieve tenant right. Its members came from North and South, Catholics, Protestants, and Presbyterians, with their respective clerical leaders and parishioners. However, there was little support for the new organ-

Irish Tenant Right Timeline – 1800s

by Kim Gehrman White

1803-1815	Napoleonic Wars
1841	Population of Ireland was about 8.2 million
1845-1849	Great Famine
1850	"Illegal Extermination" letter to the editor
1850-1869	The rise of the **Irish Republican (or Fenian) Brotherhood**, whose objective was the realization, by any means, of an Irish republic
1850	**Tenant Right League** formed and worked for the necessity of the "three F's" – fair rent, fixity of tenure, and freedom of sale
1852	Establishment of the **Independent Irish Party (IIP)**, with the validation of the Tenant Right League
1859	Dissolution of the Tenant Right League
1870	William E. Gladstone introduced what would become the **Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act** on 15 February. The bill closely resembled a bill framed by the Tenant League in 1852
1870-end of WWI	**Irish Home Rule Movement**
1871	Population of Ireland was about 5.4 million
Aug. 1879	Michael Davitt established the new **National Land League of Mayo**
Oct. 1879	Building on the foundation of the Mayo league, the new, larger body, the **Irish National Land League**, was established with Charles Stewart Parnell as president. The league was to lobby for lower rents and ownership of land.
1880	Captain Charles Cunningham **Boycott**, land agent, was called upon by the Land League to reduce rents after a particularly bad harvest season.
1881	Gladstone's second **Land Law (Ireland) Act** granted the "three F's", but ignored other problems
1885	**Ashbourne Act, or Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act** – provided a loan fund for tenants who wished to purchase land
1886-1891	The stratagem of the **Plan of Campaign** was adopted in Ireland for the benefit of tenant farmers
1886	First **Home Rule Bill** introduced by William E. Gladstone was defeated
1891	**Balfour Act**
1893	Second **Home Rule Bill** introduced by Gladstone after the death of Parnell; the bill passed the House of Commons but was defeated in the House of Lords
1898	William E. Gladstone dies
1903	**Wyndham's Act** – provided loans to tenants at reduced interest for the purchase of land and incentivized the sales with bonuses to the landowners
1906	Michael Davitt dies
1909	**Birrell Act**

Definition	**Conacre***:* subletting for a season of small portions of farmland previously under cultivation.
Definition	**Irish Land Question***:* a name used in the 19th century regarding the problem of land ownership and agrarian upset in Ireland under British rule.
Definition	**Land War***:* a period of tenant farmer agitation in rural Ireland that began in 1879.
Definition	**Rack-rent***:* the act of exacting an excessive or extortionate rent from a tenant, including on both land and improvements made by the tenant.
Definition	**Tenant right***:* at its core, a tenant's right to sell his holding.
Definition	***Tillage****:* preparing land for crops or land under cultivation.

- The above information was gathered from the following sources:
  - National Museum of Ireland > Collections & Research > Irish Folklife Collections > Irish Folklife Collections List > Rural Ireland, 1850-1950: Timeline of Events.
  - Michael Davitt Museum > Discovering Davitt > Father of the Land League.
- FYI: While researching ancestors, please keep an open mind regarding their townland of origin. If you cannot find them in the records you think they should be in, then look in the adjoining parishes. The family may have been forced to move due to eviction.

isation at the grassroots level. The Rev. Mr. Joseph Furniss, the dedicated pastor of Newmarket-on-Fergus, himself a cholera victim, gave the reason:

> …it is because many of our people are moving skeletons, confined to their homes for want of food or raiment, to enable them to appear in public. It is be cause [sic] numbers of them are roving through woods and swamps in America, seeking for a home, that was denied them in their native land. It is because many of them were buried in the ocean, and became the food of sharks. It is because numbers are in their cold and untimely graves, not like Sir John Moore, with their martial cloaks around them, but in their shroudless coffins, slain by starvation and plague.[3]

The Independent Irish Party (IIP) was formed to pursue the aims of the Tenant Right League through political means with the government. The League agreed on the three fundamental rights of tenants. These were known as the "three F's": fair rent, fixity of tenure, and free sale of the right of occupancy. Following their election to Westminster in 1852, 48 liberal candidates pledged to fight for Tenant League ideals. Unfortunately, the rapid decline of the IIP was evident when in 1857, 13 of 19 candidates were elected. The IIP collapsed entirely in 1859. The Independent Irish Party had lacked support from the farmers from the beginning having not communicated well its aims in support of tenant farmers.

The Tenant Right League's demise in 1859 left Irish tenant farmers without representation or leadership. Irish historian Monsignor Ignatius Murphy describes the effect on the parish of Newmarket-on-Fergus where the local priest was already involved in building a new church to replace one built in 1803. His predecessors had done much work obtaining a site, materials, and permission from the landlord, Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Baronet Inchiquin, and an Irish parliamentarian for County Clare. In 1856, £500 was collected from over 300 contributors at a church meeting following mass at the mission's close. By 1860, the church had not yet been built. Fr. Murphy opined:

> The Tenant League which aimed at a reform of the Land System by organising the tenant farmers collapsed in 1859. A few years before this Sadlier and Keogh had betrayed the cause and Gavan Duffy had left the country in despair. The tenant farmers were left helpless and leaderless. It is no wonder that in these circumstances the people of Tradaree had to abandon a project so generously begun.[4,5]

Irish Home Rule Movement

Just as the estate lord placed his interests before those of his tenantry, the Westminster government served no constitutional success to the Tenant League. It became clear that only an Irish Government would redress Irish wrongs. The Home Rule Movement came to existence in 1870 and adopted this purpose. Seeking to gather all strands of political thinking in a federal system leading to an Irish parliament, it played a vital role in the political agitation for tenant right.

The liberal-leaning government of William Gladstone, PM of the United Kingdom (U.K.), led the search for reform of the legal right of Irish tenant farmers. Long-term instead of yearly leases were the intended outcomes of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act which built upon a bill first introduced in 1866 by Sir Colman O'Loghlen [O'Loghlen/O'Lochlen]. In 1874, 60 liberal candidates who affirmed their commitment to the Home Rule Movement were elected nationwide, a result influenced by the passing of the Secret Ballot Act of 1872. Gladstone backed the Irish Tenant Right cause in 1868 and gained the support of the Home Rule caucus. He introduced the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act in 1870, which Parliament passed. However, the bill failed because it only protected the tenant for as long as they could pay rent.[6] Yet, the Act also marked a turn in advancing a solution to the Irish land question.

National Land League Organisations

In August 1879, Michael Davitt formed the National Land League of Mayo. The summer had been very wet and cheap American grain depressed the Irish market, certainly guaranteeing the prospect of famine with evictions to follow. It was an opportune time for organising. The Mayo organization expanded nationwide as the Irish National League with Charles Stewart Parnell named its president in October 1879. The Irish National League's aims were the prevention of rack-renting and the ownership by tenants of their holdings. As the Tenant Right League had done 30 years earlier, the Irish National Land League adopted the "three F's" of basic tenant right as part of its platform: fair rent, fixity of tenure, and free sale of the right of occupancy. Tenant farmers were slow to join, but Parnell insisted that only by joining could tenant right be achieved.

Tenant Right in the 1880s

In 1881, introduced by the liberal British PM, William Gladstone, the **Land Law (Ireland) Act** allowed Land Courts to fix a judicial rent upon application by

a landlord or a tenant and the amount agreed upon was fixed for 15 years. A rent agreed upon by landlord and tenant, registered with the court, was also fixed for 15 years. Regarding loans for land purchase, the amount to be lent by the state was increased from two-thirds to three-quarters of the purchase price to be repaid over 35 years.[7] The Land Act gave control over rent tenure and ownership to public bodies, i.e., the Land Courts and Land Commission (which had undermined the Land League). Tenants had the right to take their rents to the Land Courts for a 15-20% reduction. The deal was put to the test by Charles Parnell and six more imprisoned leaders of the Irish National Land League, who called for a campaign of passive resistance by the tenant farmers by withholding rents to obtain significant rent abatements under the Act.[8]

The campaign eventually failed in its objective.[9] The number of farms sold, recorded at 793, reflected the Act's attractiveness for farmers whose income rose as rents were cut and the inadequacy of the financial assistance from the Land Commission. The Act instituted a system of dual ownership, reducing the landlord to not much more than a receiver of rents.[10]

Shortly after the passing of the 1881 Land Act, Parnell suggested a solution to dealing with landlords who would not accept the judicial-set rent, forcing a landlord to comply by a form of public and economic ostracisation. The first implementation of the plan involved John Crichton, 3rd Earl of Erne, whose land agent was Captain Charles Boycott. Boycott mishandled relations with agricultural workers on Lord Erne's estate which caused a political and public order crisis and the strategy that gave the English language the term "boycott".[11]

The boycott was effective when members of the Land League successfully persuaded labourers on the estate not to assist their landlord's agent. Other services came on board: postal services, tradesmen and servants. The hiring of Protestants to complete work on the estate came at an extremely high price of £10,000, whereas the harvest was valued at a mere £500. At the time of the harvest, military Hussars from Dublin guarded the estate.

The **Ashbourne Land Act of 1885** was the first full land purchase act. A government loan fund of £5 million allowed any tenant who wanted to buy land to do so with a grant. A farmer could pay it back in monthly instalments at a fixed interest rate of 4% over a period of 49 years. About 25,000 tenant farmers purchased their holdings under the Act. The Act was successful, especially in Ulster province.[12]

The **Plan of Campaign 1886-1891** was a scheme of land agitation organised by John Dillon and others from the Irish National League to benefit tenant farmers against absentee and rack-rent landlords. The agricultural distress caused by depressed prices for dairy products and cattle stemming from the mid-1870s left many tenants in rent arrears. Foul weather in 1885 and 1886 caused crop failure and made paying rent increasingly difficult. The number of evictions increased.

Under the Plan's terms, tenants could decide the percentage of rent reduction they required. If the landlord refused, they were to entrust their rent to individuals only known to themselves. This was done in the manner of an "estate fund" established for the support of the tenants who would have been evicted as well as those who had been.[13] The response to these evictions by proponents of the Plan was considerable.

In the village of Killula, County Clare, three tenants had been part of the agitation, striking their rent for two years, were evicted in 1886. A summary of the report appeared in the *Munster News* as follows:

> Volunteers numbering about 3,000 persons and about 300 horses and carts took part in building temporary housing for the three families who had been evicted. Most of the carts carried stones for building walls, timber for rafters, as well as straw and reed for roofs. The temporary houses were to accommodate the families of the men imprisoned for rent owed.[14]

Workers from several localities in the county headed to the location of the evictions. The volunteers laboured under the direction and support of the parish priest Fr. James Loughnane, who also comforted the evicted families. The Plan lasted five years and involved only 1% of Irish estates; it was successful in most cases.

The **Balfour Land Law (Ireland) Act of 1887** gave £33 million for land purchase to be repaid over 49 years. The bill had too many complicated legal clauses, so it was not taken full advantage of. The Act was amended five years later, at which point, only £13.5 million had been utilized.[15]

Tenant Right in the 20th Century

In 1903, representatives of both landlords and tenants held a Land Conference to find a final solution to the Ireland Land Question. The plan agreed upon by both parties — the **Wyndham Land Purchase (Ireland) Act** — required the government to pay the difference between the price offered by tenants and that generated by landlords.[16] Named after Chief Secretary for Ireland George Wyndham, the Act

exhausted absentee landlords' control over tenants and further eased the way for tenants to purchase land. About nine million (36,000 km^2) acres were transferred through the Act up until 1914. About 75% of tenants occupying the land were able to buy out their landlords under the Act. The Wyndham Act was the largest and most successful of the land purchase acts.

The **Birrell Land Purchase (Ireland) Act (1909)** essentially extended the 1903 act and allowed for the compulsory purchase of tenanted farmland by the Land Commission. Under the land purchase acts of 1903 and 1909, the resources for Irish tenant farmers to become owner-occupiers of their land were achieved. In total, with the pre-1921 Land Acts, over 316,000 tenants purchased their holdings, amounting to 11.5 million (47,000 km^2) acres out of 20 million (81,000 km^2) acres in the country.[17]

The five land acts enacted between 1881 and 1909 successfully increased Irish farmers' land ownership from 3% in 1870 to 97.4% in 1929. By 1921, two-thirds of the land in Ireland had become the property of Irish tenants. After establishing the Irish Free State in 1922, a compulsory law transferred the remaining portions of land to Irish care.

Endnotes

[1] For basic information about the *First Ordnance Survey of Ireland 1829-1842* and *Griffith's Valuation Maps of Ireland 1847-1864*, consider visiting *Irelandxo* (https://www.irelandxo.com : viewed 12 Sep 2022).

[2] By A Traveller, "State of Newmarket-on-Fergus: Illegal Extermination," letter to the editor, *The Limerick and Clare (Ireland) Examiner*, 17 April 1850, p. 4, col. 5; image copy, *The British Newspaper Archive* (https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk : viewed 24 July 2022).

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[11] "Boycott," *Encyclopedia Britannica Online* (https://www.britannica.com/topic/boycott : viewed 10 Sep 2022).

[12] M.E. Collins, *Revise Wise History,* ch. 4, p. 17 (https://www.edco.ie : viewed 10 Sep 2022).

[13] Sean J. Connolly, *The Oxford Companion to Irish History*, 2d ed. (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2002).

[14] "Erecting Sentry Boxes For Evicted Tenants," *The Munster News*, 25 Aug 1886, p. 4, col. 3; *The British Newspaper Archive* (https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk : viewed 10 Sep 2022).

[15] M.E. Collins, *History*, ch. 4, p. 17.

[16] David W Miller, *Church State and Nation in Ireland 1898-1921*, (Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 1973), 77-94.

[17] Diarmid Ferriter, *The Transformation of Ireland 1900-2000*, (London: Profile Books, 2004), 62, 63, 159.

A lifelong resident of Newmarket-on-Fergus, County Clare, Máire Ní Ghruagáin descends from the McNamara clan of Clooney, Quin. She attended school in Clare and Monaghan, University College Galway (Mathematics and Science), then taught for many years. Minnesota McNamara cousins' questions inspired Máire to learn local history. Maire leads parish historical walks (25 years), co-authored a 2016 history, and is documenting parish placenames.



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How to Hire a Professional Genealogist	Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, Robert Johnson, Lois Abromitis Mackin, Lorna Moloney	10 Oct 2021
Burren Girl Documentary: Behind the Scenes	Rita Davern	13 Jun 2021
The Connemaras: Despair in the Heartland	Jane Kennedy	25 May 2020
Following the Irish Trail to Canada & Beyond	Tammy Priolo	18 Mar 2020

Killonerry House – An Irish Farm History

by Trish Little Taylor, IGSI Education Co-Chair

Killonerry House in County Kilkenny, the home of the Prendergast family, was the focus of Chris Paton's webinar on August 6. Chris began by talking about the digitized record groups that are now available for researchers to use from home. Using an array of historical resources (vital records, newspapers, land records, census, and military records) he created the genealogical narrative of the family that lived at Killonerry House from the 1820s to the mid-20th century. Along the way he provided the family's genealogical story as well as the documented history of the property from its humblest of agricultural beginnings, to a dramatic episode of the Irish Civil War, and beyond.

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Fall Lineup of IGSI Webinars

October 15, 2022 | 10:30 AM - Noon CDT | *Irish Property Records*

John Grenham, a leading Irish genealogist and database master, will discuss the history of and resources to Irish Property Records, including records that have been digitized and made available online. He will highlight the historic Irish institutions that recorded property transactions (The Registry of Deeds) and that created property tax records (The Valuation Office). The two institutions provide relatively unbroken chains of evidence back into the 18th and 19th centuries.

November 5, 2022 | 10:30 AM - Noon CDT | *Understanding Irish Placenames*

Have you ever wondered what the name of your ancestor's townland means? Balle, Kil, or Gort are terms that come from the Gaelic or Irish language. Irish genealogist **James Ryan** will outline the origins and structure of the names of Irish places and explain the historical reasons for the variations caused by anglicization of Irish or Gaelic place names over time.

December 3, 2022 | 10:30 AM - Noon CDT | *Searching for the Immigration Records of our Irish Ancestors*

Mary Wickersham will explore U.S. passenger arrival records available online as well as the ships passenger manifests stored on microfilm at the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration still waiting to be indexed.

Searching ship manifests and other historical records may provide clues about an ancestor's date and ship of arrival in the U.S. Learn about major resources for U.S. and Canadian immigration information. Handout contains excellent resource information.

Check the Activities Page of the IGSI website for full information and to register.
IGSI members will receive a Discount code via email.

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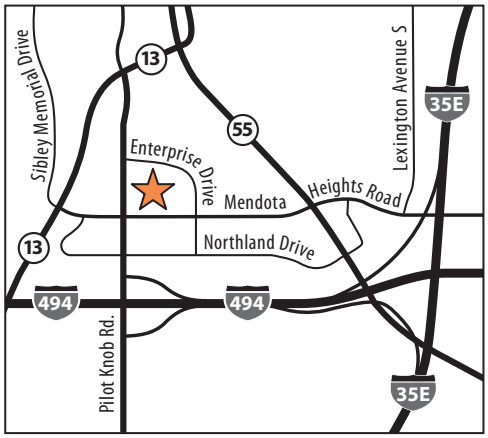
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