

Genealogical Society of Ireland

Cumann Genealaíis na hÉireann



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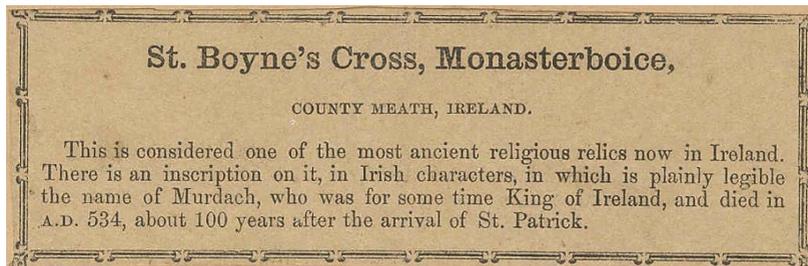
Vol 21 Journal 2020

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THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY & COVID-19

Michael Merrigan, MA, FGSI

General Secretary / Company Secretary April 2020

All around the world individuals, families and communities are coming to terms with what has been described as a possible “New Normal” following the outbreak of the Coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic.

In Ireland things began to change, and change utterly, following the announcement by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, TD, on March 13th 2020 of curtailment measures and the cancellation of the St. Patrick’s Day parades on March 17th and the week-long festival held in Dublin that week. The closures became mandatory and the advice was to stay at home and to only venture out for groceries, medicines or for daily exercise within a 2km radius of your own home.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused many events marking anniversaries to be cancelled or curtailed during the lockdown restrictions, indeed, events planned around the centenary of the War of Independence have been cancelled. The Society’s own thirtieth anniversary will probably be marked in a similarly low-key fashion later this year, possibly at the October 2020 Open Meeting.

The Society was founded on October 25th 1990 by four neighbours in Dún Laoghaire, Joan Merrigan (*née MacMahon*); Jean Reddin (*née Taaffe*), Frieda Carroll (*née Lewis*) and Michael Merrigan. Sadly, Mrs Merrigan and Mrs Reddin are no longer with us, however, many Members of the Society they co-founded will be thinking of them on its thirtieth anniversary. Although, it has yet to be decided by the Board how to mark the anniversaries of the foundation of the Society in October 1990 and its incorporation under the Companies Acts in March 2000.

Indeed, if our thirtieth anniversary cannot be marked by an event or special lecture, maybe we could consider a virtual event for 20.00hrs on Sunday 25th October 2020 where we all bring to mind all of the wonderful friends, inspiring colleagues and, of course, the many new family members that we discovered through our passion for genealogical research.

On July 10th 2020 we remember our dear friend and first President of this Society, Denis O Conor Don, on the twentieth anniversary of his death. Denis was Chief of the O Conor Don Clan/Sept and a descendant of the Kings of Connacht and High Kings of Ireland.

In the meantime, the Society’s Open Meetings were suspended following the Annual General Meeting on March 10th 2020 and the Outreach Programme has been suspended until further notice. The Society’s Archive & Research Centre, An

Daonchartlann, remains closed until the national restrictions are lifted by the government.

The Society's monthly newsletter, *'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette'* will continue to be published on the second Tuesday of each month, however, only in electronic format until the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted and hard-copies can, once again, be printed. This newsletter is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter.

The national containment measures introduced by the government, health authorities or the local authority currently prevent the Board from meeting as scheduled in order to conduct the normal day-to-day running of the Society, however, the Board anticipated such measures and agreed to the following under *Res: 20/03/1497* at its meeting on March 5th 2020.

"The Company Secretary shall be authorised to process payments that would normally be submitted to the Board Meetings for approval and processing.

The Company Secretary, in consultation with An Cathaoirleach, shall liaise with the managements of the following venues in respect of the Open Meetings – Royal Marine Hotel and the Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute – in order to be in a position to advise our Members in the event of either venue being rendered unavailable due to the current situation with COVID-19.

The Company Secretary, in conjunction with An Cathaoirleach, shall liaise with the managements of Park House and the DLR Leisure Centre at Loughlinstown in respect of the availability of these premises.

The Company Secretary, in conjunction with An Cathaoirleach, shall be authorised to cancel any scheduled meeting, event or service provision in line with the professional advice received in respect of COVID-19."

These measures shall remain at the disposal of the Company Secretary for the duration of the current containment period in respect of COVID-19, however, the Board shall be required to give effect to their continuance by a simple resolution at each subsequent Board Meeting following the adoption of this resolution. Also see: www.hse.ie

The AGM elected a new Board of Directors on Tuesday March 10th 2020, however, due to the current restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the new Board has been unable to meet to complete the registration of the new Directors and the signing of the *'Director's Declaration'* (as required by the *'Code of Conduct'*) and forms for the Companies Registration Office. Therefore, the current Board remains in place in a caretaker capacity until the first meeting of the new Board.

The new Director of Finance, Lua Ó Scolaí, has taken over from the Acting Director of Finance as and from April 1st 2020 and will take custody of the financial records and files when restrictions permit. Although some of our Directors are currently observing the public health advice to "cocoon" in their homes, all are strictly

adhering to the “lockdown” and attending to our portfolios during these restrictions.

The current Non-Executive Officers of the Society, normally reconfirmed at the first meeting of the Board after the Annual General Meeting, also remain in office until that meeting can be held.

The “lockdown” has also delayed the publication of the *‘Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland’* in an electronic format as confirmation on the new ISSN was awaited from the National Library of Ireland. The new ISSN arrived on Monday April 20th 2020 and the work recommenced on readying the Journal for publication.

The publication of the *‘Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland’* in its new electronic format provides an excellent opportunity to launch the newly revamped website developed by Tom Conlon and Tony O’Hara. Work on the addition of content for certain sections of the new website is ongoing.

The General Election for Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) was held and although coming very close, the Society’s nominee Councillor Joe Conway of Waterford City & County Council was not elected. The Society’s 2016 nominee, Senator Fintan Warfield, was re-elected on the Culture & Educational Panel and long-time Member of the Society, Senator Victor Boyhan, was re-elected on the Agricultural Panel. We wish Fintan and Victor every success and commend Joe on his very strong campaign.

The “lockdown” is set to continue until May 5th 2020, however, it is not yet clear whether the Board will be in a position to hold its meetings or indeed, to host Open Meetings and to reopen the Archive and Research Centre in May until new guidelines are issued by the government.

Another point of innovation and possibly a first for the Nominating Bodies for Seanad Éireann, the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Tuesday March 10th 2020 unanimously endorsed the following proposal (**Res: 20/03/1503**) which was agreed by the Board on March 5th 2020.

Proposal: That, in order to promote a greater awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the Society’s obligations and role as a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann amongst our Members and the general public, that the Board, in accordance with *Standing Order 13.v.*, establish a mechanism for extending the voting rights in the selection process for a candidate to contest the next Seanad Éireann General Election to all Members of the Society and, that this proposal be placed before the Members for approval or otherwise at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 10th March 2020.

The question put at the Annual General Meeting was “*Do you agree that voting rights for the Society’s nominee to contest the next Seanad Éireann General Election should be extended to all Members of the Society?* YES / NO” and the Members unanimously voted “YES”.

The Board will now establish a mechanism to give effect to the above for the next Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) General Election where all Members of the Society,

irrespective of country of residence, will have a vote to select the Society's nominee for candidature on the Culture and Educational Panel. It would be interesting to know how many Seanad Éireann Nominating Bodies allow their ordinary members to make this decision.

In conclusion, the President of the Society, Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI, and the Cathaoirleach, Gerry Hayden, MGSI and members of the Board of Directors, extend their deepest sympathies to the families, friends and colleagues of those who have been very sadly taken by COVID-19.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved and with the many thousands of people fighting this terrible disease in hospitals, care facilities and in their own homes around the world.

The commitment, expertise and care provided by all the first responders, emergency services and hospital staff gives us all the much needed courage to get through these very difficult times—*Go Raibh Mile Maith Agaibh*.



First President of the Society (1990-2000), Denis O'Conor Don, FGSI and the first Cathaoirleach of the Society (1990-1991) and the first Archivist (1990-2005), Frieda Carroll, FGSI.

Tipperary Meets Lanarkshire in Australia: The Kith and Kin of Sir John Patrick Dwyer KCMG

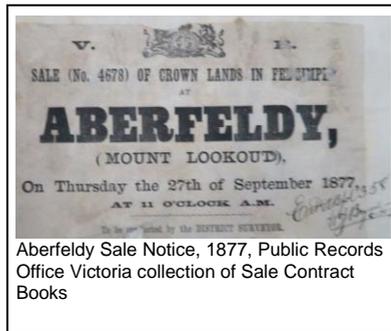
Karen Mather

John Patrick Dwyer's distinguished legal career in Australia has been written about¹ but accounts of his personal background are absent from the literature. However, his family history opens a window on life for the Irish, Scottish and English people who helped to create Australia's pioneer history. It is an interesting aspect of his legacy.

Birthplace

"A memory and a doorstep" was all that remained of Aberfeldy, Victoria, by 1939.² Yet when John Patrick Dwyer was born there, in 1879, the township bustled – hopes of gold, land, timber and, later, coal, attracted hundreds of miners, land prospectors and settlers, despite the exceptionally rugged terrain and harsh winters.³

When the Australian government sold land in Aberfeldy in 1877, an Irishman from Tipperary, Thomas Dwyer, bought several lots. So did his Irish brother-in-law Thomas Gaffney (of Gaffney's Creek



Aberfeldy Sale Notice, 1877, Public Records Office Victoria collection of Sale Contract Books

gold fame⁴) and his future father-in-law, the Scot, David Donaldson.⁵ Thomas Dwyer then established himself as one of Aberfeldy's two butchers.

Before settling in Aberfeldy, Thomas Dwyer, like his pioneering companions, had, for more than a decade, been moving through the goldfields along the Jordan River, prospecting and helping to supply basic civic and commercial services.⁶ In addition to Gaffney and Donaldson, his fellow-adventurers included Donaldson's younger brother Robert Johnstone Donaldson from Lanarkshire, and Dwyer's (possible) relative, Michael Commons from Tipperary.⁷

Paternal Ancestors, Dwyers

The name Dwyer has its origins in Tipperary⁸ which is one of the oldest counties as it dates back to medieval times (circa 1235)⁹ Thomas Dwyer was from a Catholic farming family who had leased small-holdings in the parish of Boherlahan for several

generations. He was the fifth of eight children and the fourth son, which foreshadowed the probability of a negligible inheritance.^{10 11}

Internationally, the Australian goldfields were thought to offer good prospects in the mid-19th century,¹² and after the death of his father Patrick Dwyer, in 1851 and his mother Catherine Commons¹³ in 1859, Thomas and three of his sisters emigrated. In 1861 they sailed on the King of Algeria from Liverpool, England to Melbourne, Australia.¹⁴

Within two years of their arrival in Australia two of the Dwyer sisters had become married, being known thereafter as Mrs Thomas Terence Gaffney (Bridget Dwyer) and Mrs William Lanigan (Anne Dwyer). Thomas remained single for longer, but after his butchery business was established in Aberfeldy, in 1877, he sought to create a family. The eldest child of the aforementioned David Donaldson, Elizabeth, was 24 years old - Thomas' junior by 15 years. She agreed to marry him in February 1879. Their three children were born in the Aberfeldy region: John Patrick (1879), Annie Gertrude (1881) and David Percival (1883).

Life expectancy in the Australia of 1881-1890 was 47 years 2 months for males and 50 years 8 months for females.¹⁵ So, it was not in the normal course of events that in the sixth year of their marriage the 29 year-old Elizabeth died, in September 1884.¹⁶ Her mother, Annie Donaldson, still with four teenage children of her own living at home, took in the two youngest of Elizabeth's children.¹⁷

The boy, John Patrick remained in Aberfeldy with his father until, as reported in the Advocate, 26 December 1885, page 14, Thomas Dwyer died of dysentery, just over a year after his late wife. Dwyer's sister, Bridget (Mrs Gaffney), visited him in his last days and provided a report for the inquest.¹⁸ John Patrick then joined his siblings in the Donaldson household in Morwell, 120 kilometres south of Aberfeldy.

Maternal Ancestors, Donaldsons

Morwell was becoming a major transport and service centre for the area.¹⁹ In 1878 David Donaldson transferred his family there from another Gippsland town, Matlock, where they had run a general store for 13 years. Before Matlock the family had lived in North Melbourne, after arriving from Lanarkshire via America, in 1852. In Melbourne, Donaldson operated as a self-employed stone mason - a skill that was traditional for his family in Scotland.²⁰

Donaldson was born in 1820 to Henry Donaldson and Grizelda Johnston in Airdrie, Lanarkshire, Scotland, just as the ancient village began changing from an agricultural market town to a coal and iron mining centre.²¹ The resulting industrialisation and overcrowding may have made migration an attractive option. With a group of siblings and acquaintances he joined the gold rush to America but then travelled to Australia, settling in Melbourne, where he was married in 1854. His wife, Annie Thomson, originated from the Lanarkshire parish of Bothwell Holytown, five miles from David's own birthplace. Her father, too, was a stone mason.²²

In Melbourne the Donaldson residence was a prefabricated, 'portable' iron house that is now a valued relic of pioneer life. It is classified as National Trust property B3401 - one of only three iron houses still intact in Australia. It is open to the public, in South Melbourne, Victoria.²³



The Iron House, *Abercrombie Cottage*, 1853, National Trust Property B3401

In 1866 Donaldson sold the iron house back to his brother-in-law Andrew Abercrombie (its original owner, who had ordered it from England) when he and Annie and their five Melbourne-born children left for Matlock. He took up a new occupation, changing from stone mason to general storekeeper.

Matlock's gold eventually ran out, and in 1878 the Donaldson family started afresh once more, in Morwell, opening a new general store there. This would be the family base for the next quarter of a century.

Not long after the arrival of the orphaned Dwyer children in the Morwell household, the death of the head of house, David Donaldson, on 3 March 1886, must have added considerably to Annie Donaldson's burdens (with duties such as the administration of Thomas Dwyer's estate on behalf of his three children)²⁴ but she continued to run the Morwell store until about 1900, with some of her children.



Donaldson's house in Morwell, corner Commercial & Wilsons Roads, c.1950, image courtesy Morwell Historical Society

Education – High Achievements

The Dwyer children were amongst the early pupils at the new Commercial Road State Primary School in Morwell, where the head teacher was John Irving Sr. His brother George, a grazier, later married Dwyer's aunt, Mary Edith Donaldson - in 1906. Fortunately, their son, John Irving Jr, was a keen amateur historian and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. He later became the chief custodian of information about John Patrick Dwyer.²⁵ Today his descendants still care for Dwyer's historical records together with a small number of personal letters,

which, they say, indicate a close and affectionate relationship between Dwyer (known to family and friends as 'Jack') and his Donaldson relatives.²⁶

At primary school Dwyer achieved extraordinary results far beyond of his age. So Annie Donaldson then enrolled him, at ten years of age, at the prestigious Presbyterian secondary school, Geelong College. He excelled there too, in sport and in academic subjects. In 1893, at 14 years old, he completed his secondary education with top marks in all subjects. He went on to Melbourne University Law School and was admitted thereafter to the Victorian Bar, in August 1902.²⁷

Meanwhile his Donaldson relatives had left Morwell, partly because Annie Donaldson's health was deteriorating. The 1903 Victorian electoral roll records her household in Hawthorn, Melbourne as consisting of Annie herself, head of the house, her youngest child, Mary Edith (later Mrs George Irving), occupation: 'home duties'; plus the Dwyer grandchildren: Annie Gertrude, a civil servant (a government telephone switch operator²⁸); David Percival, a salesman; and John Patrick, a solicitor.²⁹



John Dwyer c.1940, image courtesy John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library, Records of John Dwyer, JCPML01192/3

Relocation to Western Australia

Annie Donaldson's third daughter, Agnes, had married Charles Sommers in 1886. The pair left Victoria and went to Western Australia. Sommers became a long-standing member of parliament, as well as a mayor of Coolgardie, 1899-1903.³⁰

Perhaps Sommers was an example for Agnes' brothers. Around 1900 her youngest brothers, John Goulburn and David Jr, gave up the Morwell store they shared with their mother (who went to Melbourne), and they went to Coolgardie, Western Australia as miners. Shortly afterwards Annie's grandson, John Patrick Dwyer, accepted an invitation to join the West Australian Bar, in 1904³¹ and he too relocated.

In 1908 another important event occurred in Dwyer's life. Emily Louise Irgens agreed to become his wife. Their engagement was announced in the Daily News (Perth), 5 April 1908, page 3, as follows: 'Mr J.P. Dwyer of Albany, nephew of Mrs Charles Sommers, and Miss E. Irgens of Fremantle.' As was the custom then, their marriage took place almost a year later and was reported in the West Australian

(Perth), 23 March 1909, page 1: 'On December 23, 1908, at St. John's, Fremantle, by the Rev. Alban Luxmore Marshall, John Patrick Dwyer to Emily Louise Irgens.'

The Old Court House Law Museum in Perth has two undated photographs of the couple together: one in youth and the other in later life. Their happiness with one another seems to be obvious in both photographs.

Dwyer's Wife, Emily Louise Irgens

Emily Louise was from Bothwell in northern Tasmania, where she had been born ex-nuptial on 2 November 1883.³² Her mother was Elizabeth Ann Denholm, who moved to Victoria and provided Emily with a step-father in 1894. Her spouse was Charles Theodore Irgens whose Australian naturalisation certificate³³ records that he was a Norwegian mariner. After three years, Irgens, his wife and his eleven year-old step daughter

were listed as passengers on the *Hubbuck*, sailing to Fremantle Western Australia, in 1897.



Lady Emily and Sir John Dwyer, date unknown. In the collection of the Old Court House Museum, Perth, WA

In Western Australia Irgens took work as a labourer until such time as he was able to establish himself as a farmer in Wickepin, in the south west wheatbelt region.³⁴ He and Elizabeth had two children, only one of whom survived – Enid Jean Irgens, born in 1906. She and her half-sister, Emily Louise, were close, and occasionally appeared together in the society pages of the Western Australian newspapers, such as the *Daily News* (Perth), 23 April 1927, page 10, which reported that: 'Miss Irgens, who has been spending a few weeks with her sister, Mrs J. P. Dwyer of Mount Street, has returned to her home.' The newspaper also reported on 28 September 1927, page 11, that: 'Mrs John Dwyer and Miss Enid Irgens leave on Wednesday for Narrogin to spend time with Mr and Mrs Irgens at their country house.'

In later years, when Dwyer was a widower (1950-1966), it was his sister-in-law Enid Jean (Mrs JI Drummond) and her daughter, Caroline Elizabeth (Mrs Pummer), who kept him company and took care of him when his health began to fail.³⁵

Dwyer fulfilled the promise of his prodigious childhood by developing an extraordinarily high calibre career in Western Australia, culminating in his appointment as Chief Justice of Western Australia and Knight Bachelor in 1946.

In 1949, he received the further distinction of Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St John, as described in the West Australian (Perth) 21 September 1949, page 7. In 1952 he was appointed honorary Lieutenant-Governor of Western Australia for life, and duly carried out his responsibilities as second-in-command to the governor, until his death in 1966.³⁶



Photo courtesy State Library of Western Australia: Image slwa_b4683961_1:069511PD, date unknown. Left-right: Ralph Doig, Chief Justice Sir John Dwyer, Sir James Mitchell, Premier Ross McLarty

The Family in World War I (1914-1919)

When England declared war against Germany in 1914, 416,809 Australian men enlisted to fight alongside the British and their allies. More than 60,000 of them died.³⁷ At that time Australian women were not accepted into the armed forces, so they formed the Australian Comforts Fund in 1916, to raise funds and send 'care parcels' to Australians serving overseas.³⁸ Dwyer's wife, Emily Louise, was prominent in the Western Australian branch.³⁹

Dwyer was amongst those who served honourably in the war, as were two of his maternal first cousins, the brothers Henry Archibald Donaldson and Ralph Charles Donaldson, and two of his second cousins, the brothers Robert Johnstone Donaldson and Tom Humphrey Donaldson. Their grandfathers were the same David Donaldson and Robert Johnstone Donaldson who began this story, with Thomas Dwyer, in the Jordan River valley, in the 1860s.

Henry Archibald Donaldson (Archie), a 29 year-old school teacher from Portland, Victoria, enlisted in December 1915, joining the 58th Australian Infantry Battalion. He fought overseas in 15 different places before being killed in action at the Somme, 13 March 1917. He is buried in Bull's Road Military Cemetery, Flanders.⁴⁰

Ralph Charles Donaldson was 26 years old, a labourer from Heyfield, Victoria who became a driver in the 2nd Australian Division Signals Company, serving overseas from Feb 1915 until the end of the war. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, 14 Dec 1916, for conspicuous gallantry on two occasions, working under heavy fire to maintain communication lines from base camp to the battle front.⁴¹

Robert Johnstone Donaldson was a mining engineer from Melbourne, Victoria, aged 33. He enlisted in 1913, and by 1915 had been promoted to Major of the 11th Field Company Engineers. Before being released on 23 September 1919, he had been awarded a Distinguished Service Order.⁴²

Tom Humphrey Donaldson was 21 years of age, a storekeeper who lived in Camberwell, Victoria. He enlisted in July 1915, as a private, and ended the war as a lieutenant. He received a gunshot wound in the shoulder in 1916, but returned to fight again until the end of the war.⁴³

Their cousin, John Patrick Dwyer, aged 35, enlisted in March 1916 in Fremantle, Western Australia, in the new 44th Australian Infantry Battalion.⁴⁴ He was speedily promoted, reaching the rank of lieutenant within 12 months.⁴⁵



Dwyer's Extra-curricular Activities

In the Dwyer file held by the Old Court House Law Museum in Perth, there is a note by his wife's niece, Caroline Pummer, that reveals how enthusiastically Dwyer took an active part in his community:

A keen sportsman, Sir John played his favourite game, golf, until he was 79 – and he was still on a single-figure handicap. He did not give up bowls till he was 82....A staunch football supporter (and league player in his early days in Victoria) he was Member no.1 of the East Fremantle Club, and he regularly attended the races and the trots.

Among the many other offices he held were: Chief Scout WA, trustee of the public library, museum and art gallery (now separate institutions), Knight Commander of the Order of St John of Jerusalem [known for St John's Ambulance], and member and president of the board of the Kings Park and Botanic Gardens in Perth. (Caroline Pummer)

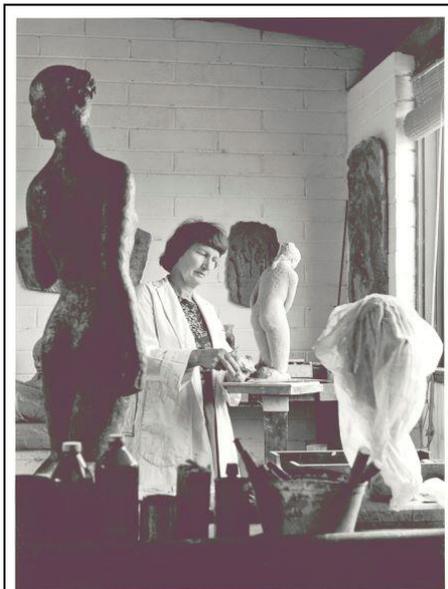
The education of Western Australian law students also benefitted from Dwyer's attention and efforts. As noted by Chief Justice David Malcolm: 'He was one of the three members of the Barristers Board who comprised the committee to establish a law school at the University of Western Australia. [In 1928] he was one of the founding lecturers.'⁴⁶

Another High Achiever - Ailsa Margaret Donaldson

It would be pleasing to think that Dwyer was aware of the progress of his young first cousin (once-removed), Ailsa Margaret the daughter of Ralph Charles Donaldson (who fought in World War I).

Having no children of his own, and in the light of his previously-mentioned affection for his extended family, and his interest in young people, Dwyer may well have taken an interest in her progress in distant Melbourne. If he did, he would have observed, not only the family likeness in her high cheek bones and slender nose, but also in her character - as a most energetic young woman who shared much of his own commitment and persistence in striving to achieve her full potential.

In the 1930s the Great Depression caused world-wide hardship. Yet, with determination Ailsa supported herself whilst holding on to her goal of becoming a recognised artist. As she recounted to Sandy Kirby⁴⁷:



Portrait of Ailsa O'Connor in her studio, 1977, by Richard Beck. Copyright: Beck Estate. Image from National Library of Australia, nla.obj-137058540

I left home at fifteen, was at school in Melbourne, and at sixteen commenced an art course at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology on a technical scholarship which paid an allowance of £7 a term plus fees. I used up two years of the four-year scholarship, managed to cram in a teaching course as well as a fine art course by going to classes every night, then a further year of teacher training, and at nineteen I was on the payroll in front of those large wartime classes of Brunswick boys, ousted from their classrooms by the needs of air force trainees. (Ailsa O'Connor, nee Donaldson)

Whilst balancing roles as teacher and head mistress, mother, and activist for the feminist and socialist movements, Ailsa continued to pursue her aim of becoming a sculptor. She undertook courses at the RMIT in Melbourne: a Diploma of Art (Sculpture) from 1962-1964, and the Fellowship Diploma of Art in 1965.⁴⁸

She gained recognition under her married name of Ailsa O'Connor, with exhibitions and commissions for her sculpture, of which examples can be seen in Melbourne -

in the Conservatorium, Fitzroy Gardens and outside the Glen Eira City Council offices.

As discussed, John Patrick Dwyer found time, despite his responsibilities as Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor, to be involved in the Arts, as Chairman of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery in Western Australia. So he would, perhaps, have understood something of the struggle of his artistic young Donaldson cousin to realise her talent whilst also significantly contributing to society in other ways.

Final Tributes

In 1966, after a State funeral, Dwyer was buried under a simple unadorned headstone, beside his wife, Emily Louise Irgens, in the Anglican section of Perth's Karrakatta Cemetery.

As quoted by Bolton and Byrne⁴⁹, Dwyer's doctor wrote of him as follows:

I can only say that it was a great pleasure and a very great privilege to look after Sir John, as, to us, he was always so gentle, gracious and appreciative, except of course on the occasions when he had had too much insulin [for type 1 diabetes] and [even] then his reactions were always those of a gentleman. (Dwyer's doctor)

Summarising the letters of condolence sent to his sister-in-law⁵⁰ in 1966, his contemporaries saw him as stern in the courtroom, refusing to accept incompetence from his younger colleagues, exacting in applying his vast knowledge of the law, but unerringly fair and correct. Yet, when not officially sitting in judgement, Dwyer was an exceptionally kind man – for instance, at times he discretely sent sums of money to prisoners upon their release 'to make a fresh start'.

It is regrettable that there was no-one to inherit Dwyer's brilliant intellect and sporting prowess which had been in evidence from the days of his childhood. In the Dwyer file at the Old Court House Law Museum, Perth, is a letter from his former Geelong College school-mate, E J Ford, who wrote to him 5 October 1957: 'about 67 years ago I greatly admired a very, very clever little mate – next bed to me in dormitory – Jacky Dwyer.' Ford went on to say 'I quoted his genius many times ...believed he would become a great man' and Ford ends by reminding Dwyer that 'you were the one who never needed to study.'

Endnotes

- ¹ Bolton, G and Byrne, G. *May It Please Your Honour: a History of the Supreme Court of Western Australia from 1861-2005*. 2005 Perth, Supreme Court of Western Australia ISBN 0-9590067-7-X, chapter 7.
- ² Tomlin OF, Bosa M, Chamberlain PG. *Gold for the Finding: a Pictorial History of Gippsland's Jordan Goldfield*. 1979 Melbourne, Hill of Content ISBN 0855721006, p.133.
- ³ Madden, IT. *Marvell Historical Society News* (1962) v.1, p.2.
- ⁴ 'The Jamieson and Goulburn Diggings', *The Age (Melbourne)*, 7 August 1860, p.5.

5 Public Records Office Victoria, Lands Department, *Sale Contract Books*, VPRS 873 P001
Unit 135, Aberfeldy 4678, 27 Sep 1877.

6 Rogers, JG. *Jericho on the Jordan: a Gippsland goldfield history*. 1998 Moe, Victoria, self-
published ISBN 0959119140, pp.213-214.

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The Palmer Family, Mayo and Kenure Park Dublin

Anthony O'Hara

The Origins of the Palmers in Ireland

The returns of owners of land in Ireland published in 1876, lists all of the prominent landlords with 500 acres or more country wide. In the county of Mayo, the Marquis of Sligo and Viscount Dillon are the two largest landlords; however the third placed landlord with over 80,000 acres¹ is Sir Roger Palmer. Having other lands in Sligo and Dublin, as well as lands in England and Wales he owned over 16% of the landmass of the third largest county in Ireland.

The Palmer name has its origin in the Norman conquest of England². It goes back to the times of the Crusades and the members of religious houses who fought against the infidels were called Palmers. Legend has it that the name came about as soldiers returned from Palestine with Palm branches. The original Le Paumer is believed to mean Pilgrim³. The more famous Roger Palmer of Castlemaine and the Palmers of Whigham in England are direct predecessors to this branch.

The predecessors of this branch of the family came from Norfolk in England and arrived in Ireland in 1681 with a grant of land in Mayo. The Palmers had estates on Palmerstown, Co. Dublin, Castle Lackin, Co. Mayo and finally in Keenagh Lodge, also in Mayo. The acquisition of the estates of Kenure Park in Rush county Dublin and Cefn Park in Wales were achieved through marriage and inheritance. We will see that inheritance played a part in the growth of the families' fortunes.

The official pedigree⁴ of the Palmers tells us that Henry Palmer descended from the Palmers of Gloucestershire, a sea captain, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1st. His eldest son Edward Palmer is recorded as being from Nayton in Norfolk, one of the curisitors of the High Court of Chancery in England in 1630. Edward married Philippa Armiger of the County of Norfolk and in approximately 1610 they had a son called Roger.

¹ *Return of Owners of Land in Ireland*, Dublin 1876 p 311

² John Burke Esq., *Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire 6th Edition* London 1864 Google Books p 863

³ Edward MacLysaght, *The Surnames of Ireland*, Dublin 1991 Edition p 241

⁴ Pedigree of Palmers 1680 – 1863, GO MS 178 p 239-244

The Early Palmers

Roger first travelled to Virginia in the colonies of America and then on to Maryland. On the death of his brother Thomas⁵, he returned and went over to Ireland. Thomas was the first Palmer of this line to come to Ireland but the nature of his death is uncertain. Roger came to Ireland with a grant by Royal Patent dated 1st November 1684⁶. Roger Palmer is mentioned in the Books of Survey and Distribution for Mayo⁷ as the receiver of lands under the Court of Grace. He also appears on a list of grantees in the Commission of Grace⁸, along with many other names which would become familiar as part of the landed gentry.

Over time he acquired further lands. In approximately 1652 he married Anne Bressie or Brissu, daughter of Francis Bressie of Dromore, County Donegal. Roger therefore seems to have been in Ireland for quite some time before he received the grant of lands in 1684.

Roger and Anne had at least eight children. The eldest was Frances who died in 1724 without issue, so the succession went to Roger who was the next in line.

Roger Palmer married Frances Ellis and they had two sons and three daughters. The eldest male was Roger, followed by Thomas.

Roger married twice and had a son, Francis Palmer born 12th Sept 1725 died in London in March 1756. Although, the succession was not to be with Francis, it is important to acknowledge the impact this marriage had on the Palmer family. Francis married Elizabeth Echlin in 1747, granddaughter of Sir Henry Echlin, second baron of the Exchequer of Ireland. Elizabeth's father Sir Robert Echlin is believed to have disinherited his daughter Elizabeth on marrying Francis Palmer. Kenure House was inherited by Sir Robert's nephew Henry Echlin, but lost it due to gambling debts. Elizabeth saw her opportunity to buy it and the house became the property of the Palmers.⁹

Francis and Elizabeth had three sons, none of whom married. On the passing of Francis and Elizabeth, much of the Echlin¹⁰ property passed to or was bought by the Palmers, including Kenure Park in Dublin.

The second son of Roger Palmer and Frances Ellis was Thomas Palmer (b. 1703 and d 1743) who married Sophia Tipping daughter of Thomas Tipping, Castleton in Co Louth in 1729. Thomas and Sophia had four children, the first of whom was Roger. He would continue the line of succession marrying Eleanor Ambrose in 1752 and becoming a Baronet in 1777.

⁵ Same as 2, p 863

⁶ George Hatchell, *Abstracts of Grants of land..Under the Commission of Grace Charles 2nd* (A Thom, Dublin) 1839 NLI T 941 Grant to Roger Palmer 1ST Nov 1684 pages 6 and 20

⁷ Books of Survey and Distribution 1536-1703, Vol 2 Mayo, p 165-166

⁸ John O'Hart, *The Irish Landed Gentry: When Cromwell came to Ireland*, Dublin 1887, p 438

⁹ Edith M Johnston-Liik, *History of the Irish Parliament 1692-1800*, 6, Belfast 2002 page 97

¹⁰ Johnston-Liik, *History... Irish Parliament 1692-1800*, 6, Belfast 2002 page 97

Although these pedigrees concern themselves with succession and by extension the male heir, the ladies of the family were ensuring that the family were making the right connections by intermarrying with other prominent Anglo-Irish families in the west. In particular, the families of the Knox's¹¹, the Kearney's, the Webb's and the Barbizon's of Swinford, amongst others.

Up to this point information on the Palmers is very limited; however this changes with Roger Palmer, mainly through his marriage to Eleanor Ambrose and the acquisition of title of Baronet.

The First Baronet: Sir Roger Palmer (1729 – 1790)

Sir Roger Palmer was born in 1729 in Mayo. His father was Thomas Palmer and his mother was Sophia Tipping. In 1743, when Roger was aged fourteen, his father Thomas Palmer died. He attended TCD¹² in 1748 aged nineteen approximately. He married Eleanor Ambrose in 10th October 1752.

His early life is unremarkable and lacking in documentation. What is documented is his marriage on the 10th October 1752 to Eleanor Ambrose¹³. Eleanor had become the darling of the Vice Regal Court along with her sister Clara and accompanied Phillip Stanhope, later to become Lord Chesterfield, to official ceremonies. She was considered a very beautiful and intelligent woman. She was also an heiress and a Catholic. When reporting to King George II, Lord Chesterfield said that the root of Ireland's problems was not Papacy but poverty adding that he had found "only one dangerous Papist"¹⁴. The person Chesterfield was referring to was Eleanor Ambrose.

Chesterfield was recalled to England as Secretary to the North and by this time the Gunning sisters¹⁵ had burst on the Dublin scene providing competition to Eleanor. Roger was about twenty three and Eleanor was about thirty four and it was speculated that the union was a *pis aller*¹⁶

Eleanor is the first wife of which so much is written. Much is made of her beauty and the fact that she was Catholic is constantly referred to. Burke¹⁷ states that

¹¹ Sir Bernard Burke, *Landed Gentry of Ireland* (Burkes Peerage 1976) p 374

¹² *George Dames Burtchaell* and Thomas Ulick Sadlier, *Alumni Dublinenses, 1593-1860*; (A Thom) 2001 Vol 2: p 650-652

¹³ Henry Boylan, *A Dictionary of Irish Biography*, (Gill and MacMillan) Dublin 1988 p 319-320

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¹⁶ Betty Askwith, *Crimean Courtship*, (Michael Russell) 1985 p 14

¹⁷ Bernard J. Burke, *Romantic Records of Distinguished Females* 2nd Series of Anecdotes of the Aristocracy Vol 1 (London 1851) Google Books p 89

"encircled by a crowd of admirers, she had the good sense, in the very heyday of her bloom, to prefer the hand of a plain country gentleman, Roger Palmer Esq., of Castle Lackin, to all the wealth and titles that offered."

Roger and Eleanor had three children, namely Frances, John Roger and William Henry.

Roger was High Sherriff for Mayo in 1755. In the election for the Irish Parliament of 1761 he was a poor third in the race but was returned for Jamestown, probably by purchase¹⁸. He held various posts including Chief Chamberlain of the Exchequer. From 1769 to 1781 he was Joint Governor of Mayo and in 1769 it was reported that he purchased his seat for Portarlington "upon easy terms "from his relation, William Henry Dawson.

He was appointed paymaster of Corn Premiums at £400 per annum. This salary rose to £900 per annum in 1782. He was accused by his detractors of voting for Popery and Tontines. He voted in favour of the Gardiner sponsored Bill for Catholic Relief in 1774 and in 1778 he voted for the Popery Bill, enabling the dismantling of the barrier of Catholics to hold land and to provide longer and more advantageous leases than heretofore. The fact that Eleanor was a Catholic could have had some bearing on this.

Roger was made a Baronet in 1777 and the earlier association of Eleanor with Lord Chesterfield was believed to have had some influence on the appointment¹⁹

In 1782 he was not returned to parliament. Sir Roger died in 1790 and the Baronetcy passed on to his eldest surviving son, John Roger.

Lady Eleanor Palmer died in Abbey Street, Dublin in 1816.²⁰

The Second and Third Baronets.

There were three children by the marriage of Roger and Eleanor Ambrose namely, Francis, who predeceased his father, John Roger who succeeded his father in 1790 and William Henry Roger who succeeded his brother John Roger to the title in 1819.

Firstly, John Roger who was born on 1759 married Mary Altharn in 1791. He died in 1819 in the Isle of Thanet, without issue, leaving the succession to his brother William Henry Roger Palmer.

William Henry Roger was born in 1768 and his baptism is recorded in St Marys Church in Dublin²¹ on the 4th May 1768. He married Mary Toole on the 4th May 1793. This marriage ended in tragedy, as Mary died within a year. After Mary died, William was

¹⁸ Same as 9, pages 10-12

¹⁹ Same as 16 p 15

²⁰ Burial record of Eleanor Palmer of Abbey Street St. James (COI) accessed at <http://churchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/>.

²¹ Baptism record of William Henry 4th May 1768 son of Roger Palmer and his wife Eleanor St Mary's (COI) Dublin on <http://churchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/details/>

married again on 24th Oct 1795 to Alice Franklin²². This marriage is recorded twice in 1795 in Dublin and again in London in 1802. The succession of the baronetcy then fell to the children of this marriage.

The first born and successor was Sir William Henry Roger Palmer and there were another three sons and three daughters.

Tragedy struck the family in 1827²³ when the family home in Rush caught fire and was severely damaged. Sir William Roger Palmer, the third baronet, engaged the services of George Papworth, the famous architect, who was responsible for the design of the cast iron Kings Bridge, to significantly enhance and enlarge the reconstituted house. The house was renamed as Kenure House whereas it was previously known as Rush House.

Sir William Henry Roger Palmer died on the 29th May 1840 in London. He appears to be the only Palmer buried in Rush County Dublin.

4th Baronet: Sir William Henry Roger Palmer (1802 –1869)

The fourth Baronet, Sir William Henry Roger Palmer was born in Chester on the 29th November 1802, about three weeks²⁴ after the church marriage of his parents William Henry Palmer and Alice Franklin²⁵ on the 2nd November 1802. He succeeded to the Baronetcy on the 29th May 1840 on the death of his father. Sir William Henry Roger Palmer is commonly referred to as Roger in most documents.

Sir William Henry Roger Palmer married Eleanor Matthews on the 14th March 1828, in Gretna Green, Scotland. Gretna Green is famous for eloping couples and for couples marrying without the approval of family²⁶. In this case both were of age and if there was an element of fortune hunting, then it was possibly Roger rather than Eleanor as she was co-heiress to a large fortune. However, Roger did bring title and position to the Matthews family and it is speculated that it was John Matthews who followed them to Scotland to be sure that the marriage was properly and legally binding²⁷.

Eleanor's elder sister Frances married the Reverend Nathaniel Roberts and they lived in great style. When they both died the Palmers inherited a great estate, Cefn Park on the outskirts of Wrexham along with other properties.

²² Record of Marriage Banns from Parish register of St Mildred Poultry London 4th Nov 1803 accessed from Ancestry.co.uk

²³ Kenure Park: Architect George Papworth: <http://archiseek.com/2011/1827-kenure-house-rush-co-dublin/>

²⁴ GEC Cokayne. *The Complete Baronetage* Vol 5 1707-1800 Exeter (1906) p 390

²⁵ Record of Marriage Banns of William Henry Palmer and Alice Franklin from Parish register of St Mildred Poultry London 4th Nov 1802 accessed from Ancestry.co.uk

²⁶ Record of Marriage Register in Gretna Green, Scotland, for William Henry Roger Palmer and Eleanor Matthews 14th Mar 1828 accessed from Ancestry.co.uk

²⁷ Betty Askwith, *Crimoean Courtship*, (Michael Russell) 1985 p 16

Sir Rogers's reputation was tested during the Great Irish Famine, where reports of his activities were mixed.²⁸ The Palmer family generally had a good reputation as landlords, but they employed the Ormsbys of Ballinamore as agents and they were to blame for wholesale clearances and were much feared.

However as part of the evidence given in 1849 by a Captain Hamilton to the Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers, Sir Rogers's reputation is exposed as an unscrupulous cheat and an absentee landlord by the following evidence

*"With respect to the evictions from the estates of Sir Roger Palmer in this union, they are without parallel as regards the numbers evicted(it is notorious that there is not a more neglected property in the Ballina Union than Sir Roger Palmer's) and on the other hand, the grossest provocation that the landlord could meet with."*²⁹

Perhaps the most damning evidence comes again from the Chief Secretary's Office registered papers with the following report from Captain Hamilton:

*"Evictions continued to be carried out and those on the estate of Sir Roger Palmer in the Ballina Union were described as "without parallel as regards the numbers evicted." As regards cruelty they were also without parallel as many of the victims were sick families with young children lying on straw, when the roofs were stripped from the cabins. Sir Roger Palmer was an absentee landlord living in luxury. He was also a rate defaulter. He used the government grants to carry out drainage on his estates which were intended to give employment to the destitute but instead he employed comfortable farmers with good sized holdings. Richard Bourke commented that the employment of such farmers was to insure the payment of their rents to him."*³⁰

The charge that Sir Roger was living in luxury is borne out on examination of the Census returns for 1861³¹ of 56, Portland Place, Marylebone, London, just one of many homes belonging to Sir Roger. The retinue includes two butlers, a footman, a valet, housekeepers, lady maid, housemaid, laundry maid, kitchen maid and two nurses. The fact that he appears in an English census also supports the absentee landlord criticism.

Eleanor Matthews died in November 1852 and Sir Roger died suddenly on the 23rd August 1869³² in Cefn Park near Wrexham, Wales.

²⁸ J.F.Quinn, *the History of Mayo, Volume 5*, Ballina 2002. p 209

²⁹ Liam Swords, *In their own words: The Famine in North Connacht 1845-49*, (Columba Press) 1999 p 390 citing Part of the report by Capt. Hamilton CSORP a.9901 (Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers)

³⁰ Liam Swords, *In their own words: The Famine in North Connacht 1845-49*, (Columba Press) 1999 p 380 citing Part of the report by Capt. Hamilton CSORP a.9901 (Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers)

³¹ Census of England 1861 for Palmer family 56, Portland Place, Marylebone, London

³² Death Notice –Sir Roger Palmer, Cefn Park, Aug 27 1869- the Times

5th Baronet: Sir Roger William Henry Palmer (1832-1910)

Roger William Henry Palmer was born in Chester, Cheshire, England on the 22nd May 1832. He was educated in Eton³³ and then on to Oxford³⁴. He graduated from Christ Church Oxford on the 23 May 1850. At this stage Keenagh Lodge in Mayo³⁵ was the address used in any of the directories, as Castle Lackin was no longer mentioned. The homes of Kenure Park, Rush and Cefn Park in Wrexham, now featured in any official baronetages.³⁶

Sir Roger entered the army in 1853 as a cornet and he was sent to the Crimea on the outbreak of hostilities in April 1854 as a lieutenant in the 11th Hussars. On the 25th October he participated in the famous Charge of the Light Brigade. During the charge, Roger's life was saved by a Private Gregory Jowett³⁷. Lieutenant Palmer had cautioned Private Jowett a few days previously for being asleep at his post. Palmer is reported to have remarked later, "that Jowett might not have been so inclined had he been flogged for his misdemeanour".³⁸

Lieutenant Palmer is mentioned in Kingslakes³⁹ extensive history of the invasion of the Crimea. He is credited with accepting the sword of a Russian officer in surrender. He was also credited with spotting the headgear of an assembling line of Russian Cavalry preparing for an attack at the rear of the Light Brigade, thereby averting disaster.

He fought in Alma, Inkermann and stayed on until the fall of Sebastopol. His rise in the military was steady from a lieutenant in 1855 to the rank of captain in 1856 and finally to the rank of Lieutenant General in 1885.

During Rogers exploits in Balaclava, his sister Ellen and his father undertook a journey from England to the Crimea to see him. Ellen kept two journals of her journey, neither saw the light of day until they were found behind a cupboard many years later.⁴⁰ Ellen's granddaughter was Betty Askwith, the writer, and she in turn published the book about the journey.

This book provides much insight into the family history, providing a pedigree sheet going back to the arrival of the Palmer family in Ireland. As Betty Askwith is a direct descendant

³³ HEC Stapylton, *The Eton school lists form 1791 to 1850* (London 1863) p 218 for the year

³⁴ *Alumni Ornienses: The Members of the University of Oxford 1715-1860* p 1062 from Ancestry.co.uk

³⁵ GEC Cokayne, *The Complete Baronetage* Vol 5 1707-1800 Exeter (1906) p 391

³⁶ Debrett's Peerage Baronetage and Knightage, London 1904 p 473

³⁷ Roy Dutton, *Forgotten Heroes: The Charge of the Light Brigade* (London, 2007) accessed Google books Mar2012 p 168

³⁸ Same as 37 p 177

³⁹ A.W. Kingslake, *The Invasion of the Crimea* (6th Ed Vol 5) pages 278 and 307 ...downloaded from <http://www.archive.org/details/invasionofcrimea>

⁴⁰ Betty Askwith, *Crimean Courtship*, (Michael Russell) 1985

of the last Palmers in Ireland, the book takes on a certain authenticity and provides curious insights into the family.

On returning from the Crimea, Roger was elected MP for Mayo in 1857, a position he held until 1865. He appears to have had a very low key political career and legend has it that that he tired of the political life. In February 1883 Roger Palmer married Millicent Gertrude Rooper⁴¹ in Westminster. He was 51 and she was 23 years old. Gertrude was born Apr 1860.

He spent much of the latter years of his life travelling on steam boats and horse drawn barges on the Thames accompanied by his young wife Lady Palmer⁴².

Amongst the many positions held by Sir Roger were High Sherriff of Dublin 1875 and High Sherriff of Mayo in 1888.

Roger Palmer the 5th Baronet died in 1910⁴³ in Wales and the baronetcy withered on his passing.

Conclusion:

The baronetcy came to an end in 1910 after a total of 135 years. From the arrival of the first Palmer in Mayo, in the 1600's there was a gradual withdrawal of the family back to England. The Palmer estate in Mayo was sold to the Congested Districts Board in 1916⁴⁴ and Lady Palmer continued to spend her time between Dublin and Wales until her death in 1929. Kenure House became too expensive to maintain and in 1964 the contents were auctioned off. The house itself was sold to the Irish Land Commission⁴⁵. The final indignation was the demolition of the house in 1978 with the retention of the portico the only reminder of its existence.

Although the family spent many generations in Ireland their identity was clearly British and they owed their good fortune to the Crown. The acquisition of land by royal patent was largely down to military adventurism and this commitment to the military was continued by successive generations of the family, as this was replicated by many of the landed gentry class in Ireland at that period.

⁴¹ Plantagenet Roll of the Blood Royal p 692 sourced at <http://www.Ancestry.co.uk/>

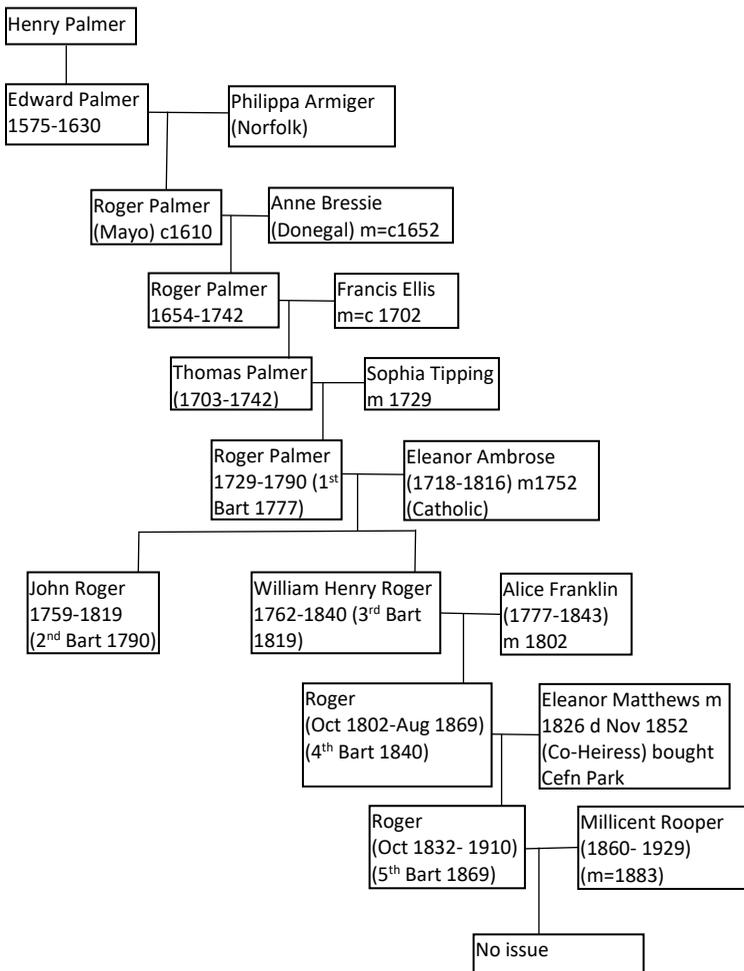
⁴² Death Notice of Lady Palmer widow of Sir Roger Palmer 21st October 1929 – The Times

⁴³ Will and Bequest of Sir Roger Palmers Estate Jun 22, 1910 - The Times

⁴⁴ Palmer Estate: <http://www.landedestates.ie/>

⁴⁵ Kenure Park: <http://archiseek.com/2011/1827-kenure-house-rush-co-dublin/>

Appendix 1: Palmer Family Pedigree



Sources: NLI GO MS107, Pages 206-7 ;NLI GO MS 178 Pages 239-244, GO MS 175 Pages 1-10; Obituary for Roger Palmer (The Times dated 31st May 1910), Death notice of Roger Palmer (The Times dated 27th Aug 1869), Copy of Betham Abstracts for Roger Palmer (NAI) MFGS 38/6 No 55, Will of Roger Palmer dated 1811 (Ref T 18860) NAI Ref Acc 1174, The Will and Bequest notice for Roger Palmer 1910 (The Times Jan 1910), <http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie> ; <http://www.askaboutireland.ie> ; <http://www.irishorigins.com>;

Appendix 2: Illustrations



Above:

Grant of Arms to Sir Roger Palmer,
4th January 1841 (National Library
of Ireland, GO MS 107, Page 207)

Right: This is a coloured lithograph
entitled "Roger" from Vanity Fair
dated 31st January 1880.



The caricature is of Sir Roger William Henry Palmer (1832-1910) and was made by "Spy", alias Leslie Ward (1851-1922). The picture is dated January 31st 1880, and was published by Vincent Brookes, Day & Son, Lithographers.



Kenure Park, Rush, Co. Dublin. The Interior
and exterior, in all its splendour.



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National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin

- Confirmation of Arms, Genealogical Office, 4th Jan 1841 MS 107 p 206-7
- Pedigree of Palmers 1680 – 1863, GO MS 178 p 239-244
- Baronets Pedigrees, Palmer pedigree 1730-1806- GO MS 112 p119
- Palmer Pedigree c1550 GO MS 175 p 1-10
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- Death Notice of Thomas Roger Palmer, Bruges 2nd Feb 1825 – The Times
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1

The Squires family of Cashel and Dublin

John Goodwillie

We all know about the substantial settlement in Ireland from Britain in the 17th century. But there is little discussion about immigration in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Three of my great-great-grandfathers exemplify such immigration, probably in all cases for reasons of employment.

My great-great-grandfather Alfred Goodwillie appears in Dublin in the 1830s. He was a stonecutter and marble merchant and presumably was taking advantage of the boom in building churches in Ireland around that time. He was born in 1798¹ probably in London, as three siblings were baptised there². The first hard evidence is that business partnerships in Liverpool and Dublin involving him were dissolved in 1835³.

My great-great-grandfather William Fenn Moppett would have arrived in Dublin when his father of the same name was appointed as Dock Master of the Custom House Docks about 1824⁴.

The subject of this article is a third great-great-grandfather, George Squires, who came to Cashel about 1844 to take up a position of vicar choral in Cashel Cathedral. Vicars choral played leading roles in the sung services in the Cathedral. It was not a full-time appointment: George also worked as a teacher of music and singing and a piano tuner⁵.

An obituary tribute to him by T. G. Joynt reads:

“George Squires, Vicar Choral of Cashel Cathedral, who for 33 years most efficiently performed the duties of Vicar Choral in our Cathedral, was a man universally esteemed for his probity, his sterling honesty and manliness of character. In his capacity as Teacher of Music the very deep regret felt and expressed by his numerous pupils attests in the strongest and truest manner the esteem which his efficiency obtained for him. The effect which he may be said to have, if not created certainly fostered and

¹ Family Bible.

² George baptised St James Clerkenwell, 1791; Mary Ann baptised St Giles in the Fields, 1794; Charles baptised St Mary Mounthaw 1801.

³ London Gazette, 13 Oct. 1835, p. 1900.

⁴ See my article ‘The Moppetts: a Nautical Family of England and Ireland’ in this journal, 2014.

⁵ Slater’s Directory, 1846, 1856 and 1870.

*developed the musical taste which so prominently distinguished the educated portion of our citizens. He was a warmhearted generous friend and possessed a most genial kindly disposition. His end was peace. He obtained his musical education in connection with the Chapel Royal, Windsor.*⁶ T. G. Joynt must be the “Mr. Joynt, schoolmaster” who applied to the Select Vestry of Cashel Cathedral in 1874 for a kitchen range for the schoolhouse⁷.

A typed family document records that George was “born 30th Jan. 1820 at Old Windsor, Berkshire. Died April 1st, 1895... Married 11th Dec. 1842 at [sic] Caroline Sabine, daughter of Alfred Sabine of Westgate Parish - born 30th August 1821 in Parish of All Saints Canterbury. Died 8th March, 1865.” It proceeds to list twelve children, the first of whom was born in Canterbury in 1843; the second died at one day old in Cashel in 1845, showing that George must have moved to Cashel between those dates. As his death date of 1895 is a mistake for 1875⁸, his arrival was probably in 1843 or 1844, judging by Mr Joynt’s tribute.

George lived at 18 Main Street, Cashel in a house leased from the Very Rev. Samuel Adams, the Dean⁹, and later at Friar Street¹⁰.

That document also includes the children of his eldest son by the latter’s first wife, the youngest of whom was born in 1878. But it does not mention George’s second wife Lois Brooker, daughter of Thomas Brooker, a gardener, whom he married on 20th December 1866 at Ballintemple, a parish a few miles west of Cashel whose only significant village is Dundrum, where Lois was living according to the marriage certificate. Because this is after the registration of Protestant marriages began in 1845, it names George’s father as William Squires and his occupation as “Gate Keeper, Windsor Park”. William’s position as gatekeeper in Windsor Great Park is confirmed by a parliamentary paper ‘Royal Palaces and Buildings: Returns to an Address to His Majesty’, 1832 (H.C. 194).

We know that George’s mother was Sarah¹¹, and the English census shows a 55-year-old Sarah Squires living with George in 1841 in Canterbury. There is a death notice in 1863 specifying that George’s mother Sarah had died in Cashel¹², and a burial record for Cashel Cathedral specifies that she was 80 years old when she died on 28 September 1863, so we can calculate that she was born about 1783 or 1786; but we do not know her maiden name. Presumably William had died after 1832 and she had had to leave his gate-lodge in Windsor Park, and thereafter lived with her son George.

George Squires had an older sister, Priscilla, baptised in Old Windsor on 12 November 1817, who is in the 1851 census listed as a dressmaker in St Marylebone,

⁶ Copy in author’s possession.

⁷ Minutes of the Select Vestry of St. John the Baptist Cashel, 27 Nov. 1874.

⁸ Cashel parish register.

⁹ Griffith’s Valuation, 1850.

¹⁰ Birth certificate of [Henry], Death certificates of George and Caroline.

¹¹ England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975.

¹² *Nenagh Guardian*, 3 Oct. 1863.

but we do not know of other relatives. There is a Joseph Squires employed as a van driver in Windsor in the Master of the Household's Department in 1853, and a Fanny Squires employed as First Kitchen Maid "on trial" in 1877¹³, but we don't know whether they are relatives.

The family document is headed "Crest Wyvern Essex". While it is tempting to take this as evidence that the family came from Essex, it is more likely that this information was taken from Fairbairn's book of crests of the families of Great Britain and Ireland, which indicates only that there was a Squires family in Essex with a wyvern on their coat of arms, and the sources for this book are unknown¹⁴. Another document in family possession says "*Crest is a wyvern on a wheel with wings adorned proper*", with a note "*See book on Heraldry.*"

Mr Joynt's tribute says that George was trained in singing at the Chapel Royal in Windsor, but the Chapel Royal is a London institution. His name does not appear on the records of St George's Chapel in Windsor¹⁵, so it is probable that he was selected for training in London. By 1841 he was teaching music in Canterbury¹⁶ and in 1843 held a position at Canterbury Cathedral as lay clerk¹⁷, similar to a vicar choral. In 1842, as noted, he had married Caroline Sabine, whose father Alfred was a baker in Canterbury¹⁸. It must have been a big step to move with her and a newborn son to a provincial town in Ireland, but it looks as if they settled rapidly: in 1848 he is recorded as signing the petition for clemency for William Smith O'Brien, the Young Ireland leader¹⁹. In 1869 he was examined before the Cashel Election Commission and gave evidence that he said to a canvasser: "*I did not think I'd vote for either parties, as they were for the disendowment of the Church.*"²⁰

George and Caroline had thirteen children: the twelve mentioned in the document included twins. As previously quoted, Caroline died in 1865²¹. There were no children by his second marriage to Lois Brooker, whose date of death has not been traced. The rest of this article concerns his children and grandchildren.

William Alfred Squires, born 17 September 1843 in Canterbury. He became a clerk in the civil service²² and in 1866 was appointed clerk in the General Register Office, Dublin out of four candidates²³; Thom's Directory records his gradual move upwards through the office: 1867-1875, Third Class Clerk; 1876-1886, Second Class Clerk; 1887-1891, Deputy Superintendent of the Record Branch; 1892-1908, Superintendent of the Record Branch. So to him must be attached whatever credit or blame genealogists wish to apportion for the preservation of the records of

¹³ Establishment Lists for Master of the Household's Department 1835-1924.

¹⁴ Telephone conversation with York Herald, March 2013.

¹⁵ Email from St George's Chapel Archives & Chapter Library, 22 Nov. 2019.

¹⁶ 1841 census.

¹⁷ Birth certificate of son William.

¹⁸ 1841 census.

¹⁹ The William Smith O'Brien Petition 1848-49 on findmypast.ie

²⁰ *Cork Examiner*, 9 Oct. 1869.

²¹ *Belfast Newsletter*, 13 Mar. 1865; civil registration; rootsireland.

²² Marriage certificate.

²³ *Saunders's Newsletter*, 31 Jan. 1866.

births, marriages and deaths at this time. Possibly his genes also transmitted an interest in genealogy to me. The Assistant Registrar-General Robert Matheson's *Special Report on Surnames in Ireland*²⁴ notes: "I desire to express my special acknowledgments to Mr. William A. Squires, Superintendent of Records in this Office, who has most cordially assisted me, and whose long experience in dealing with names has been of the greatest advantage." On his retirement in 1908 Robert Matheson, by then Registrar-General, sent him a letter which included the lines:

"I have been associated with you during almost the entire period of your public service, and have had ample opportunities of witnessing your most exemplary character, and the acidity [sic] and care with which you have discharged your duties in the several posts you have held..."

"You have served under four Registrars-General, and I can testify to the very high opinion my three predecessors in office entertained of you personally in every way.

"It is gratifying to me to be able to inform you that I have today received a communication from the Irish Government intimating that the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have been pleased to award you the highest pension it was in Their Lordships power to give."²⁵

William A Squires



The minutes of the North Dublin Poor Law Union Board of Guardians for 8th March 1899 record a letter from the Registrar General on 2nd March enclosing a report from "Mr. Squires" recommending suitable shelves and trays for the Guardians' strong room²⁶. The baptism certificates of his children show that he was also an organist²⁷ and music teacher²⁸, skills which he no doubt learned from his father. He also served for many years as a member of the Board of Governors of the Royal Hospital for Incurables²⁹.

In 1864 in St Peter's Church, Dublin, William Alfred Squires of 39 Mount Pleasant Square, Ranelagh, married Annie Victoria Goldsmith (born about

²⁴ Dublin: H.M.S.O., 1894.

²⁵ In family possession.

²⁶ Dublin Poor Law Union Board-Guardians Minute Book Oct 1898 to Mar 1899.

²⁷ Emily Jane, Annie Caroline Harriett.

²⁸ Agnes.

²⁹ *Freeman's Journal*, 16 Nov. 1892; *Irish Independent*, 1 Dec. 1911.

1837³⁰) who lived near him at 11 Mount Pleasant Square. This was what we might call an upwardly-mobile marriage, and we can guess that it was living on the same square that brought them together, Annie's father occupying one house and William being presumably a sub-tenant or lodger in No. 39, as the recorded occupier is one William Cooper³¹. Annie's father was Joseph Edgar Goldsmith, the grandson of a first cousin of Oliver Goldsmith. Joseph Edgar and his elder brother John Joseph had been grocers and wine merchants at St Stephen's Green, across from the Shelbourne Hotel, from 1819 to 1851³², after which John continued the business by himself while Joseph is recorded as a commission agent on his wife's death certificate in 1866 and an income tax collector on his own death certificate in 1870. John is also recorded in Griffith's Valuation (1857) as the occupier of a 71-acre farm near Elphin in Co. Roscommon, the remains of an estate much larger in the 18th century³³. Annie's mother was Jane Mills, daughter of Captain George Mills, High Sheriff of Co. Roscommon in 1816, whose house, Cherryfield, was less than a mile from the Goldsmiths' house Ballyoughter.

After marriage William and Annie lived successively at Mount Pleasant Square, Mount Pleasant Avenue, Belgrave Villas, Charleston Avenue, Cullenswood Terrace, Kenilworth Square, Dartmouth Square, Elton Park, Sandycove³⁴ and Sydney Avenue, Blackrock³⁵.

William and Annie's children were:

1. Alfred George, born 1865, bank official³⁶, married Mabel Maude Wheeler in Sudbury, Suffolk³⁷, and died 1937.
2. Emily Jane, born 1866, married George Duniam Williams³⁸ and died 1949. They were my grandparents.
3. Rev. William Goldsmith, born 1868, Rector of Monart Co. Wexford 1908-1944, successively Treasurer, Chancellor and Precentor of Ferns 1934-1944, died 1955 in Seapoint, Co. Dublin.
4. Annie Caroline Harriet, born 1869. Went as a lay missionary to Bonny in the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. Her despatch there seems to have been part of an effort by the Church Missionary Society to reinforce the long-established mission which was felt to have fallen into laxity under the under-funded and uncomfortably independent rule of Bishop Samuel

³⁰ Calculated from age at death.

³¹ Thom's Directory.

³² Thom's Directory.

³³ Registry of Deeds nos 27821, 91738, 91739, 115265, 123918, 314413.

³⁴ Thom's Directory.

³⁵ 1911 census.

³⁶ 1901 census.

³⁷ *Freeman's Journal*, 14 Oct. 1896.

³⁸ See my article 'Researching Charles Henry Williams' in this journal, 2017.

Ajayi Crowther, a freed slave (c. 1809-1891)³⁹. Annie died of fever in 1900, only a few weeks after arriving.

5. Alice Charlotte, born 1871, kept house for her brother the Rev. William⁴⁰; died 1924 in Enniscorthy.
6. John Mills Goldsmith, born 1872, Clerk and Storekeeper, Dundrum Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum 1899 to 1932⁴¹, married Lilian Mabel Day-Lewis in Weston super Mare⁴² and died 1959.
7. Agnes Olive, born 1875, kept house for her widowed brother-in-law the Rev. Frank⁴³ and then for her brother the Rev. William; died 1966.
8. Eveline Julia, born 1875 (twin of Agnes Olive), died 1877⁴⁴.
9. Florence Rosaline, born 1875 (twin with Eveline), shorthand writer and typist⁴⁵, died 1959.
10. Kathleen Blake, born 1878, married the Rev. Frank Cecil Day-Lewis (brother of Lilian Mabel already mentioned), died 1908 in Brentford, Middlesex.

William Alfred's wife Annie Victoria died in 1891 and he married Anna Hope Couser, born 1864 in Armagh⁴⁶, in 1894 in Armagh First Presbyterian Church. She was the daughter of William Couser, a merchant⁴⁷. This is a surprising marriage, and one wonders what the connection was that brought them together: perhaps there was a connection through his brother John who married a Presbyterian. In the 1901 census both William and Anna are registered as belonging to the Church of Ireland. They had one child:

Rev. Stanhope Sabine, born 1902, Rector of Dromara, Co. Down, from 1940 to 1956⁴⁸. Married Kathleen Alma Elizabeth Bell in 1936 in Willowfield Parish Church, Belfast⁴⁹, and died 1956 in Belfast⁵⁰.

³⁹

<http://africanhistory.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.001.0001/acrefore-9780190277734-e-278>, accessed 1 Nov. 2019; *The Centenary Volume of the Church Missionary Society for Africa and the East, 1799-1899* (London: C.M.S., 1902), p. 182.

⁴⁰ 1911 census, Marshalstown, Co. Wexford.

⁴¹ Thom's Directory.

⁴² Somerset, England, Marriage Registers, Bonds and Allegations, 1754-1914.

⁴³ 1911 census, 1a Craven Terrace, London W.

⁴⁴ Gravestone, Mount Jerome Cemetery.

⁴⁵ 1911 census.

⁴⁶ Assumed to be the unnamed female Couser born 12 Dec. 1864, daughter of William Couser, grocer, English Street, Armagh, and Anna née McWatters.

⁴⁷ Marriage certificate.

⁴⁸ J. B. Leslie, *Clergy of Down and Dromore*. Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation, 1996.

⁴⁹ The Irish Times, 2 Sep. 1936.

⁵⁰ England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations).



Anna Hope and the Rev. Stanhope Sabine Squires

William Alfred died in 1913 in Blackrock, Co. Dublin, and Anna Hope died in 1944 in Dromara⁵¹.

⁵¹ Northern Ireland, Will Calendar Index.

Maria Sarah Squires, born 5 December 1845 in Cashel, baptised on 6 December and died the same day⁵².

Caroline Squires, born 18 January 1847 and baptised on 19 January in Cashel⁵³. In 1864 she married Henry Noble in Cashel Cathedral. He was another vicar choral in the cathedral⁵⁴. He had been born in 1843 in Peterborough, the son of Henry Noble, a shoemaker⁵⁵ and leather merchant⁵⁶ and his wife Sarah, who after she was widowed became the parish sextoness⁵⁷. Like Caroline's father he had come over to Ireland, after serving for a time with the British Legion of Volunteers helping Garibaldi in the fight for the unification of Italy in 1860. Henry subsequently played a part in veterans' affairs⁵⁸. The newly-married couple did not stay long in Ireland: in 1865 or 1866 they returned to Henry's home town⁵⁹, but soon moved to Exeter, where Henry worked as a music teacher⁶⁰. In 1895 they were in Eastbourne⁶¹ but soon returned to Exeter, where Henry was a lay clerk in the Cathedral and a councillor on the City Council⁶² as a Liberal and subsequently as a Progressive⁶³. After retiring from the Cathedral choir⁶⁴, he became a general grocer and confectioner⁶⁵. Caroline died in 1918 in Exeter and Henry in 1923, also in Exeter. They had seven children:

1. Caroline, born 1865 in Cashel⁶⁶ and died 4 days old⁶⁷.
2. Emily, born 1865⁶⁸ (twin with Caroline), dressmaker⁶⁹, death not discovered.
3. Caroline Sabine, born 1866 in Peterborough and given the name of her dead sister. She became a teacher⁷⁰, married Alfred Rich⁷¹ and died in 1959 in Barnet.

⁵² Cashel parish register.

⁵³ Cashel parish register.

⁵⁴ Marriage certificate.

⁵⁵ 1851 census, 19 St John's Street, Peterborough.

⁵⁶ Henry and Caroline's marriage certificate.

⁵⁷ 1861 census, 99 St John's Street, Peterborough.

⁵⁸ *London Daily News*, 22 Sep. 1903; *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, 18 Nov. 1903; *Western Times*, 17 Sep. 1906; *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, 19 Oct. 1912.

⁵⁹ Birth of daughter Caroline Sabine.

⁶⁰ 1871 census, 1881 census, 1891 census.

⁶¹ Marriage certificate of Henry Victor.

⁶² 1901 census.

⁶³ *Western Morning News*, 25 Oct. 1900; 1901 census; *Western Times*, 25 Oct. 1901.

⁶⁴ Personal communication, Kerrie Doherty (descendant).

⁶⁵ 1911 census.

⁶⁶ Cashel parish register.

⁶⁷ Cashel parish register.

⁶⁸ Cashel parish register.

⁶⁹ 1891 census.

⁷⁰ 1881-1911 censuses.

⁷¹ 1911 census, Great Horwood, Buckinghamshire.

4. Charlotte Aileen, born 1868 in Exeter, teacher⁷², married William John Sanders⁷³; death not discovered.
5. Florence, born 1871 in Exeter, teacher⁷⁴, married Frank Nott and died in 1963 in Swindon.
6. Henry Victor, born 1873 in Exeter, Post Office clerk⁷⁵ and civil servant, married Annie Barbara Wilson⁷⁶ and died 1970 in Barnstaple.
7. Annie Elizabeth, born 1874 in Exeter, draper's apprentice⁷⁷, married Peter Willcocks⁷⁸; death not discovered.

Elizabeth Squires, born 1847 (twin with Caroline and baptised the same day⁷⁹). In the 1871 census she is living with her twin and family in Exeter and no occupation is given. Nothing more has been found.

George Squires, born 24 February 1849 and baptised on 30 March⁸⁰. He became a soldier. According to army records when he joined the 24th Regiment (later the South Wales Borderers) he was living in Clonmel when recruited on 2 June 1866. He claimed to be a shoemaker and 18 years 11 months on enlistment, but in fact he was only 17 years 3 months. This is one of a number of date discrepancies which are discussed at the end of this article. That this man is our George is made certain by the fact that the Army recorded "William Squires, Dublin" as his next of kin: it's not clear whether this was before or after his marriage, but it is not provided for on the printed form, suggesting that his marriage had broken down before he left the Army. He had been demoted from Corporal for a couple of offences of drunkenness, but he apparently reformed as he moved upwards through the ranks, ending as a colour sergeant in the West Yorkshire Regiment with four good conduct badges. Army records state that he was in home service 2 June 1866 to 14 September 1868 and 23 December 1879 to 31 August 1888, and in the "East Indies" between these dates, meaning probably India for the most part; on 28 December 1878 medical records have him in Aden⁸¹. In 1883 he married Ellen Brown, a worsted reeler living in Farsley, in St Peter's church, Bradford: she was the daughter of William Brown, a mule spinner: George was recorded as a sergeant in the West Yorkshire Regiment living at Bradford Moor Barracks⁸². However, as mentioned, his marriage appears to have broken down. In the 1891 census he was living in Hunslet, Yorkshire, as a lodger and as a watchman (sic), while his wife, describing herself as born in Farsley,

⁷² 1891 census.

⁷³ London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns.

⁷⁴ 1891 census.

⁷⁵ 1901 and 1911 census.

⁷⁶ Marriage certificate.

⁷⁷ 1891 census.

⁷⁸ Civil registration.

⁷⁹ Cashel parish register.

⁸⁰ Cashel parish register.

⁸¹ Royal Hospital Chelsea Soldiers Service Documents (WO 97); Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Admission and Discharge Records (WO 117).

⁸² Parish register, Bradford Cathedral.

was living elsewhere in Hunslet and working as a piecer at a woollen mill; in the 1901 census he is still in Hunslet as a watchman in a steel works, without his wife.

George died in Leeds in 1902 and was buried in a 'guinea grave' along with unrelated people⁸³. Ellen's death has not been traced. An Ellen Squires who could be this Ellen, but now describing herself as born in Armley, is a married servant in Shipley in the 1901 census (though "servant" to a single drainage works labourer) and a widowed boarding-house keeper in Bradford in 1911.

George had three children recorded in the 1901 census, and, though a watchman, has a "housekeeper" Alice Nelson. But the children were all baptised in Hunslet as children of Alice Nelson, no father recorded but with "Squire" as a middle name: and in the case of the third child "George" and "Squire" are crossed out in the columns for father's name. And in the 1911 census the three children are living with Alice Nelson, now described as a widow, at 37 Woodhouse Hill Road, Hunslet, with their baptismal names. These facts are an interesting insight as to how irregular situations were handled at this time.

1. George Squire Nelson, born in 1894. No trace has been found after 1911.
2. Alice Squire Nelson, born in 1897, married Harold Brow and died 1983 in Leeds.
3. Robert Squire Nelson, born in 1898. Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery in the First World War, discharged in 1919. He received a pension as partially disabled⁸⁴. Married Christina Smith Hamilton in Hunslet in 1925 as Robert Squires Nelson, and described as a cable-hand: his father's name is recorded as George Squires Nelson, watchman⁸⁵. Died 1982 in Leeds as Robert Squires Nelson⁸⁶.

Charlotte Squires, born 21 May 1850 and baptised 27 July in Cashel⁸⁷. Charlotte went over to England to work as an assistant in the butcher's shop of her uncle John Sabine in Clapham, and lived with his family⁸⁸. However, the 1881 census shows her living in Battersea with a four-year old daughter Kathleen V. Squires, and working as a dressmaker, probably one of the few occupations that were accessible to a single mother. There is no trace of a father for the child. Charlotte was still working as a dressmaker in Battersea in the 1911 census. She may be the Charlotte Squires living in Battersea in 1939 as the birth date is only one day out⁸⁹, but there is no trace of her death.

Neither do we know what happened to Kathleen.

⁸³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/177437126> [accessed 12 Nov. 2019].

⁸⁴ WWI Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914-1923.

⁸⁵ West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910.

⁸⁶ Civil registration.

⁸⁷ Cashel parish register.

⁸⁸ 1871 census.

⁸⁹ 1939 England and Wales Register.

We do not know the response of the family to Charlotte's situation. Her mother Caroline had an elder sister Maria who had two children outside wedlock, both apparently by a Mr Cooper as they were given the middle name Cooper. While the Sabine family were Methodists, only apparently transferring their allegiance from the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, a small Methodist denomination, to the more mainstream Wesleyan Methodists around 1819⁹⁰, Maria's children were not baptised in either Methodist church, where a public confession might be required⁹¹, but instead in the Church of England⁹².

Edward Squires, born 7 October 1852 and baptised 4 December in Cashel⁹³. He stayed in Cashel and became a watchmaker⁹⁴ and jeweller⁹⁵ and lived in Friar Street⁹⁶. He got a fortnight's work for the Cashel election campaign mentioned above, employed "to look after the Munsterites" (supporters of Mr Munster, the opposing candidate)⁹⁷. In 1877 he was mentioned as a supporter of the Home Rule candidacy of E. Dwyer Gray⁹⁸. In 1874 he was engaged "at the rate of Five Pounds per annum to keep the Church Clock regularly wound and properly regulated"⁹⁹. He apparently inherited some of his father's singing talent, as he is mentioned as a member of Cashel Cathedral choir in 1877¹⁰⁰. He married twice but both his children died as infants. His first wife was Kate Frances Culleton, born about 1855 and daughter of Matthew Culleton, a farmer of The Commons, Cashel¹⁰¹. She died of phthisis less than a month after giving birth¹⁰².

Her child was Caroline Frances, who died two days old from "debility" in 1879¹⁰³.

Edward's second wife was Eliza Taylor, daughter of William Taylor, a farmer from Park Hill, Ballintemple, whom he married in 1880¹⁰⁴.

Her child was George, born in 1881 and died at the age of four months of whooping cough¹⁰⁵.

⁹⁰ England, Select Births and Christenings.

⁹¹ Eve McLaughlin, *Illegitimacy*. 4th ed. Birmingham: Federation of Family History Societies, 1989, p. 8.

⁹² England, Select Births and Christenings; Tyler Index to Parish Registers. Harriot Sabine bap. 21 Dec. 1817, Harriet Cooper Sabine bur. 31 Mar. 1820, Frances Sophia-Cooper Sabine, bap. 28 Nov. 1821, Frances bur. a 15 mos 12 Jan. 1823.

⁹³ Cashel parish register.

⁹⁴ Marriage certificate; Slater's Royal National Commercial Directory of Ireland, 1881.

⁹⁵ Death certificate.

⁹⁶ Death certificate.

⁹⁷ *Cork Examiner*, 16 Feb. 1869.

⁹⁸ *Freeman's Journal*, 1 May 1877.

⁹⁹ Minutes of the Select Vestry of St. John the Baptist Cathedral, 27 Nov. 1874.

¹⁰⁰ *Nenagh Guardian*, 2 Jan. 1878.

¹⁰¹ Marriage certificate.

¹⁰² Death certificate.

¹⁰³ Death certificate.

¹⁰⁴ Marriage certificate.

¹⁰⁵ Death certificate.

Edward died in 1890 in Cashel. A 55-year-old Eliza Squires, a widow, who had been working as a servant, died in South Dublin Workhouse in 1899, but we cannot be sure that this was our Eliza.

John Squires, born 5 October 1854 and baptised 19 November in Cashel¹⁰⁶. He became a compositor and a corrector in *The Irish Times*¹⁰⁷. He married Mary Anne Cockburn, who had been born in 1857 in Dublin. Her mother, another Mary Anne, was born in Edinburgh¹⁰⁸: on her death certificate (1907) she is described as widow of an upholsterer, though we do not know his name. She was living with her daughter and son-in-law in the 1901 census in Russell Place, Dublin, and all the family were described as Presbyterians. In 1883 John and Mary were living in Blessington Street. In 1885 and 1887/1888 John and Mary Anne were living at Grattan Parade¹⁰⁹. By the 1911 census they had moved to Ardilaun Terrace. John and Mary Anne had ten children. John died in 1917, Mary Anne having died in 1911.

1. John, born 1878, compositor/linotype operator, married Kathleen Jane Owgan in Sandford church in 1899¹¹⁰, Anna Elizabeth Whiteside in St Matthew's church in 1904¹¹¹, and Maud Alicia McPartling in St Batholomew's church in 1929¹¹². Died in 1954.
2. Mary Annie, born in 1880. Her death has not been traced.
3. Charlotte, born 1881, clerk¹¹³; married the magnificently named Melvill Cayzer Horatio Nelson MacWilliam¹¹⁴ and died in Hertfordshire in 1965.
4. Peter, born 1883, was a commercial traveller and then joined the Royal Navy. He was a Seaman from 1900 to 1913 and 1914 to 1919. As was then common only among seamen, he had a tattoo on his arm. His records show that he was variously reported as good, very good, or satisfactory¹¹⁵. In 1939 he was a gas stove manufacturers' salesman living in Richmond, Surrey¹¹⁶. He married Mildred Emily Morris in Hampstead¹¹⁷ and died in Bury St Edmunds in 1958.
5. Alfred George, born 1884, a clerk, married Isabella Cairncross and died in 1961 in Glasgow.
6. An unnamed son, born in 1885 and died after 12 hours in Dublin.

¹⁰⁶ Cashel parish register.

¹⁰⁷ Birth certificate of Charlotte.

¹⁰⁸ 1901 census.

¹⁰⁹ Birth certificates of children.

¹¹⁰ Civil registration.

¹¹¹ Civil registration.

¹¹² Civil registration.

¹¹³ 1901 census.

¹¹⁴ Civil registration.

¹¹⁵ Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services.

¹¹⁶ 1939 England and Wales Register.

¹¹⁷ Civil registration.

7. Emily/Isabella, born 1887. The birth record is for Emily, but there are no further details of Emily. Isabella, born about 1887 according to the 1901 and 1911 censuses, takes her place. It seems therefore that they are the same person. She worked as a curtain factory presser and married Thomas James Kerr in Rutland Square Presbyterian Church¹¹⁸. Thomas and Isabella emigrated to the United States, he in 1914 and she in 1917¹¹⁹. The 1930 census records them as born in “N. Ireland” but this was true of Thomas only. Her death has not been traced.
8. William Edward, born 1888. He became a commercial clerk in a wine establishment, married Eileen Nora Cahill of Eccles Street in Rutland Square Presbyterian Church¹²⁰ and emigrated to the United States, where he worked as a bookkeeper, accountant, spice grinder, and factory manager in New York¹²¹. He died in 1958 in Bradenton, Florida, and was buried there, having moved there only three months previously from Long Island¹²². There is another date discrepancy here: while his birth certificate gives his date of birth as 27 November 1888, his 1917 draft card gives it as 27 November 1889, and his 1942 draft card gives it as 27 November 1890, reporting that his employer was Van Loan & Co. in New York.
9. James Arthur, born 1890. He became an insurance clerk¹²³ and married Mary Agnes Roberts, daughter of John Roberts, a grain merchant living on the North Circular Road, in the Methodist Church, Abbey Street¹²⁴. He joined the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and was later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. He was killed in action in 1918¹²⁵ somewhere in northern France¹²⁶. He is buried in the army cemetery at Vis-en-Artois in Pas-de-Calais¹²⁷.

Robert S. Squires, born 10 September 1856 and baptised 19 December in Cashel¹²⁸. He joined the Royal Irish Regiment and rose to the rank of Sergeant in the 2nd West York Regiment¹²⁹. He died of dysentery in 1885 at Absarat in the Sudan¹³⁰. The date

¹¹⁸ Marriage certificate.

¹¹⁹ 1920 census.

¹²⁰ Marriage certificate.

¹²¹ 1917 draft registration card; 1920 census, 1930 census; *The Tampa Tribune* [accessed 9 Jun. 2019].

¹²² *The Tampa Tribune*, 25 Feb. 1958 [accessed 9 Jun. 2019].

¹²³ 1911 census.

¹²⁴ Marriage certificate.

¹²⁵ Ireland, Casualties of World War I, 1914-1922.

¹²⁶ Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects.

¹²⁷ Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

¹²⁸ Cashel parish register.

¹²⁹ Military Campaign Medal and Award Rolls.

¹³⁰ Death certificate based on Army register entry made at Cairo, which describes Absarat as “on the Nile, Egypt”. But it is near Dongola in the present Sudan.

makes it clear that he was on the Gordon Relief Expedition. General Gordon had disobeyed his orders to retreat from Khartoum and public opinion forced the government to send an expedition to relieve him from the siege by Muhammad Ahmad, called by the British 'The Mad Mahdi' but remembered in the Sudan as a liberation fighter. The expedition arrived at Khartoum two days after it had fallen to the Mahdi's forces, but Robert had died fifteen days previously so was never aware of the disaster.

Maria Squires was born, baptised privately and died on 20 October 1858¹³¹. On the family document mentioned above she is called Miriam.

Richard Squires was born on 2 December 1859 and baptised on 2 February 1860 in Cashel¹³². He joined the 14th Regiment and was a Lance-Corporal stationed at Weymouth Infantry Barracks in 1881. The previous year he had been a witness at the second marriage of his brother Edward, being described as 19th (or 14th?) Hussars. But "Hussars" is perhaps a mistake as Sergeant Richard Squires of the 14th Regiment married Harriet Smith in Bradford in 1883; he describes his father as George Squires, Clerk in Holy Orders¹³³: an understandable mistake if he gave his father's occupation as vicar choral. His army career brought him to Sialkot (now in Pakistan) and Danapur (in Bihar, India). He died in 1886 in Danapur from cholera which was pandemic at the time. The record shows that he was attached to commissariat at the time, which may have brought him more into contact with the general population¹³⁴.

They had one child, John Robert Squires, born in 1884 in Sialkot¹³⁵. Harriet remarried three months after Richard's death¹³⁶ as was necessary in India to stay in Army accommodation¹³⁷, and the child grew up with a stepfamily in Yorkshire. While a prisoner of war in the Netherlands, he married Maria Christina Johanna Gelissen¹³⁸. He was probably among British soldiers in Belgium who had crossed into the neutral Netherlands rather than surrender to the Germans. He worked as a dyer and timekeeper¹³⁹, and died in 1958 in Wharfedale.

Alfred Squires was born on 11 February 1862 and baptised on 14 March¹⁴⁰. When his father made his will in 1875 he left £20 to Alfred with the parish minister of Cashel as trustee¹⁴¹. Alfred emigrated to the United States in 1880¹⁴². Later the same year he enlisted in the 20th Infantry, giving his age as 21 and his previous

¹³¹ Cashel parish register.

¹³² Cashel parish register.

¹³³ West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935.

¹³⁴ British India Office Ecclesiastical Returns - Deaths and Burials.

¹³⁵ 1891 census.

¹³⁶ India, Select Marriages, 1792-1948.

¹³⁷ David Gilmour, *The British in India* (Penguin, 2018).

¹³⁸ Foreign and Overseas Registers of British Subjects, 1628-1969.

¹³⁹ 1901 census, 1939 register.

¹⁴⁰ Cashel parish register.

¹⁴¹ Original will registers 1858-1920.

¹⁴² New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957.

occupation as grocer¹⁴³. He re-enlisted in 1885, 1891, 1896, 1899, 1902 and 1905, serving in various infantry regiments and ending up as a First Sergeant¹⁴⁴. The 1910 to 1940 censuses show him as retired from the Army and living in Monterey City, California, the 1930 census revealing that he was a veteran of the United States forces in the Spanish-American war of 1898, in which the United States acquired the Philippines, Guam and Puerto Rico and established control over Cuba. In his death records his age has been adjusted to being born on 2 February 1861.

In 1890 Alfred married Annie McGrag Mcleod¹⁴⁵, who had immigrated to the United States in 1887¹⁴⁶. He died in Monterey in 1948¹⁴⁷.

Henry Squires was born on 9 October 1864 according to the baptismal record, the last of George and Caroline's children, and baptised on 9 December in Cashel¹⁴⁸. Civil registration records only an unnamed daughter born on 3 October, and the name chosen was never added to the register as it should have been. But a boy, Henry, was baptised in Cashel on 9 December. We can only assume that the baby's sex was difficult to establish, but that by the time of baptism it was decided that at any rate he should be raised as a boy.

When his father made his will in 1875 he left £20 to Henry also, with the parish minister of Cashel as trustee¹⁴⁹. But there is no further trace of Henry.

So we see that a couple of English origin settled in Cashel. Some of their descendants stayed in Ireland, some went to their parents' country, some went to the United States, following a typical Irish pattern. We can assume from the employment they obtained that William and John at least had a decent education. Edward's trade might have required an apprenticeship. Four of the other boys became soldiers, perhaps for lack of other opportunities; they all rose to the rank of sergeant, which must say something for their characters.

The date discrepancies mentioned are all in the dates of birth of soldiers, who sometimes have an incentive to distort their date of birth in order to become eligible to serve; except for one in a draft record which is also in the soldiering field. However, to eliminate the possibility that two distinct people have been conflated, I created a database of all occurrences of the surname Squires in Ireland since 1820 in the resources of irishgenealogy.ie, rootsireland.ie, familysearch.com, ancestry.co.uk, and findmypast.ie. Making a few reasonable assumptions as to where one individual is represented by multiple records, I came to a total of 284

¹⁴³ U.S. National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962.

¹⁴⁴ U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914.

¹⁴⁵ Kansas, County Marriage Records, 1811-1911.

¹⁴⁶ 1910 census.

¹⁴⁷ U.S. National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962.

¹⁴⁸ Cashel parish register.

¹⁴⁹ Original will registers 1858-1920.

individuals. Of these 77 pertain to people in this article or their children. While the absence of records can never be taken as complete proof of the non-existence of people, I am confident that this has minimised the possibility of error.

I have called the article 'The Squires family of Cashel and Dublin' because as far as I have found there were no others of the same name in Cashel, and in Dublin the majority of people with the name Squires have belonged to our family. The only other Squires family of considerable extent was in Limerick.

To avoid excessive footnotes, births and deaths can be assumed to be in Dublin except where otherwise specified, and are taken from civil registration unless otherwise specified.

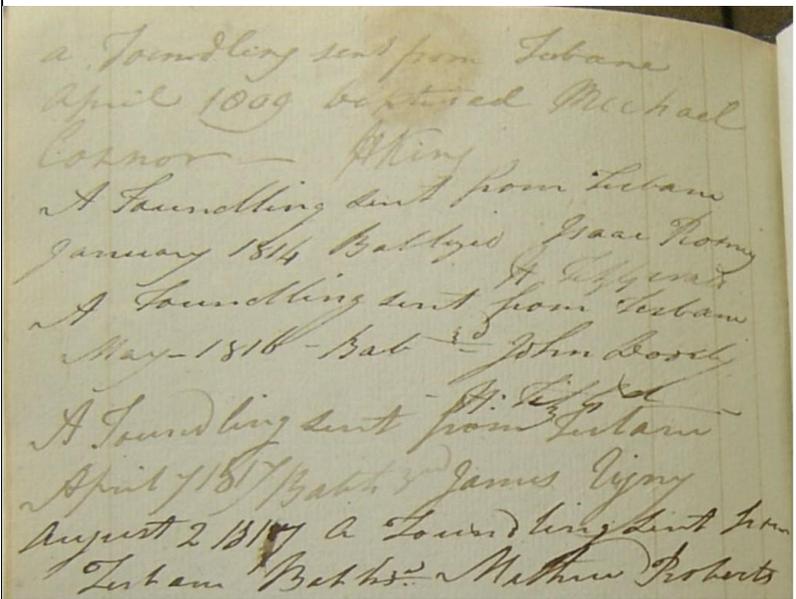
Thanks to Patricia Marshall née Squires for information on the Rev. Stanhope Squires and Canterbury, photographs and the retirement tribute for W. A. Squires; Marcia Noble and Kerrie Doherty for help with the Noble family; Stew Smith for helping with the Sabine family; Suzanne Robinson for spotting an error in the text.

Offaly Children sent to the Dublin Foundling Hospital

Laura Price

The National Library of Ireland's Manuscript Collection contains a "Parish Book" for the Church of Ireland parishes of Ferbane and Tisaran in Co. Offaly, 1797-1822.¹ It was compiled by the Rev. Henry King and forms part of the estate records of the King family of Ballylin, near Ferbane. Among the usual baptisms, burials, marriages and confirmations is a list of foundlings sent to the "Hospital" in Dublin.

Image 1. Parish Register of Ferbane and Tisaran, Ms. 4122, p.46, image courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.



A Foundling sent from Ferbane April 1809 Baptised Michael Connor - H. King

A Foundling sent from Ferbane January 1814 Baptized Isaac Rosney. H. FitzGerald

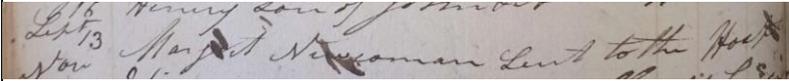
A Foundling sent from Ferbane May 1816 Baptd. John Doorly. H. FitzGerald

A Foundling sent from Ferbane April 1817 Baptd. James Rigney

August 2 1817 A Foundling sent from Ferbane Baptised Mathew Roberts

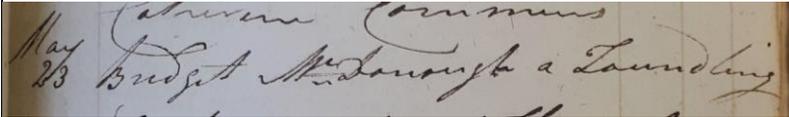
¹ King, Rev. Henry, Parish Register of Ferbane and Tisaran, Co. Offaly, 1797-1822, Ms. 4122, National Library of Ireland.

Image 2: Parish Register of Ferbane and Tisaran, p.26.



Margaret Newcomen was baptised on 13th Sep 1818 and "Sent to the Hospital"

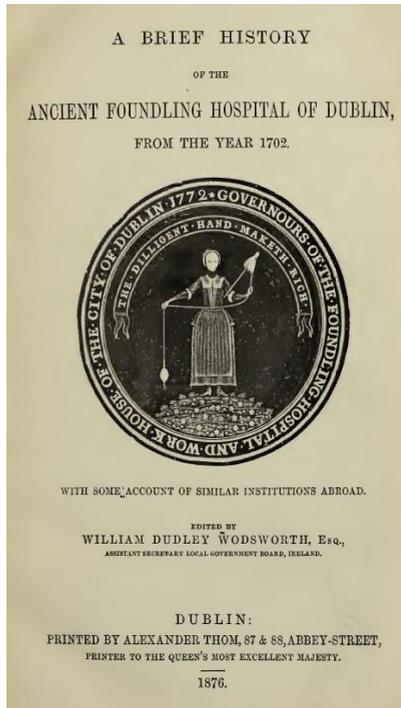
Image 3: Parish Register of Ferbane and Tisaran, p.26



"Bridget McDonough A Foundling" was baptised on 23rd May 1819.

A foundling is a baby who was abandoned by its parents and found and cared for by other people. Who were these seven foundlings in Ferbane? What was the Hospital and what would the children's lives have been like there? Foundlings were a popular subject in fiction in the 18th and 19th centuries. Accounts of their adventurous lives filled the pages of novels by authors such as Henry Fielding and Jules Verne. Theatres staged plays with such stories too, of foundlings rising above their poor beginnings and earning wealth and fame. But how realistic were such stories? What was the Hospital really like?

A Brief History of the Foundling Hospital of Dublin from the Year 1702 by William Dudley Wodsworth, published in 1876 gives us the answer.² Wodsworth was a Clerk in the Poor Law Commissioners' Office and "Inspector of Invalid Foundlings". He appears to have been a man of great compassion and ideally suited to the task of writing a history of the institution. He knew



² Wodsworth, William Dudley, *A Brief History of the Foundling Hospital of Dublin from the Year 1702*, Alexander Thom, Dublin, 1876, p.1, available online to download at <http://www.archive.org> and to view at <https://digital.ucd.ie/view/ivrla:3137>.

many of the surviving foundlings and had access to records of the Hospital.

The origins of the Foundling Hospital lie in the Dublin House of Industry on James's St. adjacent to what is now St. James's Hospital. The House of Industry was opened in 1704 with the aim of helping the poor of the city. It housed adults and children and its duties were:

1. *To assemble once a month to relieve, regulate, set to work, and inflict 'reasonable' punishment on all vagabonds and beggars, and to apprehend them.*
2. *To detain and keep in their service, until the age of sixteen (this was afterwards reduced to twelve), any poor child or children found or taken up, 'above five years of age,' and to apprentice them out afterwards to honest persons 'being Protestants.'*

While older children were deemed to be taken care of concern grew about the "Exposure, death, and actual murder of illegitimate children" (infants) all over the country.³ Exposure involved abandoning the babies out in the open, and many died as a result.

The Foundling Hospital and its Board

In 1730 the children's part of the House of Industry expanded to become The Foundling Hospital and started to accept babies from birth. The plan was to raise the children in the Protestant faith "and thereby to strengthen and promote the Protestant Interest in Ireland".⁴ Parishes around the country sent their abandoned babies, their foundlings, to the Hospital. At the same time, in an attempt to cut the numbers of exposed babies, a cradle on a "turning wheel" and a bell were set up at the door of the Hospital to allow babies to be left safely and anonymously. The babies were then sent to wet nurses, preferably Protestant, around the country before being returned to the Hospital at the age of five to be educated. Taxes were imposed on the vehicles of "coachmen, carmen, and Sedan chairmen" to fund the Foundling Hospital.⁵ The Cork Foundling Hospital was opened in 1747.

The Board of Governors of the Dublin Foundling Hospital comprised the great and the good of Irish society: members of government, bishops of the Established Church, nobility and prominent businessmen. Wodsworth's book reproduces the signatures of several of these men (see overleaf).

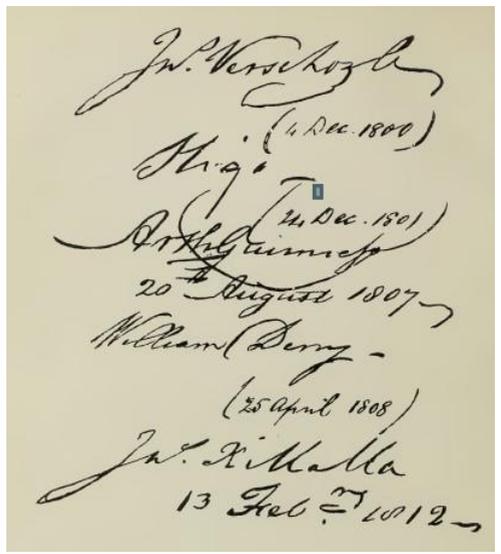
³ Wodsworth, William Dudley, *A Brief History of the Foundling Hospital of Dublin from the Year 1702*, Alexander Thom, Dublin, 1876, p. 1.

⁴ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, p. 2.

⁵ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, p. 5.

However, according to Wodsworth, the system began to fail immediately. The babies sent from country parishes were brought by Carrying Nurses who often bundled “six or eight infant children all in a heap or bundle together in a basket”.⁶ Many babies died on the road, came in dying or were ill-treated *en route* arriving with broken limbs. Conditions within the Hospital were horrific, particularly in the Infirmary where the sick children were supposed to be cared for. In the ten years up to 1760 about one half of the children admitted to the Foundling Hospital died.⁷ The children’s diet was poor.

Image 5: Signatures of some of the Governors of the Foundling Hospital, History of the Foundling Hospital, an insert between pp.4 and 5.



The older girls, and even some of the female employees, were subject to abuse from the male officers. The living conditions of the children at nurse in the country were bad too. The nurses were poor and the pittance they earned was insufficient to cover the expenses of caring for the children. Some of them hired out the children “to other women, who make a trade of begging through the country, and carry the children with them in order to excite charity”.⁸

Contact between parents and children was forbidden. Legislation was introduced to allow exchanges between the institutions in Dublin and Cork to increase the distance between parents and children.

“It is needless to lift the veil from the picture of hardship and suffering which these little ones must have endured in transit on clumsy carts the 170 weary miles from Dublin to Cork and vice versa.”⁹ This practice was discontinued after a few years. Sometimes exchanges worked in the family’s favour when “there was some collusion between the mothers and the people employed to find nurses in the parishes, the mothers contriving to get themselves accepted as the nurses of their offspring”. For most though, they lost all contact with their children.

⁶ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, p. 48

⁷ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, p. 34.

⁸ *Freeman’s Journal*, 8 May 1788.

⁹ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, p. 4.

Letters from Mothers

Wodsworth reproduced twenty letters from mothers to the Hospital Board pleading for their children to be restored to them. In some cases, their circumstances had changed and they could now support their child. Other letter writers said that their baby was sent to the Hospital without their knowledge or consent.¹⁰ However, the chances of children being returned was negligible. For example, between 1784 and 1796 only 1.6% are described as "Given to Parents".¹¹

Wodsworth also gives examples from the Admission and Apprenticeship registers. The Observations column in the Admissions Register described the condition of the child on Registration. Examples include

"This child was injured in Carriage" (a frequent entry).

"This child is 'Black'" (frequently).

"Died on coming into the House". (often occurs)

"These three children (bracketted) were brought to the Hospital, dying, by the women who were formerly accused of murder."

"Piteous. This child much abused in Carriage."¹²

"Lady Arbel"

From 1760 to 1780 the Hospital came under the benevolent influence of Lady Arabella Denny née Fitzmaurice, daughter of the Earl of Kerry. She devoted her energy and personal fortune to improving the Hospital and under her tenure the mortality rate halved. However, on her departure conditions started to worsen again.

High Mortality

Some shocking statistics reveal that of the 25,352 children admitted to the Foundling Hospital between 1784 to 1796 11,663 died in the Hospital, 5,119 died with their nurses in the country and 471 died with their family. So, more than two thirds died. Of the 5,216 sick children sent to the Infirmary between 1791 and 1796 "one solitary one recovered. The rest died. They were *sent there* to DIE, the Matron said."¹³

Ladies Committee

A House of Commons Committee was set up in 1797 to enquire into the management of the establishment. It made a number of recommendations. First of all, the number of governors was reduced from almost two hundred down to nine. The shocking testimonies given to this Committee caused several high-ranking women to volunteer their services to assist the governors. The new Ladies

¹⁰ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, pp. 11-22.

¹¹ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, p. 37.

¹² Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, p. 22.

¹³ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, p. 37.

Committee took over running of the Foundling Hospital and their new broom swept clean. They dismissed bad officers and employed new ones. They hired more wet nurses and paid them more (£5), retaining £2 until the end of the year when it could be confirmed if the children had been well taken care of. They reformed the children's diet and improved sanitation within the Hospital.

Death rates fell but not by much. It seems that the Carrying Nurses still bundled the babies together in baskets as they travelled from all over the country in all sorts of weather and these infants still suffered. The survival rates were so low in winter that by 1816 it was decided to stop the carriage of infants in the colder months. This reduced the number of children being sent. In an effort further to reduce numbers the Hospital would only accept babies less than twelve months old and the parish had to send £5 with every child. The Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers (CSORP) at the National Archives include complaints from parishes about having to support the babies until carriage in the spring, the difficulty of affording £5 and what to do with babies older than twelve months. Many babies were still sent to Dublin but the Hospital would not admit them in winter or without the £5. The consequences were terrible: *"The carriers, or persons bringing up the children, finding no admission, left the infants on the banks of the canal, adjacent, and there they perished from cold, starvation, and by drowning."*¹⁴

Closure of the Dublin Foundling Hospital

Yet another report was commissioned by the House of Commons and in 1829 it was recommended that the Foundling Hospital be closed to new arrivals. The building became part of the South Dublin Union Workhouse. The care of the remaining 4,000 foundlings was handed over to the Poor Law Commissioners after the passing of the Irish Poor Relief Act in 1838. There was a long interval between the closing of the Hospital to new admissions and the enactment of the Poor Relief Act, and the transition does not seem to have been smooth. The CSORP records give insight into the confusion of parishes, hospitals and prisons as to what to do about new foundlings and orphans.

Letters arrived complaining that nurses' fees were not being paid, church wardens were not reimbursed for the cost of caring for the foundlings and the Lying-in Hospital had nowhere to send orphan babies whose mothers died in childbirth.¹⁵ Foundlings and orphans were also of great concern to those interviewed for the first Poor Law Commission Report in 1835.¹⁶ At that time foundlings under the age of one were to be taken care of by Overseers appointed by the parish but there was no official help for older deserted children or orphans. They were often left to beg or to depend on the generosity of their extended families and neighbours, many of whom lived in dire poverty themselves. Funds for Overseers were in decline since

¹⁴ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, p. 52.

¹⁵ Letters to the Chief Secretary's Office, National Archives of Ireland, examples include CSO/RP/1833/5548, CSO/RP/1833/4540 and CSO/RP/1823/2038.

¹⁶ *First Report from His Majesty's Commissioners for enquiring into the Condition of the Poorer Classes in Ireland*, 1835, online at <http://www.archive.org>.

the abolition of Church Rates but some parishes were able to support destitute children from church collections or local subscriptions.

Note: The CSORP records are an interesting source of information about many aspects of the Hospital. Letters mention accounts, budgets, governors, employees, church wardens, clergymen, parents and of course the foundlings themselves.¹⁷

Apprentices

For most of the children who had survived the Dublin Foundling Hospital life continued to be difficult. In the Hospital the children had worked at “Spinning, Knitting, Net-making, Cotton work, Lace making, Tailoring, Carpentering, Wooden Toy making and Gardening”, contributing to their keep as they learned a trade.¹⁸ They were sent out to work or apprenticed from a young age. Some went to good masters but many were subjected to violence and exploitation. Some were described as being adopted, but not until they had proved themselves useful to their adopters. However, such adoption didn’t prevent abuse. Many reported being badly fed and clothed, they were overworked and some girls were “seduced” by their new masters.

Wodsworth includes comments from the Apprentices Register.¹⁹ “Eloped” meant ran away from their master.

Seduced, struck off.

Married, struck off.

Eloped and turned Papist.

Returned to Hospital in a few days, and complained of ill-treatment.

Master went to America and left the boy destitute.

Eloped twice, being determined to turn Papist.

Neglected, very dirty and badly clothed.

Obliged to leave master, having proved against “Whitefeet” one of whom was transported.

Some boys joined the British Army. Others emigrated. The CSORP letters mention forty female foundlings from Dublin and Cork being sent to Australia in 1832 and another fifty from Cork in 1833, under the Assisted Emigration Scheme. Wodsworth mentions a few people who did very well for themselves including a Chief of the Detective of Police in England, another who saved £1,200 in service as a butler and a woman whose “energy and perseverance” ensured her husband’s business made a fortune. Of course, not all the children did so well, or could even earn their own living. Those who were disabled remained under the care of the Foundling system all their lives. Wodsworth relates that by 1875 there were fifty remaining “invalid foundlings” who had come through the old Dublin Foundling Hospital and were still supported by the State. At that time, they were between forty-four and eighty-three years of age, living with carers and in many cases regarded as “one of the family”.

¹⁷ Chief Secretary of Ireland’s Office Registered Papers, index online at <https://csorp.nationalarchives.ie>.

¹⁸ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, p. 25.

¹⁹ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, pp. 23-24.

Origins of the Ferbane Foundlings

What, then, of the Ferbane foundlings? Under what circumstances were they taken up by the parish? What were their origins? Each of the children has a surname, which was not always the case in the baptisms of foundlings. Who named them? Were they true foundlings, totally unknown and named by someone in the parish? Or were they orphans or abandoned by a known parent? Their surnames are a mix of Irish and English names which may be a clue to their family origins. Rosney, Doorly, Rigney and McDonough suggest an Irish, probably Roman Catholic, origin. A search of church registers of the time show that Rosney was common in the adjacent parish of Leamanaghan. Doorly and Rigney appear regularly in the Ferbane RC register. McDonough was rare in west Offaly. Roberts is an English name and appears in the Church of Ireland records in Tullamore and Geashill. Connor appears elsewhere in the Ferbane Tisaran register and there were a few Protestant families of that name in the locality. Newcomen is a rare name. The variants of Newcomb and Newcome are more common and Newcomb appears in the Ferbane RC records. Another foundling, Jane Newcomb, was baptised in Tullamore CI in 1830. Was there a connection? Does the fact that the majority of the children had local names mean that Rev. Henry King knew their background when he baptised them? Had some of them already been baptised in the RC church before being re-baptised in order for them to qualify as foundlings? RC records in Ferbane and Tisaran do not go back far enough to check.

Did the children survive their journey to Dublin? Were they sent to wet nurses elsewhere in the country? The odds were stacked against them. In the 1810s the survival rate was poor, perhaps as low as one child in five reaching the age of ten.²⁰ Unfortunately no certain answer has been found to any of these questions. No definite trace of the children has yet been found in the usual records, such as church registers, civil registers, censuses etc.

Other Offaly Foundlings

How common were foundlings in Offaly in the 19th century? Few relevant records exist from that era. One lucky survivor is the 1821 Census of the parish of Aghancon in which we learn an infant foundling called Margret Wall was living with the family of Brien Birmingham.²¹

Image 6 Margret Wall, foundling, 1821 Census of Ireland

10	1	Brien Birmingham	35	Labourer
		Mary Birmingham wife	32	
		Anne Birmingham Daug ^r	11	
		John Birmingham Son	10	
		William Birmingham Son	10	
		Daniel Birmingham Son	5	
		Jane Birmingham Son	1	
		Margret Wall under	1	foundling x
11	1	Patrick Conlon	20	1

²⁰ Wodsworth, *History Foundling Hospital*, p. 52

²¹ 1821 Census of Ireland, House #40, Aghincon, King's County, online at http://census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/c19/007246485/007246485_00642.pdf.

The availability of church records in the county varies but a search in those held by Irish Midlands Ancestry reveals twenty-four baptisms and nine deaths or burials of foundlings.²²

<i>Date Baptised</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Denomination</i>
1 Mar 1808	Thomas	Richardson	Tullamore	CI
25 Feb 1822	James	Cummins	Shinrone	CI
28 Apr 1822	William		Tisaran	CI
1 Dec 1830	Jane	Newcomb	Tullamore	CI
22 Apr 1833	Anne	Cavanagh	Tullamore	RC
1 Jan 1834	William	Lodge	Tullamore	CI
1 Mar 1838	Jane	Hill	Tullamore	CI
1 Jun 1838	Patrick	Green	Tullamore	CI
1 Dec 1839	Margaret	Creevy	Tullamore	CI
15 Feb 1841	Mary		Ferbane	CI
22 Oct 1842	Mary	Young	Geashill	CI
5 Jan 1845	Mary	Fielding	Dunkerrin	RC
20 May 1845	William	Corbett	Geashill	CI
11 Mar 1847	John		Clonmacnois	CI
13 Jun 1847	Fanny	Groves	Geashill	CI
6 Apr 1850	Anne	Wall	Geashill	CI
1 Nov 1850	Charles	Green	Tullamore	CI
24 Sep 1851	Eliza	Allen	Geashill	CI
1 Jun 1852	Mary	Waters	Tullamore	CI
1 Oct 1853	Georgina	Williams	Tullamore	CI
1 Jan 1855	Catherine	Spollen	Tullamore	CI
24 Jun 1855	Alice	Gray	Gallen Wheery	CI
16 Aug 1856	William	Gray	Geashill	CI
21 Oct 1856	George	Young	Geashill	CI

<i>Date of Death or Burial</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Parish/Civil Parish</i>	<i>Cause of death</i>
4 Mar 1828	Mary	Kinson	9m	Clonsast CI	
24 Mar 1829	Thomas	Bentley	1y	Clonsast CI	
24 Mar 1829	Margaret	Garnett	1y	Clonsast CI	
21 Feb 1834	Timothy	Broe	5y	Clonsast CI	
10 Nov 1840	Elizabeth	Chandler	10m	Edenderry CI	
28 Jan 1864	Mary	Lawn	2y	Parsonstown CP	Whooping Cough
23 Apr 1866	John	Foundling	1m	Parsonstown CP	Exhaustion
28 Mar 1871	John	Grace	4m	Parsonstown CP	Croup
20 Dec 1881	Eliza	Green	1m	Parsonstown CP	Debility

There is a mix of surnames. Some are Irish, probably RC, but the majority sound English. Perhaps some of the surnames give a hint to where the child was found?

²² Irish Midlands Ancestry, searching for “foundling” in the Full Text Search page, online at <https://rootsireland.ie/offaly/text-search.php>.

Lawn, Hill, Groves, Green, Lodge and Fielding sound topographical. Sometimes there is no surname, just a first name and a comment of "Foundling".

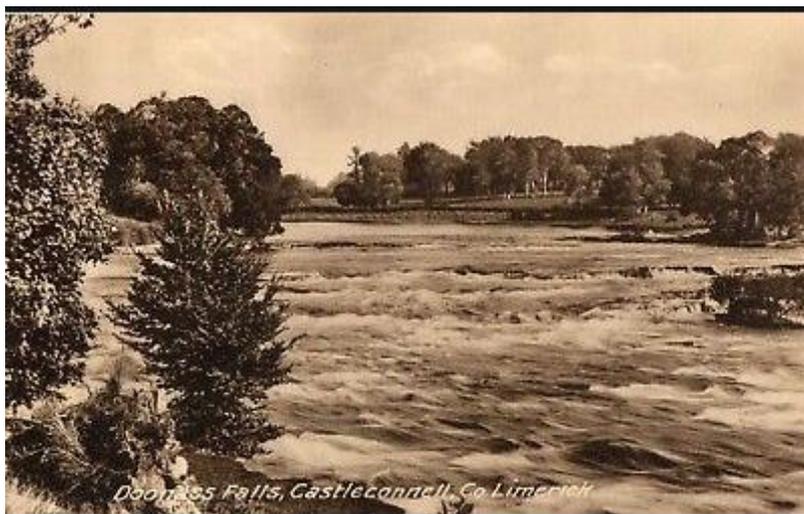
In summary, some sparse records exist of foundlings in the parishes from whence they came. It is more difficult to discover what happened to them after they left for the Hospital. Assuming they arrived safely they could have been sent anywhere in the country. It would be an interesting project to research these children further. Sources such as vestry books, newspapers, estate records, personal papers and workhouse records could be used. We can only hope the Offaly foundlings survived and went on to have happy lives but, unfortunately, we may never know.

The Bourke family of Doonass, Co. Clare

Norm Darwin

DOONASS (as described in "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland 1845")

A voluminous and magnificent rapid, almost a sublime cataract, of the river Shannon, runs between the parish of Kiltonanlea in Co. Clare and that of Castle-Connell in Co. Limerick, and 6 miles below the old episcopal city of Killaloe, Munster. The river is here 300 yards wide; and, over a distance of upwards of a quarter of a mile, it foams and roars, tumbles, rushes, and leaps amidst hillocky masses of obstructing rocks, in a vexed and angry tumultuousness of impetuous torrent. The accompanying scenery of the cataract is superb. Though a clear passage for boat-navigation is narrowed to little more than a boat's breadth, and is swept so careeringly by the current that a deviation of but a few inches on the part of a



navigator would be inevitable destruction, it is steadily and safely swept by the practised boatmen of the vicinity, in an unique sort of flat-bottomed craft called 'a cot.' "We cannot easily forget," say Mr. and Mrs. Hall, "our sensations of mingled alarm and enjoyment while rushing along this course-at night, but by the light of a brilliant moon; it was exciting to the highest degree. We had confidence in our helmsman (if so we must term the man with the paddle-rudder he held in his hand); yet every now and then the voyage was a startling one, and the danger quite sufficient to shake stronger nerves than ours. He had nothing to do but to keep a keen eye upon the rocks at either side, and guide his 'cot' by pushing aside a wave with a strong arm, so as to keep in the centre of the current; and he did so with

wonderful accuracy. We were afterwards convinced that there was in reality no more peril than there would have been upon the Thames; for the boatmen are so skilful and so well-practised, that they govern their boats with absolute certainty." Doonas is also an alias name of the parish of KILTONANLEA. The Doonas dispensary is within the Limerick Poor-law union, and serves for a pop. of 4,737; and, in 1839-40, it expended £124 4s., and administered to 1,352 patients.

The Bourke family

The Bourke family originated in Cloniara, Doonass Ireland. Doonass is an area located about 6 kms North-East of Limerick in County Clare. The migration to Australia occurred in 1853 when John and Mary Bourke (nee Hickey) arrived at Port Phillip with a son, Michael (1850-?) and John's father, James Bourke (Born c.1800). James had married Bridget McMahon, it is not known what happened to her.

The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) [about](#) [← Saturday 29 June 1872](#) [▶](#)

Franklin-street, West Melbourne, THIS DAY, at 3 o'clock p.m.
JOHN DALEY, undertaker, Latrobe and Spring streets Melbourne.

THE Friends of Mr. **MICHAEL BOURKE** are respectfully invited to follow the remains of his late father, Mr James Bourke, to the place of interment, Melbourne General Cemetery.
 The funeral will leave the Diggers' Rest, Sunbury, on Sunday, 30th inst. at 10 o'clock a.m., passing through Kettlor about 12 noon.
JOHN DALEY, undertaker, Latrobe and Spring streets, Melbourne.



John Bourke 1826-1906



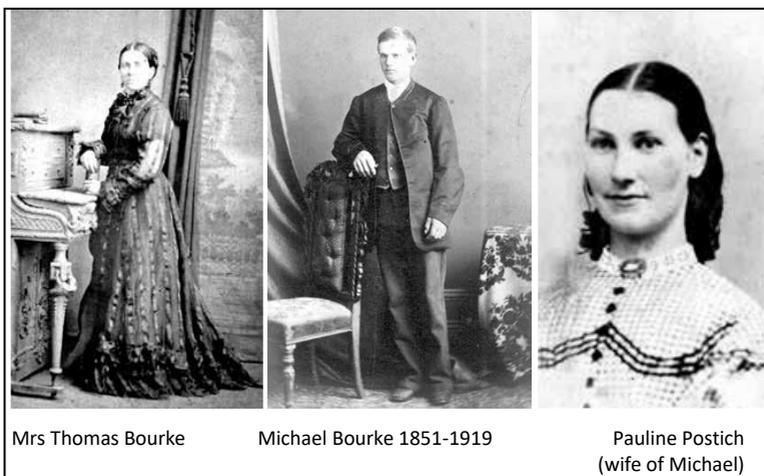
John Bourke 1856-1936



Thomas Bourke 1853-

On James' death certificate his father is listed as Patrick and his mother as Mary DÁrcy. All Bourke records were registered at Castleconnell, the nearest government centre. John's sons, Thomas (1853-1919), John (1855--1936), Dennis (1857-1938) and brothers, Michael (1813-1890), James (1826-1872), William (1831-1882) and Thomas (1832-1856) all emigrated to Sunbury and Wedderburn Victoria Australia around 1870-1875.

The move was possibly prompted by the lure of gold. However John and his sons John Jnr and Dennis took up land officially gazetted as Barrakee in the County of Cladstone.



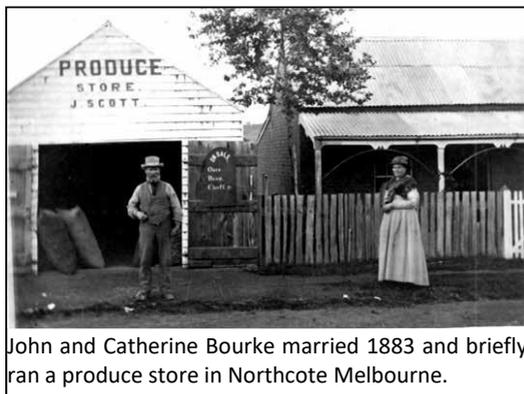
Mrs Thomas Bourke

Michael Bourke 1851-1919

Pauline Postich
(wife of Michael)

Both brothers, John and Michael became farmers but Agnes Bourke said in her memoirs, "They were not very successful". John's Will was hand written and witnessed by granddaughter, Mary. He was thus deemed to have died "Intestate" His Estate, a bank account of £205 was divided between his sons Dennis, John and Michael.

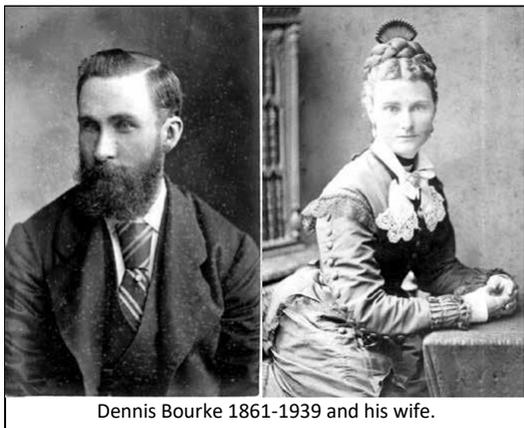
Thomas Bourke settled at Kyneton South on Central Road, he farmed there till around 1911 and then moved into Kyneton to Yaldwyn Street. His brother Michael and sister-in-law, Pauline farmed with him and also moved to Yaldwyn Street. Thomas's wife's name is not recorded on the 1909 Electoral Roll.



John and Catherine Bourke married 1883 and briefly ran a produce store in Northcote Melbourne.

John married Catherine Winter in 1883 and began to raise a family of nine. The Winter family were also Irish but Protestants and had settled in the same area. The first of the three girls and six boys was Mary, born in 1883. Then followed John 1885, Edmond 1886, Catherine 1888. Catherine died aged 5 years. Next was Agnes born in 1892 at Northcote

when John and Catherine were operating a Corn and Chaff Store. Michael was born in Wedderburn in August 1893 while John was still in Northcote, Geoffrey 1895, Terrance 1896 and Robert Emmet 1899.



Dennis Bourke 1861-1939 and his wife.

Catherine Bourke, the daughter of J K and Mrs Winter, died aged 77 years on 30/4/1933 of chronic heart failure after a short illness. Her funeral service was conducted by Mr J W Bird (CofE) and the funeral directed by W Jenkins of Korong Vale. John Bourke had married Catherine in early 1883. He also served on the Korong Shire Council for seven years until retiring in August 1891. He stood for the

Legislative Assembly but was defeated by Thomas Langdon.

Just before the turn of the century John moved to Bardoc WA spending a total of three years away. It was said by his daughter Agnes, "that he returned home only to get Mum pregnant". During that time he edited a small newspaper and became a JP. The couple returned to the Wedderburn district and in 1920 moved into the township of Wedderburn where John died on 4th April 1936.

WEDDERBURN.—Mr. John Bourke, a pioneer farmer, of Richmond Plains, died at Wedderburn on Saturday morning, aged 80 years. After retiring from farming he was secretary for many years of the Wedderburn Mechanics' Institute. Mr. Bourke was the author of the "Back to Wedderburn" souvenir booklet of 1929. He was a councillor of the Korong Shire for several years. One son, Mr. Robert Bourke, is stationmaster at Mathoura. There are five sons and two daughters. One son was killed in the Great War.

Death notice April 1936

In his obituary he was described as a "Britisher to the backbone who was intensely patriotic". John Bourke was also a founder of the Nine Mile Accident Association, a



Richmond Plains area settled by John Bourke and his sons.

benefit society for the workers at the Nine Mile Mine. He acted as Secretary. He was a member of the Korong Repatriation Committee, a Cemetery Trustee and Secretary of the Wedderburn Literary Institute and Free library (Mechanics' Institute).

On the 24th March 1901, John Bourke made an application to commence State School Number 3402, Nine Mile Reef. The building was a 13X10 rented room and the teacher was listed as his son John, then 16 years of age. John Bourke's funeral was conducted by Fr. Caffney and Les Appleby of Inglewood.

Four of the Bourke children contracted Scarlet fever during an epidemic, Mick suffering badly from the virus. The sons were named by their father after men he had admired most:- Edmond Burke, Oliver Goldsmith, Michael Davitt (Irish land rights activists), Geoffery Chaucer, Robert Emmett, (Irish Martyr) and Terrance (after the Greek Philosopher).

Family of John & Catherine

Mary 21/12/1883 - 9/6/1943 single
John 28/3/1885-25/12/1962 married
Edmond 25/8/1886-27/11/1973 married
Catherine 21/6/1888-9/2/1892
Agnes 28/5/1892- 3/6/1990 single
Michael 2/8/1893-24/6/1967 married
Geoffrey 7/2/1895-31/7/1916 KIA
Terrance 27/8/1896-30/11/1981 single
Robert 12/12/1899-29/5/1983 married
Oliver 26/4/1890-5/10/1920 single

Mary Bourke

Never married and ran a haberdashery shop (right) in the main street of Wedderburn.



John (Jack) Bourke

Installed as a teacher of the Nine Mile Reef SS (no. 3402) in 1901 at the age of sixteen. Jack's father had made the application to commence the school in a 13' x 10' room owned by DA Stewart. The second of the Bourke boys to enlist, Jack spent four years of WW1 on the front and reached the rank of Lieutenant.

Married Joanna (Josie) Burke in 1919 and raised one son John (Jack).



Jack Bourke aged 1



Jack Bourke at Ypres 20/2/1918

Following the war Jack worked as a “carter” and lived in Bendigo with Josie and his sister, Mary and his mother, Catherine, at 569 Hargreaves St. He then returned to teaching and ended his career as the Head Teacher of Box Hill Primary School 2838.

Jack and Josie Bourke lived at 218 Canterbury Road Box Hill.

Edmond Bourke

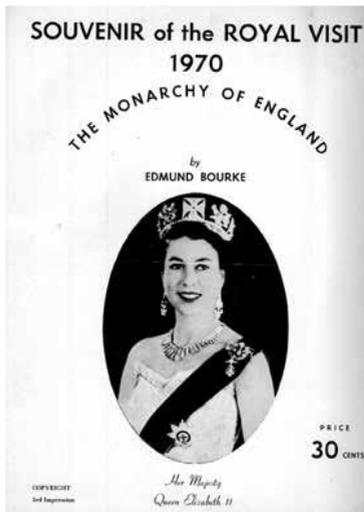
Married Mary McCarthy and resided in Sydney. Won the runner’s up prize in the Coles £500 quiz, a trip to NZ as well as other quiz show prizes. Worked in Camperdown Sydney as a “Pieman”.

Edmond made the Sydney papers in 1944 when they ran a story about him painting “Cloe” for a Sydney pub. The painting was hung in the Sussex Hotel in Liverpool Street. Edmond was quoted as saying, “I belong to the good old Leonardo school myself.” Edmond was self taught. It was also reported that he won £317 in a radio quiz, his speciality was the “Kings and Queens of England”.



QUIZ WINNER. Mr. Edmond Bourke, of Camperdown, shown with his wife, is congratulated by quizmaster, Howard Craven, after he had shared the Protex Jackpot of £310 last night with his air-partner, Mrs. A. K. Fisher, of Boonah (Qld.). Mr. Bourke successfully answered three questions on history.

Edmond was a keen Royal historian and printed this 4-page souvenir (right).



Catherine Bourke

Died an infant.

Agnes Bourke

In her own words, *"Well I was born in Northcote where dad was trying to establish a Hay and Corn store - not successful. He went back to the last bit of land he possessed and studied for and got an engine drivers licence and got work at a newly opened mine in the district. I must have been only a few months old."* Agnes never married and became a Nanny working in both England and Australia.



Agnes Bourke aged 59 taken
June 1951

Michael Bourke

Joined the PMG as a post boy in Wedderburn. At 23 he enlisted but was wounded on his first night on the "Front" in both hands. This meant his return to Australia by July 1915.



Michael & Eileen Bourke,
thought to have been
taken on their wedding
day, 7 August 1915.

Mick had married Eileen Dickens on the 7 August 1915 at the Bates Street Presbyterian Church in East Malvern. Michael's address at that time was 102 Bridport St Albert Park and his occupation was listed as "clerk".



.Michael Bourke
aged 21 taken June
1914

Michael had met Eileen before the war while he was at the Tarnagulla PO. Eileen at the time worked in



Michael & Eileen Bourke,
with Lyn Phillips (left) 1919



Eileen Bourke 1919



Nancy aged 1



Michael &
Eileen
Bourke, with
daughter
Dorothy

the Tarnagulla drapers. Like many war weddings it appears to have been a hurried affair, no formal photos exist except one of Mick in uniform and Eileen in a simple

dress. During the war Eileen moved to Camperdown, working as a Milliner.



Above: Mick Bourke (centre) with workmates Jerry Donovan and Mr Salmon. Right: Mick and Les Simmons.



Following the war Mick joined the Department of Shipping and Transport. Mick and Eileen lived at 251 Glenhuntly Road and listed his occupation as a clerk. He commenced correspondence school in Accountancy

and Law, gaining entrance to the Australian Institute of Accountants on 1st April 1924. Studies continued and on 22 December 1934 Michael Bourke was awarded a Diploma of Public Administration by the University of Melbourne. By this time he was an Assistant Secretary in the Department.

Mick and Eileen lived 48 Littlewood Street Hampton (right) and raised two daughters, Dorothy born February 1921 and Nancy who had been adopted. Nancy was Eileen's niece.



Mick Bourke continued to rise within the Department and following the Second World War he was made an Assistant Secretary to the Secretary for Antarctic and Lighthouse Shipping. He represented the Australian Government at the 1946 Labour Conference in Seattle. Mick flew round the world at the time in a converted Lancaster.



Mick with grand-children Norman, Jeffery and Eileen with Bill (on bike) and Maria in kilt) Porter June 1955.

Mick became great friends of Captain John King Davis, Australia's Navigator General and Captain of Mawson's two journeys to Antarctica. Davis was also the man who rescued Shackleton and crew from South Georgia island in 1917

In 1934 the family moved to 141 Mont Albert Road Canterbury on doctor's advice that Nancy needed to move from the seaside to improve her

asthma. The Bourke family then moved to 17 Malakoff Street Caulfield around 1938 and after the war purchased a block of land in a new subdivision in East Malvern with the view to building a new home. Eileen started the Caulfield Women's Hospital Auxilery and was awarded a life membership. As the 1940s drew to a close Eileen became gravely ill. Eileen did not live to see it and Mick moved to East Malvern with his daughter Dorothy and son-in-law, Don.



Mick's retirement 1958 Department Head, Mr Lacy (Dept Secretary).

Michael retired in 1958 and at the time it was said he was Australia's foremost expert on Mercantile Law. As a fare-well the Department took him on a lighthouse supply ship round the South Eastern Lighthouses and presented him with a Gold Rolex watch.

Mick joined the East Malvern RSL (Returned & Services League of Australia) holding the office of Secretary for many years. He was also a keen pennant bowler. Mick was tragically killed in a car accident in June 1967.



Geoffery Bourke

KIA in France 3 June 1916. Great nephew, Norm Darwin places a poppy on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in July 2013. (above)

Terrance Bourke

Lived in West Australia and never married.

Robert Emmett Bourke

Robert married Emily Hart and moved to Cobram Victoria. The couple raised two boys, Barry and Kevin. Robert was the Station Master at Cobram.



ON behalf of Cobram, Katamatite and Barooga residents, Mr R. E. Bourke presented a cheque to Fr Michael Elligate on Sunday. (left to right) Fr Michael, Mr Bourke, Mr and Mrs W. Elligate. "Cobram Courier" 24.5.73 — Alexander Studios photo

Oliver Bourke

Never married and died aged 30.

The interconnected Winter family

The Winter family came from County Limerick, Ireland. The family moved to a number of small villages south-west of the City of Limerick.

The first Winter recorded is William Winter who lived in Dromcolliher. William was born c.1775 and married Lydia Hoverdon. Lydia's parents were Thomas and Jane Hoverdon (nee Witty) of Kilmeady, Limerick. William and Lydia produced nine children at their home in Kilmeady (located 10 ks north of Dromcolliher).

John born c.1794 married Ann Baker

Mary b.1795 married 1816 to John Vanstan

William born c.1800 married Catherine Kelly b.1832 at Ashford in 1855.

Robert Thomas married Margaret Riordan in 1920

Susanna married Philip Long in 1921

Jane married John Graham in 1827

Catherine married Edmond Neogle in 1836

Edward married Honora Tancred

WILLIAM and CATHERINE KELLY

William and Catherine resided in Kilmeady and produced six children.

William b.1823 married Jane Gardner

Lydia b.1821

James Kelly married Mary Ann Vanstan
Robert Kelly married Ann Virgent
John Kelly b.1831 married Catherine Cunningham
Samuel Kelly married Margaret Harris

JOHN KELLY WINTER and CATHERINE CUNNINGHAM



John Kelly Winter (left) married Catherine, the daughter of Myles and Ellen Cunningham (nee Curtain) in Ashford Limerick on 15 Oct 1854. The couple lived initially at Rathkeale, Limerick, about 16 kms from Kilmeady. John was 23 and Catherine 22 Following the birth of their first child in October 1855 they emigrated to Australia as the second child, William was born in Wedderburn, Victoria.

The couple's granddaughter, Agnes Bourke talks about her mother's family "living in a tent". The Winter family was Church of England but once in Australia the ideals of Irish antagonism over religion was soon forgotten.

John Kelly Winter tried his hand at searching for Gold but at some stage was the Publican of the Wedderburn Victoria Hotel. When land was opened for purchase (between 1860-1865) on the Richmond Plains, John Kelly bought three allotments.

John Kelly Winter (Top Hat) with his wife Catherine and two daughters, Catherine aged 20 and Mary aged 10, outside the Wedderburn Victoria Hotel c1875.



A further 3 blocks were purchased by John and Mary Winter, John Kelly's Cousin. There were also blocks in E Winter's name, H Winter's and R Winter's name.

By 1875 the Winter family had nine children.

Catherine born 1855 married John Bourke
William born 1856 died 1873 aged 17 unmarried
Myles born 1859 died 1913 unmarried
Michael born 1860 married into the Chisholm family
Mary Elizabeth born 1865 married Pat McGurk
Ellen born 1868 died 1876 aged 8 years
Lydia born 1871 died 1876 aged 5 years
Annie born 1875 married Robert Ewart without bearing children

About this article

This article on the Bourke family and the interconnected Winter family has been extracted by Tom Conlon from a wider family history by Norman Darwin. The full document includes also connected histories of Darwin, Stockley, Dickins, Blair and Johnson families. Norman Darwin can be contacted at normdarwin@bigpond.com.

Pat Scanlan, a member of the Genealogical Society of Ireland befriended Norm Darwin following the discovery of a common ancestor Catherine Cunningham (1830-1905) through a [myheritage.com](https://www.myheritage.com) DNA match, and Pat brought Norm's family history to the attention of the Society.

Michael Mangan's Experience of World War I

Deirdre Carroll

Michael Mangan was the son of James Mangan who left Crusheen, Co. Clare in 1876 for Australia. He is recorded as a passenger on the Queen of Nations, sailing from London on the 29th of June, arriving in Brisbane on the 19th of September. James' parents were Patrick Mangan and Bridget Donoghue, who lived in the townland of Drumumna. They lived in Kilbeacanty, County Galway, before coming to the Crusheen area possibly in the early 1870s. James' siblings were Bridget, John, Michael and Mary. Patrick worked as a herdsman on the Butler estate. The original name was Mannion, becoming anglicised to Mangan and Manning, when Michael and Mary emigrated to the US. John and Michael left Ireland in 1890 for the US. Michael settled in Holyoke, with John leaving the US and settling in Warwick, Queensland, Australia, near his brother James, who worked as a labourer in the coal mine at nearby Tannymorel. It has taken decades of research to find the two brothers' families as all contact seems to have ended in the early part of the 20th century. The existence of James was only discovered in recent months by this writer's cousin, Sheila Creed, following a newspaper search. The current Mangans were then traced to the area of Nanango, and contact was established by email. James had two children, Michael and Bridget. Some of Michael's children had families of 9 to 10, with the result that there is today a large clan of Mangans in that area. Bridget Mangan was the only sibling to remain in Ireland. She married James O'Connor and they had a large family. She died in 1943 in her nineties and is recalled to the present day. I am grateful to Peter Mangan and the Mangan family as a whole for sharing this article [below] with me covering the experience of Michael Mangan at Gallipoli during WWI.

The above article was published in clarelibrary.ie on the 4th November 2014. Deirdre Carroll, is a great granddaughter of Bridget Mangan.

One Hundred Years Ago Mick Mangan Enlisted For War

Liz Caffery

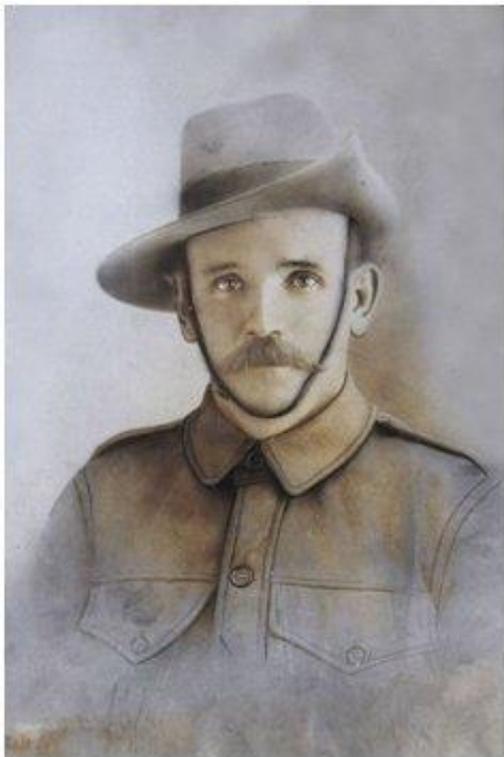
The following article was first published in the 14 September 2014 issue of southburnett.com.au, and on the 4th November 2014 in clarelibrary.ie.

Within six weeks of the declaration of World War I, Michael (Mick) Mangan travelled by train from his home near Nanango to Maryborough. Here, he enlisted to join the

Australian Imperial Force for service abroad in World War I. On September 19, 1914, he signed his attestation paper which confirmed that he was a farmer, single, aged 33 ½ years of age. So began four long, gruelling years of battle which took him from Gallipoli in Turkey and then to the Western Front in France and Belgium before he returned home at the end of 1918.

Michael Mangan was born at Tanneymorel near Warwick in 1881, where he lived with his sister Bridget on the family dairy farm. When almost 30, Mick left Warwick, together with Percy Bradford and Mick Roach. He selected a small 80 acre farm at Grindstone 9 km north of Nanango. In 1912, he established a timber mill in partnership with Harry Heiner and the Pearey Brothers near the Girra waterhole at Grindstone. The mill processed hardwoods which grew in the locality, including timber from the properties of the partners. The mill cut the timber for Tara's Hall in Nanango, built in 1912, and the exposed beams for the Palace Hotel.

After enlistment, Private Mangan, Service No. 314, joined the 15th Battalion. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited as volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash. Mick's initial training occurred in Victoria before embarkation on the HMAT (His Majesty's Australian Transport) Ceramic on December 22, 1914 to sail for Egypt. After their arrival in Egypt in early February 1915, the 4th became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division.



Michael Mangan after enlistment in 1914. Portrait courtesy Jim Mangan. Photo: Clive Lowe.

During this time, Mick had met William Leheldt from Rockhampton who was to become his best 'cobber' (friend). As he was in his 30s, Mick was much older than most of the other soldiers in his battalion, and young men in their late teens and early 20s often called him "Dad". William was only 23. There were many close bonds of mateship forged between diggers in those harrowing years of trench warfare and they endured intense anger and grief when a mate was lost.

On his return from the Western Front, Mick carried with him some vivid and horrific memories of his four years at war. While he spoke infrequently about these experiences, there were times when he did relate several graphic episodes to his children. His son, James (Jim) Mangan posed the question: "I've often wondered why he did tell us some of those gruesome stories. He never observed Anzac Day commemorations." Some of the stories Jim remembers most explicitly relate to his father's time in Gallipoli.

At dawn on Sunday, April 25th 1915, 36 boats carrying the first wave of Australian soldiers, rowed towards the shore of a beach, later known as Anzac Cove. It was a place called Gallipoli and it marked the beginning of the invasion of Ottoman Turkey by the allied forces. 101 of these 'first wave' soldiers were killed that day and another 650 perished before the day was over. Some were hit while still in the boats or as they tried to cross the beach and scramble up the treacherous terrain that lay in front of them.

For most of that day, Michael Mangan and soldiers of the 15th waited offshore in a battleship, ready to take their place in the small boats to be towed closer to the landing area before rowing the final distance. They landed late in the afternoon of April 25th and immediately attempted to climb the steep ridge above a valley (later known as Monash Valley). Within a few days, three Nanango men from the 15th had died – Corporal Norman Rushforth (26) was killed on April 26 and lies in Shrapnel Valley Cemetery; Hider (Stanley) Broome (22) died of wounds aboard the hospital ship HMAS Mashobra on April 30 and was buried at sea; Lance Corporal Richard Dunsdon (36) was killed in action on April 30 and buried near Quinn's Post. The names of Stanley Broome and Richard Dunsdon appear on the Lone Pine Memorial.

Many an Anzac was introduced to war as he moved up these valleys from the beach to the ridges. For virtually the whole of the campaign, but especially in the early weeks, Turkish snipers killed or wounded hundreds of men in Monash and Shrapnel valleys. The Turks held the high ground and were never driven from it. Stretcher-bearers, and soldiers bringing up supplies, rations and water, were in constant danger as they made their way along the valley bottom. The 15th Battalion suffered severe losses during these weeks but was also lauded for achieving some of the finest feats of the Gallipoli campaign.

From May to August, the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the Anzac beachhead. In August, as part of an assault known as The August Offensive, the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971, the highest vantage point of the Sari Bair Range. In the early hours of 8 August, three battalions of the 4th Brigade – the 14th, 15th and 16th – set out. Dawn found them nowhere

near the approach to Hill 971. As the Australian battalions advanced over an exposed slope, Turkish machine guns opened up.



Mateship.
An Australian soldier carries a wounded digger down from the ranges to a dressing station.
AWM H10363

On August 8th, 1915, Mick lost his best mate, 'Cobber' William Lehfeldt. Jim recalls the story: "My father told me he and 'Cobber' were running across open ground with fixed bayonets towards enemy territory when 'Cobber' called out 'I've been hit' and he went down. He was hit in the groin which severed an artery, a dangerous place to be hit. The blood pumped out and he died without firing a shot." An account of that day from a Red Cross file [AWM IDRL 428] also describes the scene: "*The men fell under furious fire. It was terrible; the men were falling like rabbits... They fell a good way, in many cases, from the Turkish line.*" Sydney Porter and Robert Renfrew of the 15th from Nanango died the day after. As had happened at Anzac Cove during the landing of April 25th, the sheer numbers of wounded overwhelmed the medical services. The three Australian battalions that had made the assault suffered 765 casualties - the 15th Battalion was reduced to about 30 per cent of its normal strength.

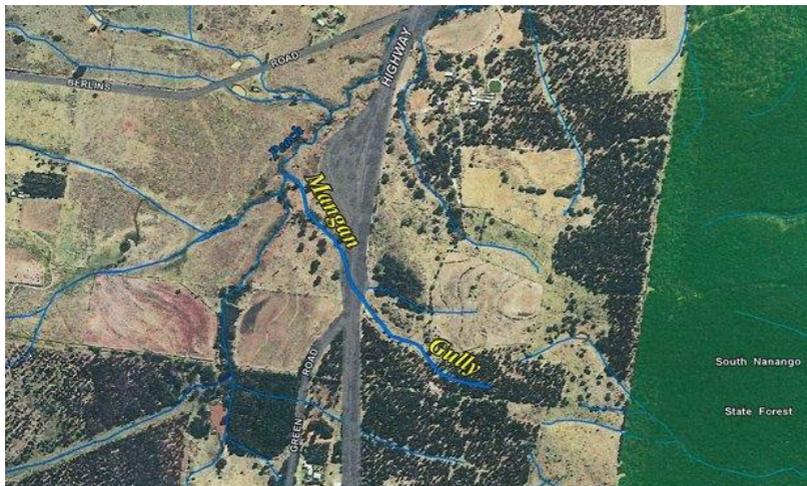
It is likely that Mick never recovered from the brutality of war he witnessed and experienced at Gallipoli, especially the suffering and death of his cobbles from the 15th, many of whom died unattended in the shocking August heat. Within a fortnight of the August Offensive he was hospitalised with influenza (as were hundreds of men at different times) before he was declared fit to resume duty at Gallipoli in November. After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In June 1916 they sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare in the Somme and Belgium.

Michael Mangan was on his way home to Australia when the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

Mick married Hermione Lonergan in 1919 and took up a Soldier Settlement block at South Nanango in 1922. Ahead of him were struggles and hardships of a different kind...

Mangan Gully

In 2015 a gully near Nanango was officially named Mangan Gully after Michael Mangan. The following article was published in the 2 April 2015 issue of southburnett.com.au.



Mangan Gully is located between Green Road and Berlins Road (Photo: DNRM)

Gully Officially Named After Gallipoli Veteran

A gully near Nanango has been officially named Mangan Gully in honour of Gallipoli veteran Michael Mangan. Member for Nanango Deb Frecklington said today it was wonderful the announcement had come in time for the Anzac Centenary celebrations.

"I was extremely pleased to support the suggestion made by the South Burnett Regional Council to name the gully in honour of Mr Mangan," Mrs Frecklington said. "The Department of Natural Resources and Mines have now confirmed that the gully will indeed take Mr Mangan's name. Michael Mangan settled in the Nanango district in 1919 following military service from 1914-1918 with the 15th Battalion AIF, fighting as an Anzac at Gallipoli in 1915. He also saw action in France, the Western Front, the Somme and Belgium. After the war, Mr Mangan settled in the Nanango district and was granted leases over the properties through which the gully flows. The gully flows in a north-westerly direction and crosses the D'Aguilar Highway until it meets Peach Creek."

Sources: Memories from Jim Mangan; Service records of Michael Mangan; www.anzacsite.gov.au; www.awm.gov.au.



Jim Mangan (90) and his brother Maurice (89) with their father's military portrait.

Photo courtesy Clive Lowe.

From the Archives of The Genealogical Society of Ireland 2004

Sourced From the Wayback Machine

The Wayback Machine is a massive archive where old websites from the past can be found. As the Society approaches its 30th anniversary, it is good to look back at the things which were on the website about the mid-point of that 30 years.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW HEADQUARTERS

Countdown to Official Opening of An Daonchartlann at Martello Tower

Nearly seven years of planning, fund raising and following the complete restoration of the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin – the Society’s new headquarters is to be opened officially this month. This is a milestone in the fourteen year history of this Society and it represents another first for Irish genealogy as this is the only family history society in the Republic to have its own premises.

“A Dream Come True”

According to one of the founders of this Society, Frieda Carroll, FGSi “we had this objective since the very first day we decided to establish the Genealogical Society in late summer 1990 and now it’s here –it’s a dream come true.” The members of the Board and the members of successive Executive Committees since October 1990 worked very hard to achieve this particular aim of the organisation to have a permanent home for the Society’s Archive.

“Anguish & Disappointment”

On the road to achieve this success many long hours of anguish and disappointment were to be endured before the allocation by the County Council of the Martello Tower to the Society in 1997 and then when planning permission was sought for the restoration. Objections and challenges to the granting of planning permission threatened to derail the whole process. A successful defence of our plans was very skilfully and decisively executed at An Bord Pleanála (The Planning Board). The case against the Society’s plans was completely destroyed and as not one modicum of comfort was achieved by the objectors – work could commence with earnest in February 2003.

“Restored & Refurbished”

The Martello Tower at Seapoint was left unoccupied since 1988 when it was seasonally used as a shop and in this period the wooden floors and staircase

deteriorated badly. Though, certainly not the original flooring of this two hundred year old building, a question was raised about a large centre wooden beam. After much debate on how to incorporate this beam into the restoration works, our Archaeologist, Christian Corlett and the County Council's Conservation Officer, Majella Walsh agreed that this beam was not the original beam. Excavations on the ground floor discovered evidence of three separate rooms and the walls of which, and not this later wooden beam, supported the floor above. The beam was removed and work proceeded at a pace taking care to execute each task in accordance with best practice in conservation and restoration. The Society's Project Director, Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSI meticulously planned the restoration of the Martello Tower with the assistance of Barry O'Connor, FGSI who designed and constructed the workbenches, shelving and service areas. The works now complete this building is a real treasure to behold and it's certainly the gem of the world of Irish genealogy.

"Official Opening"

Last month the Board of Directors of the Genealogical Society of Ireland held its first meeting at our new headquarters and the main item on the agenda was the countdown to the official opening of An Daonchartlann on Wednesday September 15th 2004. The ceremony will be performed by the first citizen of the County of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, Cllr. Niamh Bhreathnach – Cathaoirleach of the County Council. The official opening will take place at 14.30hrs with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque. This will be an important occasion not only for the Society and the owners of the Martello Tower the County Council, but for Irish genealogy in general. Unlike many national societies in Great Britain, the USA and Australia, where having a society premises is almost the norm, here in the Republic until now no voluntary genealogical organisation had its own premises.

" An Daonchartlann"

A drawing of the Martello Tower at Seapoint by the renowned local artist and arts educator Ms Veronica Heywood was completed in February 1999. It captures a period of much development in the Dún Laoghaire area with four large cranes engaged in the construction of apartments and offices in and around the Town. This drawing also shows the Tower before restoration works had commenced as the building looks somewhat forlorn and neglected. But now visitors to the building remark on the quality of the restoration works and marvel at its architectural beauty and the functionality and simplicity of its design. "An Daonchartlann" as the Society's Archive is called comes from the Irish "peoples' archive" indicating its central function and objective – the collection, preservation and making available for research of genealogical, heraldic and social history resources.

“This Month’s Task”

The Society’s archival collections have been in secure storage since their removal from the home of our Archivist in June. The task now is to receive these collections at the Martello Tower. Volunteers will be required to sort, catalogue and shelve the collections in the new archival storage area constructed by Barry O’Connor, FGSI. Members wishing to assist with this task should contact the Hon. Secretary at the above telephone number or by e-mail. A detailed plan for this task is being finalised drawing on the valuable experience gained during last year’s computerisation of the archive under the direction of Aidan Synnott, MGSI in the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education. This project was concluded within the timeframe allocated and all but the manuscript collection was successfully computerised. This more delicate task was left until the Tower was ready to receive the Society’s Archive.

“Last Chance for Entries”

The Commemorative Booklet to be published to mark the official opening of the Society’s new headquarters will be going to print at the end of August. So this is the last chance for those wishing to become a sponsor and be named in the Commemorative Booklet. Sponsors may have either their own name or that of a loved-one entered in this Commemorative Booklet and on a scroll that will be permanent memorial in the Tower. For just €100.00 (US\$125.00) per name, this is a special and worthy manner in which to remember an ancestor, to honour a friend or loved-one or to memorialise your family ties with Ireland. Another way of helping is to send what you can as donations no matter how modest are all very welcome. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at the address below with details of the name or names to be entered on the scroll and published in the commemorative book to mark the official opening of “An Daonchartlann” on September 15th 2004

“Members’ Preview Days”

In order that our members will have an opportunity to view the new headquarters prior to the Official Opening on Wednesday 15th September, the Board of the Society has arranged two special preview days for Members. Two afternoons from 14.30hrs to 17.00hrs on Saturday August 28th and Saturday September 4th have been allocated for the previews. Members are reminded that entry to the Martello Tower will be on production of your valid Membership Card only. Under no circumstances will any children be permitted on the premises. Members will be able to see for themselves the magnificent restoration and refurbishment of this historic 200 year old Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin.



Previewing the Martello Tower

OFFICIAL OPENING - Late News Received

On Tuesday 10th August 2004 the Cathaoirleach of the Society, Rory Stanley, FGSI, the Martello Tower Project Director, Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSI and the Hon. Secretary met with the Cathaoirleach of the

County Council, Cllr. Niamh Bhreathnach, MCC in the County Hall. The arrangements for the Official Opening ceremonies were finalised to include the following: the ceremony marking the Official Opening will take place at the Martello Tower at 14.30hrs on Wednesday 15th September 2004 with An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Bhreathnach unveiling a brass plaque inside this historic building and launching the Commemorative Booklet on behalf of the Society and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. The Society's Heraldic Banner will then be raised over the Tower to symbolise the official occupancy by the Society. Guests will be invited to view the building after the ceremonies. Later in the afternoon, the Cathaoirleach of the County Council will host a special reception at the County Hall for invited guests, county councillors and officials as part of the County Council's celebrations marking the occasion as an achievement for the County as a whole.



Liam Mac Alasdair FGSI and Cllr. Niamh Bhreathnach, Cathaoirleach of the County Council at the reception in the County Hall

www.familyhistory.ie

Following the appointment of Iris O'Connor, MGSi to the Board of the Society as Web Design, Developer & Editor it was agreed to proceed to develop our own Website. The Society acquired and registered the above domain name for its new Website. Though, the Society has appeared on the web for a number of years now this facility was provided by www.dunlaoghaire.com as web pages devoted to the Society. This web service adequately provided access to the Society's Monthly Newsletter and offered our publications for sale on a secure server. However, because the website could not be regularly maintained by the Society and that such an onerous task could not have been provided by the Webmaster, it was necessary to build our own dedicated website. Iris has been working on the website and it is hoped to upload the full story of the development of An Daonchartlann at the Martello Tower accompanied by copies photographs of restoration and refurbishment of this historic building. The launch date of the Society's new website is due to coincide with the Official Opening of the Society's new headquarters in September 2004.



Pictured At Heraldic Exhibition from Left to Right:

- Míchéal Ó Comáin, Consulting Herald at the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland;
- Rory Stanley, FGSi, Cathaoirleach (Chairperson) of the Genealogical Society of Ireland,
- Philip Mackey, Heraldic Artist.

'I am now in a perfect state of poverty' – One man's story from one letter, kept for 150 years.

Samuel Suttle

The letter from James Suttle, written from New York in 1874 to my great grandfather, living at the time on the Grand Parade in Cork, seeking the loan of £5, was a curiosity in the family bureau for almost 150 years. It stood alone, nothing was known of what happened to James, but now, using online resources, his life can be reconstructed. His story brings us from New York, back to London and Dublin and on to Boston and St Louis, detailing great sadness and misery almost from start to finish.

Kerby Miller, in concluding his book on Irish emigration to America, describes his central thesis that the Irish were involuntary exiles driven out of Ireland 'by forces beyond individual control', particularly by 'British and landlord oppression'.¹

This could be not be further from the story of James Suttle. James was born in Dublin to a working-class family who moved on a regular basis from one city tenement to another. His brother Samuel trained as an upholsterer, James himself trained as a wood carver. The unusual surname should have allowed tracing their movement easier, but the records are very poor. Samuel Suttle's baptism is recorded on IrishGenealogy.ie as Samuel Sutton with parents James and Rose, their sister as Mary Anne Suthile, with parents James and Rose. It seems likely that James and Rose were illiterate and therefore would not have written down their names for the registrar. No likely birth record has been identified for James Suttle. Samuel and Mary Anne's baptismal records were for the Pro-Cathedral, and other records also have the family living in the Monto area of central Dublin. It is probable that they attended the Central Model Schools, in Marlborough Street, giving them the literacy apparent in James' letter. Since he cannot be identified in the birth records for Dublin, the only starting point in rebuilding his life is the letter written from New York in 1874. James's initial step migration from Ireland to Britain and later on to New York was not that unusual, but his version of it has many tragic aspects to it.

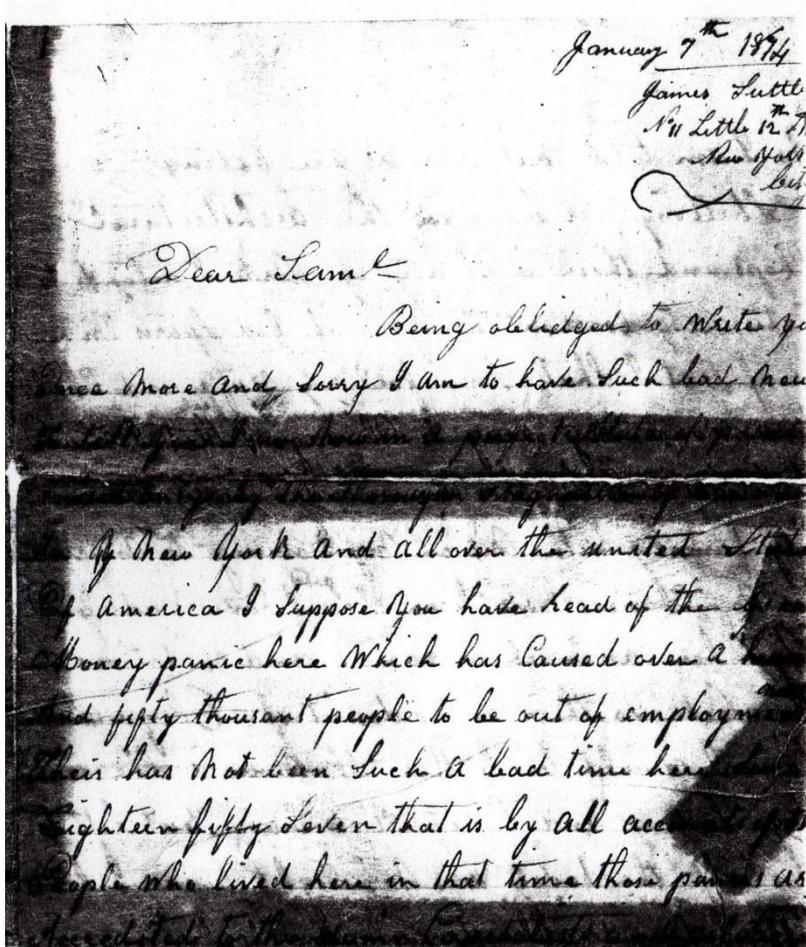
We do not know when James Suttle went to New York, but it may have been as early as the mid eighteen sixties or as late as 1871. He was not enumerated at the 1871 census in London and took out citizenship in New York in 1872.

New York and the United States generally suffered its first major financial crisis as a major industrial economy in 1873. Unemployment spiralled to 25% in New York. It was from this city in crisis that James Suttle wrote his letter on January 7, 1874. The

¹ Kerby Miller, *Emigrants and Exiles: Ireland and the Irish Exodus to North America* (Oxford, 1988), p. 556.

letter is written to his brother Samuel Suttle, but as the original envelope was lost, we do not know to what address in Cork, the letter was sent. Samuel opened a furniture shop on the Grand Parade in Cork during 1874, a business that would remain open for nearly ten years.

Your immediate first impression of the letter is the clarity of the writing, although written on lined paper, almost every word is clear, with flourishes on many letters. The letter is transcribed in full along with an image of the first page, including the total absence of punctuation and unusual spellings per the original.



January 7th 1874
James Suttle
N^o. 11 Little 12th St
New York
City

Dear Saml

Being oblinded to write you
Once more and sorry I am to have such bad news
To tell you I am now in a perfect state of poverty
Caused only by the thorough stagnation of business
In New York and all over the United States
Of America I suppose you have read of the great
Money panic here which caused over a hundred
And fifty thousand people to be out of employment in ^{New York}
Their has not been such a bad time here since
Eighteen fifty Seven that is by all accounts of the
People who lived here in that time those panics are
Accredited to the damn Capitalists and politicians
I can assure you Dear Sam that this Country
Is governed by a lot of thieves all they think of is
To fill their own coffers and that is done from the
President down to the lowest runner People are
Returning to Europe in large numbers I understand
That business is very good in England just now
I would very much like to be in Londno just

As I am told that Carvers are geting
A shilling per hour in the architectural
Shops and their is plenty of work. I intend to
Return to london this year if God spares me
Or if not I shal send for my wife and child
And wend my way to Chicago I ^{feel} that I would
Have been a better man had I have taken
My family with me on my coming to America
For my chances have been very ^{good} I have made good
Wages here as much as 20 ,, 24 and 26 dollars
Per week so their is no doubt if Eliza was
Here I would be better off now as she is a
Very Saving and carefull woman but left to
Myself the devil was my right bower I have
Suffered Considerable through my foolishness in
Fact more than I can describe I have been in
Buisness for myself for about six months
And broak trough that and every other good
Chance that ever I had so now I am suffering
For all my bad actions I am now after under

*Going something that never happened me before
I had to give myself up to officers of charity*

*And Correction as I had no place to sleep
And no means of getting anything to eat when I
Was on the island as we call it here the treatment was
So bad that I could not stand it I had to use the
The shovle and pick and also drive the wheel barrow
And had scarcely any clothes to protect me from the
Inclemency of the severe weather I stood it for one month
And was ordered to go out with severl others as the
Place was getting over crowded in fact I asked
For my discharge as I thought I could get work
But I looked and looked in vain for their was no
Work of any kind to be got their don't appear to
Be any sign of work opening up before next spring
I am now out four months so you can judge how
I am fixed their is no use in me going more minutely
Into my case for it is one of prolonged trouble and
Misery for if nothing turns up soon I shal have
To try the shovel & pick once more Mark Mahony
Has been out of work for a considerable time
He now has three fine childrne Dear Sam
We expect to have a very brisk spring and
Summers work here this year Work has not*

*Bright for those last two years on account of
Strikes and the damn thevery of the Government
Officials So that it comes to this now give us work
To earn our daily bread or our banner Cry is
Revolution. The people will not stand it much longer
Dear Sam I ask one favour of you now
Hoping to be the last time that I hall trouble
You if you would oblidge me with the lend
Of five pounds by ^{the} god above me I shall return
That amount to you the first chance I get do not
Disapoint if you can avoid it as I shall be
Punctual in my return thank god I have never
Had better health hoping Dear Sam that you
Are enjoying the same and also Kate and the
Children
Your Affectionate Brother*

*James Suttle
11 Little 12th St
New York City*

James's opening remark 'being obliged to write to you once more and sorry I am to have such bad news' suggests that this is not the first letter that James has written to Samuel, with bad news. You can almost imagine Samuel wincing at yet another begging letter from New York. According to the letter, James is in 'a perfect state of poverty' due to the stagnation of business. He had found himself in the worst recession, experienced in America in a generation. According to Samuel Rezneck, unemployment in the first winter, 1873/74 was 25 per cent of the available workforce.² James in his letter puts it at 'over a hundred and fifty thousand', probably a similar figure. We can glean from the letter that this is their first correspondence between the brothers since before the 'great Money panic' of Autumn 1873. James's comment, 'I can assure you Dear Sam that this Country Is governed by a lot of thieves all they think of is To fill their own coffers and that is done from the President down to the lowest runner' may seem fanciful, but the presidency of Ulysses S. Grant 1869-1877 was dogged by corruption scandals, although they did not reach the president himself. Grant was criticised for not taking swifter action when the banks failed and later in 1874, vetoed a congressional bill to increase the money supply (quantitative easing). Emigrant remittances from the United States to the British Isles fell from £724,040 to £354,356 between 1873 and 1875, before recovering later in the decade.³

It is clear that James is a skilled craftsman, a wood carver and pines for the good working conditions in London. He proposes to return to London or to bring to his wife and child over to New York. He describes how he has earned good wages in the past in New York, but without the steady influence of his wife, he has squandered it all. 'I am suffering from all my bad actions', 'left to Myself the devil was my right bower'. In the second half of the letter he describes having to put himself into care 'I had to give myself up to officers of charity And Correction as I had no place to sleep And no means of getting anything to eat'. The metropolitan Department of Charities and Correction operated the workhouse on what was then known as Blackwell's (now Roosevelt) Island, in the East river between Manhattan and Queens or as 'the island' in James' letter. He suffers the perceived indignity of using a shovel and pick and driving a wheelbarrow. Happy to leave after a month, he has failed to find work and now appeals to his brother in Cork for the loan of £5. While we will never know if the £5 was sent, I think it probably was, or why else would you keep the letter.

An unusual aspect of the letter is its absence of any reference to the health and wellbeing of his wife Eliza and the un-named son. He makes reference to only one other friend Mark Mahony. With the name Mahony, he may be from Cork and put in contact with James by Samuel.

² Rezneck, Samuel, 'Distress, Relief, and Discontent in the United States during the Depression of 1873-78' *Journal of Political Economy*, Chicago, Vol. 58, No. 6 (Dec., 1950), pp. 494-512

³ Schrier, Arnold, *Ireland and the American Emigration 1850-1900* (Chester Springs, 1997), p. 167

Some aspects of the life of James Suttle, before and after New York 1874, have been recreated using Ancestry.com and other sources. Looking for James Suttle, born in Dublin about 1840 and living in London provided only one likely result in the 1861 census. Examination of the record shows James, a chair maker, lodging in the household of James Burch, with his wife and five children in Shoreditch. Also lodging is a second Dublin man, Michael Curran 22, also a chair maker.⁴ The Shoreditch area of East London was the centre of the furniture manufacturing and trading business in London at the time when James moved there and it seems likely that he may have gone with Michael Curran, seeking new opportunities.⁵

In his letter, James speaks of his wife Eliza whom he has left behind in London. Using the U. K. and Ireland Collection on Ancestry.co.uk and searching all marriages for a James Suttle, sometime before 1870, whose wife was Eliza, produced a positive result, under the Church of England marriage records.⁶

between us (*James Suttle*) --- (*Eliza Barron*)

Indy. Marriage solemnized at <i>St. James Church in the Parishes of Ince and St. Andrew</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>							
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Rank or Profession of Father.
4	<i>May 16</i>	<i>James Suttle</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Wood Carver</i>	<i>13 Mentmore Place</i>	<i>James Suttle Porter</i>
		<i>Eliza Barron</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>49 Flowerington Place</i>	<i>Samuel Barron Wine and Tobacco</i>

Married in the *Church of England* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *Robert Barron* Minister, at *St. James Church* by *St. Andrew*

This Marriage was solemnized between us (*James Suttle*) In the Presence of us (*Robert Barron*)
Eliza Barron X her husband *Eliza Barron* X her husband

Although recorded as Elvia Barron, it is clear that it could just as easily be read as Eliza. The detail for the James Suttle, a bachelor of 24, a wood carver, the son of James Suttle, a porter all match what we know of James. It should be noted that neither Eliza nor the two witnesses can read, but James' signature shows his confident writing style.

Following Eliza and checking the census records for 1871 provided the following result. Eliza, a laundress, is living with her six year old son Samuel Suttle, but also a ten year old daughter also named Eliza Suttle, presumably from a previous relationship.⁷

⁴Ancestry.com. *1861 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005. Accessed 29 Apr.2018.

⁵ Joanna Smith and Ray Rogers, *Behind the Veneer, The South Shoreditch Furniture trade and its Buildings* (Swindon, 2006) pp 13-19.

⁶ Original data: Church of England Parish Registers. London Metropolitan Archives, London. Accessed through Ancestry.co.uk on 29 Apr. 2018.

⁷ Ancestry.com. *1871 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004, accessed 29 Apr. 2018.

1871 England Census for Eliza Suttle
London > St Leonard Shoreditch > Haggerston West > District 4

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

* (Dist) Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Sex of	Village or Hamlet, or of Local Board, or (unincorporated Commissioners District) of	Registration District of	
St Leonard Shoreditch				Haggerston		St Leonard Shoreditch	Haggerston	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, ALLEY, or No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOURS of the Day when taken	NAME and Post-office of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-STITUTION	AGE in Years	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
153	4 Marygate	1	Eliza Suttle	Head	W	32	Yarn-dresser	Shoreditch, Midd
			John	Wife		19	Schooler	"
			Samuel	Son		6	"	"
154	4 "	1	John Freeman	Head	M	30	Book Binder	St Giles, Midd
			James	Wife		24	"	Shoreditch, Midd
			John	Son		12	"	"
			John	Son		10	"	"

Eliza, James' wife lived out her life in the same Shoreditch area of East London where she was born in 1839. At the census from 1881-1911, she was generally recorded as a home nurse, living with families with very young children. She died aged 90 in 1929. Samuel, her son became an upholsterer, married and had one daughter Matilda. Samuel died in 1931 aged 66. Much more is known of this family but James Suttle was not part of that story.

Just two years after James wrote his letter from New York, he bigamously married Louisa Hocking, a twenty-three year old from England, in Boston, Massachusetts.⁸ There are several aspects of the record that confirm that it is the correct person. His parents are given as James and Rosanna, which we know to be correct, he is a wood carver, born in Ireland and was born about 1842. James was knowingly entering a bigamous marriage as he declared that this was his first marriage.

Massachusetts, Marriage Records, 1840-1915 for James Suttle
Up Through 1910 > 1876

Date	Groom	Bride	Place	Age	Parents of Groom	Parents of Bride	Witnesses	Officiant
30 October 6	Andrus B. Hall	Emeline S. Saltmarsh	Boston	35	Rev. J. B. ...	Boston	Samuel ...	Elizabeth ...
16 October 7	James Suttle	Louisa Hocking	Boston	26	Wood carver	England	James ...	Rosanna ...
17 October 7	Charles G. Hensley	Olive M. Hammond	Boston	32	Woodcarver	England	James ...	Rosanna ...
20th October 8	John C. Owens	Mary A. Davis	Boston	24	Watchman	England	Edward ...	Fanny ...

We know nothing of the life led by James and Louisa, in Boston over the following decade. Louisa died in August 1888 and the circumstances of her death are detailed in the newspaper article below.⁹ Another newspaper report of the autopsy was located, written in an even more salacious tone, stated that she and James were

⁸ Ancestry.com. *Massachusetts, Marriage Records, 1840-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013. Accessed 29 Apr. 2018.

⁹ "Another Mysterious Death." *Boston Daily Advertiser* [Boston, Massachusetts] 18 Aug. 1888: 5. *19th Century U.S. Newspapers*. Web. 28 Apr. 2018.

separated for six months. Louisa's official death record gives her cause of death as Oedema of the lungs and brain – alcoholism.¹⁰

Sometime later, James Suttle moved to St Louis, Missouri. He is listed as carver in both the 1902 and 1903 city directories, living and trading at 1900 Wash.

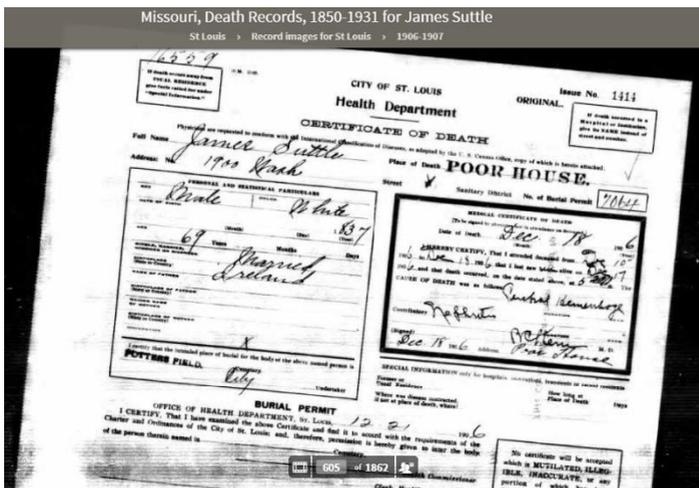
James Suttle died on 18 December 1906 in the Poor House, St Louis, Missouri.¹¹ The cause of death was Cerebral Haemorrhage and Nephritis, probably caused by kidney failure. The

same address, 1900 Wash was included in the death records from the Poor House as was in the 1902 city directory, suggesting that James may only have moved to the Poor House when he was dying.

ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS DEATH.

A man and woman went to the Boston Hotel at Beach st. and Harrison avenue August 9 and remained there till Wednesday, when the man went away. They registered as "Mr. and Mrs. Wilson." During Wednesday the woman became very sick and was taken to the City Hospital, where she died Thursday noon. At the hospital she gave the name of Louisa Walker, but from letters found in her possession it was learned that her correct name was **Louisa Suttle**. Her husband, with whom she did not live, resides at 210 Pleasant st. He is a wood carver, is in poor health, and says his wife's drinking and other bad habits caused a separation.

Medical examiner Stedman held an autopsy yesterday noon. He gives as the cause of death, inflammation of the lungs and head, probably due to alcoholic excesses, coupled with a kidney trouble of long standing, although these same symptoms would result from arsenic poisoning. A chemical analysis of the abdomen is being made by Professor Wood of Harvard College to determine the poison question. But little alcohol was found in the remains.



¹⁰ Ancestry.com. *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Accessed 28 Apr. 2018.

¹¹ Ancestry.com. *Missouri, Death Records, 1850-1931* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2008. Accessed 29 Apr. 2018.

Kerby Miller in the introduction to his book speaks of the homesickness common to many emigrant letters, but clearly absent from this one. The principal emotion in James's letter is regret, regret for his bad ways, for not bringing his wife and child with him to New York. His vivid description of his state of poverty, of having no food and nowhere to stay are certainly going to tug at the heart strings of his brother Sam. 'Hoping to be the last time that I shall trouble you' he promises a fast return of the £5. James was not to know that the recession was to last until 1879, probably prompting James future move to Boston. We have no idea what letters were passing between London and New York. May Samuel in Cork have had any contact with his sister-in-law Eliza in London? Did James ever write to Eliza to let her know about his bigamous marriage? Since Eliza spent her whole life in Shoreditch, it is probable that a letter addressed to Eliza Suttle, Shoreditch, London, would have found its way to her.

His brother Samuel's furniture business in Cork failed after 1880 when he opened a pub in the family home at 44 Douglas Street, which was operated by the family until 1949. Samuel died in 1890. James' descendents in London probably know only of the abandonment of Eliza by her husband, but nothing of his origins or of his subsequent wanderings. What is extraordinary is that without this letter, written from New York, we would know nothing of the existence of James Suttle.

“175 Years of Caring”

A Brief History of St. Columcille’s Hospital, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin 1841 - 2016

James Scannell

St. Columcille’s Hospital, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin lies about one km north of Shankill at the Loughlinstown entry/exit roundabout of the Shankill By-Pass on the western side of the N11 Dublin/Wexford road. Like several of our leading hospitals, St. Columcille’s Hospital was originally established in the 19th century as a poor law union workhouse and infirmary. Some other leading hospitals similarly established to serve the same purpose include St. James’ Hospital, Dublin (South Dublin Poor Law Union Workhouse and Infirmary), Naas General Hospital, Naas, Co. Kildare (Naas Poor Law Union Workhouse and Infirmary) and St. Colman’s Hospital, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow (Rathdrum Poor Law Union Workhouse and Infirmary). Over the past 175 years St. Columcille’s Hospital has undergone many changes to become the first-class medical facility it is today, continuing to adapt on an on-going basis to the changing requirements of the catchment area it currently serves.

Creating the Rathdown Poor Law Union, Workhouse and Infirmary 1838 to 1841

State benefits are currently taken for granted but in 1830s Ireland these did not exist. Although many were living in what is now termed ‘Below the Poverty Line’ and had access to limited free medical treatment, life was very bleak as there were no state benefits or any of the modern day equivalent of Health Service Executive schemes of assistance available for those who found themselves unemployed, suffered from long-term illness, injury, or old age. Poverty was rampant throughout the country, but no agreement could be agreed by society as to the best solution to deal with this problem. On 25th September 1833 a Commission charged with ‘Inquiring into the conditions of the Poorer Classes in Ireland’ was established and conducted by Archbishop Whately of Dublin. Over the next three years the Commission collected a vast quantity of evidence through oral hearings and written questionnaires. In 1836 when the Commission presented its report, it estimated that there were not less than 2,385,000 destitute people in Ireland at that time and argued in favour of a system of public works, agricultural education, land reclamation and organised emigration to deal with the problem. The Treasury was not prepared to make funds available as these proposals involved the expenditure of large sums of money, so the Government took no action.

Following the Government’s refusal to accept the recommendations of the Whately Report, it commissioned its own study and appointed an English Poor Law Commissioner, George Nicholls, to investigate the feasibility of applying the English Poor Law system, adopted there in 1834, to Ireland. That system unified various

local schemes which had been operating at parish level since the time of Queen Elizabeth I and brought the provision of poor relief under one body, the Poor Law Commissioners. Between 1836 and 1838 Nicholls travelled around Ireland, a country by his own admission that he knew very little about, during which he completed three reports in which he proposed that Ireland should be divided into Poor Law Unions, each with its own workhouse administered by a Board of Guardians with the running and operating costs being provided through the imposition of a local property tax known as the Poor Law Rate. Nicholls' proposals were accepted by Government, which enacted the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1838, with great speed and introduced the British workhouse system to Ireland.

On 21st June 1839, Richard Muggerridge, one of Nicholl's Assistant Commissioners, convened a public meeting in Bray, Co. Wicklow, at which the proposed Rathdown Union stretching from Dundrum, Co. Dublin to Delgany, Co. Wicklow, was outlined with one controversial item being the splitting of the Union into electoral divisions. This was of utmost importance to ratepayers as each division was responsible for its own poor so every potential ratepayer wanted to see as few people as possible included in his division and as much property as possible to share in the burden. One voice of dissent came from Delgany landowners who objected to being included with Bray which had as high number of poor as Delgany which was already burdened with Kilmacanogue poor. A series of further meetings took place and finally by 11th July 1839, it was agreed that Delgany would be kept separate from Bray and that the Rathdown Poor Law Union would consist of ten divisions, each supporting its own poor. These divisions were Dundrum, Blackrock, Stillorgan, Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire), Killiney, Glencullen, Rathmichael (Shankill), all in County Dublin, and Powerscourt (Enniskerry), Bray, and Delgany, which were in County Wicklow.

The Rathdown Union for the Relief of the Destitute Poor was formally established on 8th August 1839. The Rathdown Board of Guardians [hereafter the board] was then established by asking Justices of the Peace to select eight of their number as ex-officio guardians while property owners elected a further twenty-four with the first meeting being held in Bray Courthouse [now Bray Design Centre] on 16th September 1839. Over the next two years, monthly meetings of the board were held there, in Kingstown Courthouse, and Armstrong's Hotel, Kingstown, until the workhouse had been built and a boardroom provided with the first meeting of the board taking place in their Loughlinstown boardroom building on 26th August 1841. This building was demolished in late 1959 to facilitate widening of the Dublin /Bray Road.

At this inaugural meeting Sir George Hodson, Bart, was elected Chairman, Mr. Mackey was elected as Clerk at a salary of £40 per year following the publications of advertisements for this post, the Bank of Ireland was appointed Treasurer [Bankers] of the Union, and a Valuation Sub-Committee established to calculate the amount of the Poor Law Rate to be paid by property owners to finance the operation of the workhouse. Due the absence of any previous property valuation, a valuer had to be appointed with a good deal of the board's time thereafter devoted to dealing with objections from property owners who felt that their

valuation was too high. Finally on 13th July 1841 the board struck a rate of pence in the pound for each electoral division which meant that property owners had to pay a levy in the region of 2% on the estimated annual value of their property.

A report dated 13th July 1839 suggested that the workhouse should be located in Bray along the Bray to Dublin Road, rejecting one that Glenree Barracks should be adapted for use in this role as it was considered too far away and not readily accessible as ideally a workhouse was supposed to be located in the middle of a poor law union, easily identifiable, and not more than one day's walk from the furthest points in it. Newspaper advertisements seeking a site of between six to eight acres in area near Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin, resulted in an offer of eight-acre site from a Mr. Robert Tilly for £49.12s.09d. per year which was accepted. Objections from Sir Compton Domville and Judge Robert Day, owner and occupier respectively of Loughlinstown House, [currently the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions], who felt that the presence nearby of the workhouse would devalue their property, were overcome by the simple expedient of asking them to pay the cost of re-locating it to a new site. They declined to do so the original decision stood. In 1848 a further nine acres at the rear of the workhouse were acquired followed by an additional four acres in 1854 bringing the total site area to twenty-one acres.

The workhouse, which included an infirmary, was built to a standard plan, one of four available from the Poor Law Commissioners, with the board being advised to select the one providing 800 places. The board appointed a contractor in July 1840 to execute the work, with an estimated completion date of March the following year, borrowing the estimated cost of £7,600 from the Commissioners of Exchequer Bills at 5% interest, repayable over twenty years. However, the loan was not sufficient to cover the construction costs which eventually rose to £9,622.15s.10d.

Problems seem to have been encountered with the construction of the complex as the board received letters from Patrick Murphy, Laurence Cullen, and Patrick Stanley seeking payment for work, labour and sand, supplied to the 'late contractor Mr. Farrell.' These letters were referred to the Poor Law Commissioners and it appears that the work was subsequently completed by A. Williams and Sons, slightly beyond the original estimated completion date.

By 12th October 1841 the Rathdown Union Workhouse was ready to accept its first admissions with some 500 notices being posted up throughout the Rathdown Union area stating: *'The Guardians of the Rathdown Union hereby inform the inhabitants of the Union that the workhouse is open for the reception of paupers this day. The Guardians earnestly request that ratepayers of the Union to aid their efforts to promote the effective operation of the Act of Parliament by referring all mendicants to the parish wardens whose duty it will be to attend all applications for relief and to refer them to the Board of Guardians.'* On this opening day although twenty-four people were admitted, only twenty-three were recorded on the indoor register. Those admitted ranged in age from four months to eighty years of age, were listed as married, widowed, single, out of wedlock, orphans, and classified as sixteen Catholics and seven Protestants, with those suffering from a variety of medical conditions being admitted to the workhouse infirmary so it can be said that

on this date, the modern day St. Columcille's Hospital originated from this humble beginning.

Even before the workhouse and infirmary opened, the board had become involved in public health care as the Government made it responsible for organising smallpox vaccinations throughout the Rathdown Union. To carry out this vaccination programme, the Union was divided into 19 vaccination districts with medical officers being appointed for each of them and paid 1s. per successful vaccination. These medical officers were required to hold weekly clinics, to vaccinate all those who presented themselves, and to keep a register of smallpox outbreaks.

The Rathdown Union Infirmary - 1841 to 1899

The early years of the infirmary were quiet ones with treatment being confined to those admitted to the workhouse but the onset of the Great Famine between 1845-1852 resulted in great pressure coming to bear on the slim resources available as the 1838 legislation which established the Irish Poor Law system had not envisaged a national calamity like the Great Famine occurring with the result that the board like guardians throughout the country had no legal power or basis to provide famine relief until amending legislation was enacted in 1847 – Temporary Relief of Destitute Persons in Ireland, Act.

In the meantime the infirmary became overcrowded with undernourished people suffering from the wide range of medical conditions associated with the Great Famine and despite the best efforts of the medical staff who lacked modern diagnostic techniques and equipment and the pharmaceutical items to treat these conditions, many died and were interred in what is what is known as the Famine Cemetery at the rear of the hospital as due to the contagious nature of the diseases they died from, under government regulations they could only be buried within the grounds of the institution they died in. Known only to their God, it is estimated that upwards of fifteen hundred people may be interred in this cemetery, with their final resting place marked by a special cross, unveiled in 1991, replacing an earlier one which stood on the site.

The inscription reads: *'The noble ones of other times sleep here, quiet be thy voice they would not be disturbed. Pain and hunger gone, they feel not winters cold. The Shepherd has them now, safe within his fold'.*

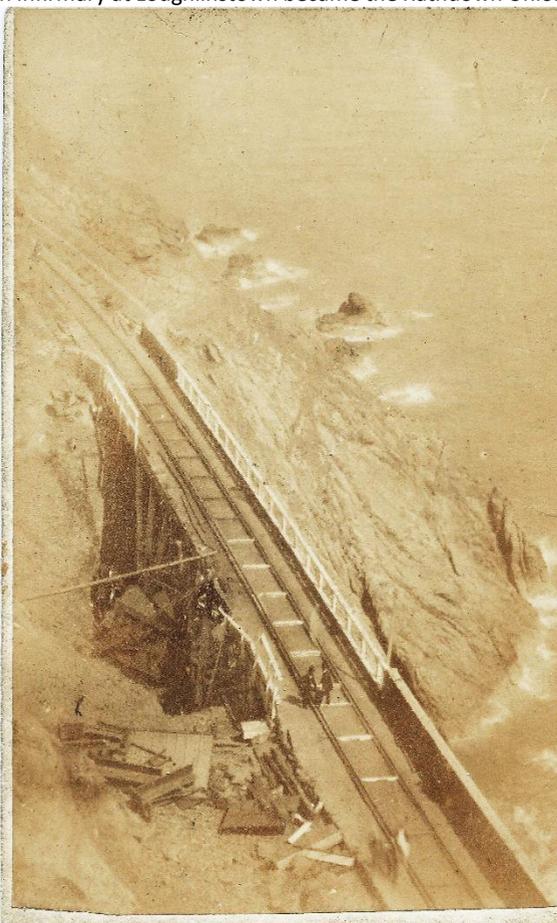
In 1848 a temporary shed was erected in a field beside the workhouse to cater for those ill with fever – it is recorded that the death date at that time was ten per week.

Prior to 1851 there was no organised medical system in operation around the country for the poor. Some localities has their own dispensaries funded by the gentry which provided some level of medical care but the entire system nationally was overhauled with the passage of the Medical Charities (Dispensaries) Act, 1851, which abolished the previous system of voluntary dispensaries and replaced them with a new system under which poor law unions were divided into dispensary districts with each one having a medical officer and the means to dispense medicines to those who needed them. Medical officers could also refer patients to

their workhouse infirmary for in-house treatment when required. This system came under the control of the Irish Poor Law Commissioners, and was financed out of the Poor Law Rate paid by property owners.

Prior to this legislation, people had been only able to receive medical assistance from the voluntary dispensaries as outpatients, or as residents [inmates was the official term used] of workhouse infirmaries and county infirmaries. In the case of those residing within Rathdown Union, it was the infirmary at Loughlinstown which provided this care and treatment from 1851 onwards. In 1862 the legal restriction on workhouse infirmaries confining their treatment to destitute sick i.e. workhouse residents and those referred to them by medical officers, was removed by an amendment act of that year – Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1862 – which opened up these infirmaries to the sick at large to receive medical treatment and undergo surgical procedures. On this basis of this legislation it can be said that on 7 August 1862 the Rathdown Union Infirmary at Loughlinstown became the Rathdown Union Hospital and could now provide medical treatment for all sick /injured people who came to it.

One early example of the hospital providing Accident and Emergency cover can be traced back to 9th August 1867 arising from a serious railway accident around the side of Bray Head when a train was derailed and plunged over a wooden bridge. (right) One passenger, Mr. Michael Joseph Murphy was killed while another passenger, Mrs. Catherine Hackman, sustained major head injuries and subsequently died from her injuries in the infirmary, with twenty-three other passengers being



seriously injured. The accident was due to negligence by the supervisor of the track

laying crew not ensuring that the previous day's work had been properly completed. Empty drop-side railway mineral wagons were brought from Bray railway station to the accident site into which all the seriously injured were loaded and then conveyed via the Bray / Harcourt Street line, closed 31st December 1958, which ran at the back of the hospital, to a point where the injured could be carried across the fields to the hospital where they received treatment from the medical staff for their injuries. The inquest into the death of Mr. Murphy was held in Bray railway station on 10 August 1867 and that of Mrs. Hackman in the workhouse boardroom on 16 August 1867. Both inquests returned verdicts of 'accidental death arising from a railway accident.' The locomotive driver and fireman, who were also injured in this accident, were brought to the Royal City of Dublin Hospital, Baggot Street, for treatment as the Dublin Wicklow and Wexford Railway Company paid it an annual fee to treat its injured employees. The track supervisor and the head of the track laying crew were subsequently dismissed, by the company with both concerned evading being charged with manslaughter as the inquest juries had returned a verdict of accident deaths on both deceased before the true facts associated with this accident subsequently emerged from the Board of Trade investigation into it.

Time and time again there are references in the local papers of the time, The Wicklow People, Bray & South Dublin Herald, and The Wicklow Newsletter, of people being treated in the hospital or by its staff. In 1887 it was reported in the latter newspaper that during a football match in Shankill, one of the players received a kick which broke his leg. Dr. Mayne, the Rathdown Union Medical Officer, happened to be one of the spectators present and rendered medical assistance to the injured player until he could be removed to the hospital – it was later reported that the patient was making a good recovery. Again during that decade when a Bray boy was bitten by an alleged mad dog which was believed to be suffering from rabies, the board sent him to the Pasteur Institute in Paris for anti-rabies treatment thus showing that board members were keeping themselves up to date on medical matters. Moving to 1898, during a cholera outbreak that year in Bray, the board agreed that the hospital would accept up to ninety cases from Bray and that they would send their ambulance to collect Bray patients on receipt of a telegram from P. L. McDonnell, Bray Township Commissioners Town Clerk. When the matter was discussed by the board, it was felt that a town the size of Bray should have its own ambulance and were a little put out that while providing this service to Bray, they had to pay 13s. in rates on their dispensary in the town to the Bray Township Commissioners at the same time.

On several occasions when accidents happened to railway personnel in the Bray area, they were rushed by special train by the Dublin Wicklow & Wexford Railway Company to Dublin for treatment in whatever hospital received an annual retention fee from the company to treat injured employees, and on more than one occasion an inquest jury in Bray commented that the patient(s) should have been brought to the nearest hospital available for treatment instead of a Dublin hospital - a reference to the presence of the Rathdown Union Hospital only five kms from Bray.

In 1848 the Irish Poor Law Commissioners were established to ensure that poor law services were applied in a uniform manner throughout the country. From the 1850s

onwards other local government services were evolving and in 1872 the Irish Local Government Board was established. This body took over the role of the Irish Poor Law Commissioners, and became the central authority for local government and the health services in Ireland until 1922. Over time the Local Government Board imposed a number of local government type functions on poor law guardian boards with the result that by the 1890s they had reached the status of semi-local authorities. The Public Health (Ireland) Acts of 1874 and 1878 made boards the sanitary authorities for rural areas and smaller towns in addition to number of public health obligations such as food hygiene, vaccinations etc.

One major undertaking by the board was the establishment of Deansgrange Cemetery in 1861 under the *Burial-Grounds (Ireland) Act, 1856*, with the first burial taking place on 1st January 1865 of Anastasia Carey, a Roman Catholic servant of St. Joseph's Orphanage, Kingstown, whose grave is unmarked.

In Britain the Local Government Act, 1888, established the county council system of local government and relieved poor law guardians of their local government work obligations, but no corresponding legislation was enacted for Ireland due to the unsettled state of the country. The *Local Government Act, 1894*, enabled women to be elected as poor law guardians in Britain, while the *Poor Law Guardians (Ireland) (Women) Act, 1896* enabled women to stand for election as guardians in Ireland.

At the 10th March 1897 meeting of the board, the Rt. Hon. Viscount Powerscourt in the chair, stated that there would be elections later that month to fill a number of vacancies in the three divisions of Delgany (two seats), Killiney (two seats), and Rathmichael (two seats). In Killiney Mrs. Alice Louise Lawrenson was one of five candidates contesting the two seats, while in Rathmichael Miss Katherine J. Burton was one of three candidates contesting the two seats. In Killiney Mrs. Lawrenson was one of the two successful candidates returned, and in Rathmichael Miss Burton was one of the two successful candidates returned there.

Miss Burton and Mrs. Lawrenson attended the Wednesday 31st March 1897 meeting of the board, were welcomed by Viscount Powerscourt, and following the completion of the necessary legal formalities, were appointed to various committees. Although both women stood for re-election in 1899, they were unsuccessful in retaining their seats but other women were elected.

Relief for the Rathdown board of and all the other Irish guardian boards from the increasing and heavy burden of local government work came with the enactment of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, which transferred all this work over to the newly created County Councils and Rural District Councils.

1899 – A Most Important Year

1899 was a very important year for the board and a turning point in the development and evolution of St. Columcille's Hospital. Firstly, as already mentioned, the newly created Dublin County Council and Wicklow County Council removed the burden of local government work imposed on the board by transferring these responsibilities to the Rathdown No.1 Rural District Council, (Co. Dublin) and the Rathdown No.2 Rural District Council (Co. Wicklow). These Rural

District Councils came into existence on 25th March that year, allowing St. Columcille's to concentrate on providing the health care system for the Union and to manage their hospital. However, while the board might have shed some of their work load, the Clerk of the Union and his staff found that they had to provide administrative services not only to the board as before but also to the two newly created rural district council boards already mentioned. They did however receive some slight extra remuneration for this additional work.

Secondly and more importantly, on 8th December that year, the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God arrived to run the hospital at the invitation of the board following several months of negotiations and did this with such efficiency, compassion, and energy, that shortly afterwards they were invited to take over the running of the entire Loughlinstown facility which they accepted and thus began the unique association by this Order with the hospital which lasted until 1991.

Between 1895 and 1899 the Catholic Hierarchy in Ireland and the Local Government Board had engaged in lengthy correspondence over the use of nuns as nurses in workhouses and finally a set of guidelines permitting the use of nuns as nurses (assistants) for this purpose were drawn up and agreed by the two bodies. The board, being aware of these guidelines, made a major contribution to improving the welfare of patients in the hospital by inviting the Order to administer and run it and later to take over the running of the entire Loughlinstown facility.

The Order of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God.

The Order of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God [SMG] was founded in Britain in 1869 by a remarkable and exceptional woman, Frances Margaret Taylor. Born on 20 January 1832, the youngest of ten children of an Anglican clergyman, in 1849 she made an abortive application to become a member of St. John's House, based in Fitzroy Square, London, a nursing school which also functioned as an Anglican religious community. A year earlier her sisters Emma and Charlotte had joined an Anglican Sisterhood, the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Trinity (Devonport) founded by Priscilla Lydia Sellon. Frances followed suit around 1852, as a 'visitor' and appears to have stayed for two years. She was involved in nurse training and hospital work at Bristol, and appears to have served as a nurse in Plymouth during the 1853 cholera epidemic there. By that time, like her sister Charlotte, she had come to realise that her vocation lay elsewhere. In 1854, when ladies were being recruited as voluntary nurses to aid the wounded in the Crimean War [1854 to 1856] which had broken out that year, she offered her services and was accepted for the second party of volunteer nurses, even though she was under age, and after brief training in St. George's Hospital, London, went out in December 1854, being joined there by her sister Charlotte in April 1855. Initially she served under Florence Nightingale at Scutari Hospital for a short period but then moved to another military hospital at Koulali.

While in Koulali she became deeply impressed by the example and dedication displayed by the French Sisters of Charity in caring for the sick and injured, and this experience resulted in her conversion to Catholicism. After the war, she assisted Florence Nightingale in her public campaign against the ignorance and inefficiency

of the nursing system in Britain which was in great need of reform at that time. This campaign was successful to the extent that public opinion was changed and nursing became a highly regarded profession – a status which it did not have until Florence Nightingale embarked on this campaign of reform, assisted by Frances Margaret Taylor.

On her return to London after this war, Frances Margaret Taylor worked under the direction of Cardinal Manning for the poor and neglected of this great city, visiting workhouses, knocking on doors in dirty tenements and vermin infested hovels to bring comfort and friendship to those who needed it most. Feeling called to the religious life, she tried her vocation with the Daughters of Charity and with the Daughters of the Heart of Mary but could not find it answered by these orders

On 24th September 1869 Frances Margaret Taylor with the help of Lady Georgina Fullerton, and Fr. Clare S.J., founded the Congregation of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God in the Diocese of Westminster, assisted by others who were impressed by her single-minded determination to work with the poor and not merely for them. Frances Margaret Taylor, who adopted the religious name of Mother Magdalen, believed passionately in the dignity, worth, and uniqueness of each person. Her Order was devoted to looking after the poor with special attention being given to the Irish poor living in London and other larger cities. The Order spread rapidly in England and then in Ireland and later, at the request of Pope Leo XIII, convents were opened in Rome and Florence and later in America and France.

The Order was first established in Ireland in Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork, circa 1874/1875, and later took over St. Mary's Hospital, Youghal (Youghal Workhouse and Infirmary), and the Rathdown Union Hospital in 1899. Under the Order, the latter hospital prospered with patient care improving through the skill, care, dedication and compassion of the Sisters who utilised their particular ethos that 'every patient was an individual with his/her own particular needs and was to be treated as a person rather than as a hospital case number.'

The accounting year for the Rathdown Union Workhouse & Hospital was the end of September each year when the board had their accounts reviewed by the Local Government Board to whom they were accountable. They also had to endure an annual inspection by a Local Government Board inspector who reported on the physical condition of Loughlinstown in his report. The 1900 inspection was carried out in August of that year and in his report, the Inspector, who made a distinction between the hospital and the rest of the complex, made the following comment:– 'All the wards in the Infirmary have been in order and when work is complete the Hospital will be in a very satisfactory State. No. 7 Children's Ward should next be taken in hand.' The works required for the No.7 Children's Ward were repairs to the ceiling and re-plastering of the walls.

Given that the Order had only been 'in situ' for under a year, this was high praise indeed from the inspector and further proof to the board that their decision to invite it to manage and run the hospital and shortly afterwards, the entire Loughlinstown complex, had been a very good one for them and for the community at large.

From Rathdown Union Hospital to St. Columcille's Hospital - 1899 to 1920

Up to 1900 weekly Mass for the Catholic residents was celebrated in a dining room and at the end of January 1900 the board agreed to construct 'a suitable place of worship for the Roman Catholics' and to provide a residence [convent] for the nuns. In July 1901 the foundation stone for the hospital chapel and convent – St. Patrick's Chapel – was laid with the Local Government Board providing £4,500 towards the cost of this work, which had been approved after a public inquiry into the matter. A year later the chapel was blessed and dedicated while the Order continued to work away providing an excellent level of health care for those who needed it.

From time to time, suggestions were made that Bray should have its own hospital but these proposals came to nothing as the nearness of hospital facilities in Loughinstown was quoted as the main reason for not implementing them.

Advancing to late 1919, acting on the recommendation of Mr. McCarthy, Local Government Board Inspector, arising from his annual inspection, the board decided to cease providing in-house workhouse accommodation and to relocate residents to the South Dublin Union Workhouse and to retain the existing hospital as a district hospital. The early part of 1920 was spent by the board winding up the administrative side of their workhouse and establishing the hospital as district hospital. By May 1920 the workhouse had closed and all the residents transferred to the South Dublin Union or discharged into the community in the case of those who did not want to move to Dublin.

During May 1920 the board accepted an offer from Rev. H. J. O'Donnell, P.P., Ballybrack, to purchase St. Patrick's Chapel for use as a chapel of ease for the Roman Catholic community in Loughinstown and Shankill, but in June Rev. O'Donnell advised the board that he was not in a position to proceed with the purchase at that time, most likely due to lack of funds as he would have had to pay off the balance remaining of the Local Government Board loan on it, so the chapel currently still remains part of the hospital and owned by the Health Service Executive. In 1931 construction began on St. Anne's Church, Shankill, which was blessed and opened in 1933.

At a meeting on 4th August 1920 the board formally decided to convert the hospital into a district hospital, adopting the name "Naomh Colmcille – St. Columcille's" , and to appoint Sister Margaret, Head Nurse, as Superintendent of the hospital. With the War of Independence in progress, the board subsequently pledged its allegiance to Dáil Éireann and it was until early 1921 that all the administrative hurdles were overcome and a new management board elected.

A Time of Change - 1922 to 1930

In 1922 the board encountered a major problem common to several boards around the country. The Rathdown Poor Law Union spanned the two counties of Wicklow and Dublin and the issue of who was to pay for the County Wicklow patients in the hospital which was located in County Dublin led to a dispute between the board,

which was now accountable to the Dublin County Board of Public Health, and the Wicklow County Board of Public Health. The easiest solution to the dispute was to transfer the County Wicklow patients to St. Colman's Hospital in Rathdrum which was the county hospital for Co. Wicklow. But the people of Bray became extremely unhappy when they learned that they would have to go to St. Colman's Hospital in Rathdrum, some 38 kms away to receive in-patient treatment. Some suggested that Bray should be included in the area of control administered by the Dublin County Board of Public Health but understandably the Wicklow County Board of Public Health was not agreeable and in the end common sense, rather than the strict application of the rules of bureaucracy, led to a resolution of this impasse with the Wicklow County Board of Public Health agreeing to pay for County Wicklow patients treated by St. Columcille's Hospital, thus making it possible for the people of Bray to continue using the hospital which was only 5 kms north of the town.

In 1923 the passage of the Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1923, abolished the workhouse system in the Irish Free State, the name by which the present day Republic of Ireland was then called, and resulted in the closure of some workhouses while others became county homes or district hospitals. This legislation also abolished boards of guardians throughout Ireland, except in Dublin where they remained in place until 1931, when some of their functions were taken over by County Boards of Health and Assistance under the Local Government (Dublin) Act, 1930. That year the Rathdown Board of Guardians became the Rathdown Union Committee until 1943 when it became the Rathdown Board of Assistance.

The Local Government Act, 1925, abolished rural district councils, except in Dublin, where they remained in operation until 1930, when their functions and responsibilities being taken over by county councils. In 1930 Dublin County Council took over the obligations and responsibilities of the rural district councils in the county following their dissolution.

From District Hospital to General Hospital - 1920 to 1952

Despite these changes, St. Columcille's District Hospital carried on providing patient care with the board responsible to the Dublin County Board of Public Health with day to day running remaining in the hands of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. During the 1930s it was proposed that the hospital should become a psychiatric one but this was not proceeded with. In the 1940s calls were made for the closure of the hospital but with great demand on the beds available in the Dublin City hospitals and in an attempt to relieve the pressure on them, it was decided to upgrade a number of hospitals around the city. In 1942 management of the hospital passed to the Rathdown Board of Assistance, with this board commencing a campaign to have the hospital upgraded to General Hospital status.

Supporters of the idea that Bray should have its own hospital had never abandoned hope that this would come to pass but the Department of Health realised that St. Columcille's Hospital in Loughlinstown was ideally placed to discharge this function and so these well intentioned aspirations for a hospital in Bray never got off the ground.

By the late 1940s much of the structure of St. Columcille's Hospital was over one hundred years old and in need of major repair and overhaul. Some wanted the hospital closed but the Rathdown Board of Assistance convinced the Department of Health that it would be more practical and cost effective to upgrade St. Columcille's Hospital rather than to close it and build a new hospital elsewhere. An initial sum of £100,000 was allocated for the purpose of upgrading the hospital with this work being carried out between 1947 and 1952 on a phased basis. In 1948 the work was estimated to cost £140,000 with the Department of Health providing a grant of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total cost and the balance to be raised by the Board.

As the hospital was a working and operational district hospital, progress was slow as the work could only be carried out a ward at a time. When a ward was about to be upgraded / modernised, the patients were transferred to other wards so that the necessary work could be carried out. When the work was complete, the patients were moved back in again and work commenced on the next ward. Slowly but surely, the work progressed on this phased basis, being finally completed in 1952. With the completion of this work, which came to £247,000 in total, partially funded with a grant from the Irish Hospitals Trust, the hospital was no longer a district hospital and was now ready to serve its catchment's area as 'St. Columcille's General Hospital' with accommodation to treat over two hundred patients.

In the course of the reconstruction work, the layout, design and shape of the hospital was changed in order to bring it up to the requirements of the time. One hundred and thirty-one beds were assigned to general medical and surgical cases, twenty-four to the chronic sick and eighteen cots for infants/children. At that time, fifty-one beds intended for general medical and surgical cases were being used temporarily for the treatment of tuberculosis, a reminder how endemic this disease was throughout Ireland at that time.

Dr. Ryan, T.D., Minister for Health, performed the formal opening of the hospital on 9th June 1952, the feast day of St. Columcille. On arrival at the hospital, the Minister was met by a guard of honour of An Garda Síochána under Supt. J. F. Hynes, Bray, and nurses from the hospital. The Medical Officer, Dr. W. J. Roche, and the Matron, Sister Marie Peter of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, conducted the Minister to the main door where he was presented with a ceremonial key by Mr. D. O' Dwyer, architect, in the presence of the medical and nursing staffs of the hospital, members of the Rathdown Board of Assistance, Dublin County Council, Dublin Board of Assistance, Dun Laoghaire Borough Corporation and clergy from the district. Rev. D. O'Leary, C.C., Ballybrack performed the blessing of the hospital, and the party was then brought on a tour of it. Clergy present included Rev. T. J. Deering, C.C., Ballybrack, Rev. D. Murray, C.C., Ballybrack, and Rev. A. S. Bluett, Rector, Rathmicheal. Contractors for the reconstruction work were Messrs. Farmer Bros. The Quantity Surveyor was Mr. J. F. O'Brien and Mr. P. J. McCarthy was the Engineer.

One item not completed at that time was the provision of extra accommodation for the nursing and domestic staff. It was agreed that the existing accommodation was inadequate but it was left to the Rathdown Board of Assistance to provide this from their own resources. They had been advised by the Minister that there was no hope

of the Hospital Trust Fund providing the funds for the building of a suitable home for the staff.

St. Columcille's Hospital General Hospital – 1952 to 2016

Now a general hospital, St. Columcille's Hospital began a new era in its history providing a greater standard of care to a very wide catchment's area with the nuns now augmented with a staff of nurses to care for patients.

In 1959, one of the most familiar landmarks on the Dublin/Bray Road, the former boardroom and office building, was demolished to facilitate road widening as it stood on a very dangerous bend on the Dublin / Bray Road. The entrance was relocated to the present one.

Throughout the remainder of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, St. Columcille's Hospital continued to expand the facilities available while at the same time raising the level of patient care.

In 1971, as part of the re-organisation of the health service, management of the hospital passed to the Eastern Health Board. The 1970s also saw one of hospital's 'long servers', Dr. William (Bill) Roche, retire as Hospital Medical Officer, ending an association with St. Columcille's which stretched back to the 1940's when he joined the staff. At that time, he was required to live on Commons Road in Shankill / Loughlinstown to be near the hospital in case his services were required in an emergency with a similar rule applying to other key personnel. Later he was able to reside in Bray and lived on the Florence Road up to the time of his death.

During the 1970s the population of South County Dublin and North Wicklow rose dramatically, a trend that is still continuing. In 1979, a campaign to have a maternity unit based in the hospital began and resulted in 1981 with the opening of such a unit which was closed in 1987 as part of a health service reorganisation and centralisation of resources with the closure going ahead despite great public outcry and protest over this decision.

In the 1980s a new out-patients wing, theatres, and an Accident & Emergency Department were added to further enhance existing facilities. Like all hospitals, it had a Major Accident Plan prepared to cover an array of emergencies. The plan was activated in July 1991 when a bus with forty-seven passengers overturned at Jack White's Cross near Arklow. The Shankill By-Pass, then in the course of construction, was opened so that injured passengers could be brought for treatment to the hospital by ambulances in the shortest possible time.

1991 was a very special year for the hospital as it celebrated the 150th anniversary of its foundation. This event was commemorated on 12th October 1991 with the unveiling of a memorial in the former hospital cemetery to commemorate all those buried there during the Famine times and down through the years. In the short ceremony attended by hospital staff, members of Foxrock Local History Club, and the Old Bray Society, the memorial stone was first blessed by the hospital chaplains, Rev. Fr. Larkin and Rev. Canon Marshall, and unveiled by Sister Angellis, Matron, who retired after 17 years service with the hospital.

This event was tinged with some sadness as well. In 1991, the Order of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, in common with many other religious orders, found that a decline in religious vocations meant that they were no longer able to manage to the full potential, all the hospitals that they were associated with and under a policy of review and centralisation, it was decided with great regret, to withdraw from the management of St. Columcille's Hospital. This withdrawal decision was received with great regret by the Eastern Health Board as it ended the link between the Order and the hospital stretching back to 1899.

The official retirement of the Order from the Hospital took place on 9th December 1991 with the occasion being observed with a special Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by the hospital chaplain, Fr. Larkin, in the hospital chapel – St. Patrick's – attended by members of the Eastern Health Board, hospital staff, members of the Order of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God and invited guests. After the Mass, Mr. Ivor Callely, T.D., Chairman of the Eastern Health Board, unveiled a special plaque in the form of a Celtic Cross made Bog Oak, designed and executed by Mr. Fergus O'Farrell, 62 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, who specialises in Celtic and Religious Art. The plaque is a replica of the Castledermot Celtic Cross, and in it are brass panels with etchings of the 12 apostles, St. Columcille, and the crest of the Religious Order of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God.

The inscription underneath reads –

'This plaque was unveiled by Councillor Ivor Callely, T. D., Chairman, Eastern Health Board, on December 9th 1991, in recognition of the loyal and dedicated service of THE ORDER OF THE POOR SERVANTS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD to the patients at St. Columcille's Hospital during the period – 8th December 1899 to 8th December 1991.'

And thus concluded the Order's long and distinguished association with the hospital. In recent years the Order has also withdrawn from a number of other hospitals it was actively engaged with.

Recent additional developments include –

- Endocrine Unit - 1999
- Orthodontic Unit - 2000
- Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit - 2001
- Extended A & E Department – 2003
- Endocrine Teaching Unit – 2011

In 1999 the hospital came under the management of the East Coast Area Health Board of the Eastern Regional Health Authority which replaced the Eastern Health Board.

On 1st January 2005 management of the hospital passed to the Health Service Executive which replaced the ten regional Health Boards, the Eastern Regional Health Authority, and a number of other different agencies and organisations.

In November 2013 changes were made by the Health Service Executive aimed at improving local health services by providing faster access for patients to the right

care at the right time and in the right place. The 24/7 Accident Emergency service was transferred to St. Vincent's University Hospital which now serves as a single integrated emergency department for the Dublin South / Wicklow region, and was replaced by a Local Injuries Unit. This unit is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. and treats adults and children aged fourteen years and over who present with non-emergency conditions, and not expected to require hospital admission following treatment.

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- Mr. Liam Clare, Foxrock Local History Club
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The O'Donnells of Tyrconnell

- A Hidden Legacy

A note on the research behind my book

Francis M. O'Donnell

Family tradition and transmission

Apart from our Ardfert family's own inherited tradition of descent from an O'Donnell of Tyrconnell, my late father shared some of his own gleanings, snippets of old family archives, but the big picture was missing. On my mother's side, we also knew we were related to the late Cardinal Patrick O'Donnell through her female O'Donnell ancestor from Glenties. It was enough to believe, but not enough to prove.

Representing our culture and history

Living abroad since 1976, it was often important to represent our culture, know the history, and explain its peculiar politics. By 1990, I acquired a reprinted set of the Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland, by the Four Masters, prepared in the early 1620s. It was an eye opener, but I didn't scrutinise it thoroughly until 2005, after my father passed away. It was then I learnt of the Ardfert expedition of 1601 sent by Red Hugh O'Donnell, and which ostensibly left his nephew Donal Oge there behind.

Embarking on a research methodology

There were two challenges: (1) tracing back as early as possible, beyond my great-great-grandfather, John O'Donnell (1804-1879), and (2) researching the life of Donal Oge O'Donnell and his possible descendants, whether or not these two strands would join up. Whatever the results would be, it would be essential to seek professional advice from historians and genealogists, and eventually to have my results and conclusions, whatever they might show, peer-reviewed by these professionals.

Ascendant ancestry

Ascendant research involved review of parish registers for records of birth, marriages and deaths, drawing up several versions of family trees beyond what immediate relatives could tell. Much time was also spent researching land titles, estate papers, court records, as well as probate records for wills. I also scoured old local newspapers, journals of the relevant county historical societies, and cemetery records.

Descendant lineage

Descendant research required a better understanding of local social, political and economic history. A key resource was Richard Hayes' catalogue of manuscript

sources for the history of Irish civilization, in the National Library. Consulting every source listed helped develop a more complete picture. This led in other directions, to other libraries or archives, in Dublin, Brussels, Paris, and beyond. Internet search engines came to the fore, e.g. for the increasingly-digitised resources and manuscripts of libraries such as the Bibliothèque National de France.

Exploiting and corroborating sources

Corroboration and evidential testing or proofing is an important part of this work, and state papers became essential references for much of the legal and political background and family history, in addition to historic annals, directories, and genealogies. Over 1,100 sources investigated are detailed by subject matter on over 50 pages in the bibliography of the book.

Sorting the sources and comparative analysis

Much additional material was collected, which would fill several file cabinets. In addition, it has proven very important to keep original hand-written notes, including lists of sources, cross-references, and queries. Testing veracity with corroboration of new materials required multiple revisions and adjustments to the core text and to basic interpretation.

Synthesis and review

Along the way, I periodically shared the incremental but provisional outcomes of my research, e.g. in 2005 at the O'Donnell Clan Gathering in Donegal that July; and again in Donegal at the same Gathering on 8 August 2013; with the Genealogical Society of Ireland in Dun Laoghaire on 10 June 2014; and at the 2nd International Colloquium on Nobility in Madrid on 20-21 October 2017. I was invited to present a seminar in French on the contribution of genealogical research to cultural history on 17 October 2018 to post-graduate students at the Sorbonne University in Paris. An introduction on the *Wild Geese (Les Oies Sauvages)* was given by Patrick Clarke de Dromantin, France's most published authority on the subject. My subject dealt with *The O'Donnell Counts in France and their transition from ancient chivalry and military service to the highest echelons of the civil service, the Conseil d'Etat*. I later gave a similar talk on 9 November 2018 for the Military History Society of Ireland, and will do again at the Princess Grace Irish Library in Monaco on 17 April 2020.

Consulting expertise and engaging peer review

In addition to the usual sources and manuals of advice on genealogical research, and the relevant institutions, the role of academic expertise was most important. The research therefore benefitted from consultations and advice not only from principal family members, lineage descendants, and clan kinsfolk, but also from several academic historians, archivists, conservators and curators, clerics, diplomats, heraldic experts, librarians, professional genealogists, and scholars, who, along with many others, are appreciated in the extensive six-page acknowledgements in the book.

Findings

The outcome has included a full sketching-out of the entire first and second families of Sir Hugh Dubh O'Donnell, 23rd O'Donnell and King and Lord of Tyrconnell; and of the intrigues that surrounded the decline of O'Donnell pre-eminence and power in Ulster; connections between O'Donnells of Tyrconnell and of Ardfert with the FitzMaurices, in the early 1600s; descendants of Donal Oge O'Donnell, such as Sean Kittagh O'Donnell, in the 1670s; the Jacobite lieutenant Thomas O'Donnell of Aghanacrinna in 1699; a whole dynasty of French O'Donnell counts, recognized in France not only for their Tyrconnell origins, but as *Chiefs of the Name and of the Arms*, yet linked to Ardfert and County Kerry, extinct in the male line since 1879; and indeed the discovery that the Latin scholar Patrick, father of John O'Donnell, was in fact a teacher and held a school in Tubridmore, Ardfert, in the late 1700s; and most of all the career of ostensible ancestor Donal Oge himself and his final resting place in Louvain, the 400th anniversary of whose burial will be marked on 5 September 2020.

A final caveat

There are a number of issues that arose in the course of my research, worthy of further investigation. Firstly, to sketch out in greater detail the biographic details of the main persons identified. Secondly, the five generations of the French O'Donnell Counts do not so far contain any evidence of daughters, and were it not for the prominence of the wives of these counts, we would have no indication of the importance of the role of women in the family. Thirdly, I have not come across any portraits of the French O'Donnell Counts, and it would be very interesting to identify such portraits, whether painted, or in early 19th century photographs. Lastly, examples of their correspondence probably exist in the archives of the more renowned members of their circles. Literary and cultural influences and relationships covered are those with Felix Arvers, Honoré de Balzac, Benjamin Constant, Astolphe de Custine, Alexandre Dumas, Sophie Gay, Delphine Gay de Girardin, Victor Hugo, Alphonse Karr, Alphonse de Lamartine, Alexandre de Lameth, Charles-Joseph de Ligne, Germaine de Staël, Charles Nodier, Charles-Augustin Sainte-Beuve, Jean Vatout, as well as with composers such as Carl-Maria von Weber.

If nothing else, my hope is that my book will stimulate others to explore further.

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A STALAG CAPER

Charles Egan

Letter from Michael - about 1996.

In September 1941 I was a POW in a camp in Graudenz (Grudziądz), a small town on the Vistula, just south of the Polish Corridor. This was a small camp of about 750 POWs and was a subsidiary of the main Stalag XXA complex situated further up the Vistula in Thorn. The prisoners in Graudenz were all British NCOs and ORs (other ranks) and had been captured during the French campaign of May/June 1940. They were an interesting cross section of the British Army; they came from all corners of the British Isles and most British Regiments were represented. All the prisoners, with the exception of a few camp workers, went out each day to work in the town and neighbouring country - factories, building sites, railways and farms.

I was the Medical Officer (MO) and my duties consisted of holding a Medical Inspection each morning and evening to treat minor illnesses and determine who was fit or unfit for work. I also had a small hospital room (Review) of about 10-15 beds.

Medical personnel were permitted a walk outside the camp once a month and I usually availed myself of this opportunity as it broke the monotony of camp life. I was allowed to change a small quantity of Lagergeld (camp money) into Reich Marks to make some purchases in the town but there was very little one could buy - I got the newspaper (Völkischer Beobachter) or some magazines to help with my German. On these outings I was accompanied by a German non-commissioned officer, usually a Gefreiter (our Corporal). The camp guards were mostly W.W.1 veterans or medically unfit and the Commandant was a Senior Feldwebel (equivalent to our R.S.M.).

When I applied for an outing in September '41, I was rather surprised when the somewhat newly appointed Commandant volunteered to take me out himself. However, the penny dropped when we arrived at a Gasthaus (bar cum cafe) about 2 miles outside the town. He obviously liked his beer and I was expected to pick up the tab. The Gasthaus consisted of a large room with small tables and a bar at one end. It was full of a motley collection of people - foreign workers of various nationalities, Volksdeutsche (Germans born in Poland) and German soldiers, many with their Polish girlfriends. They were all amazed at the presence of a British uniform in their midst. The Poles and foreign workers were manifestly friendly but the Volksdeutsche were most antagonistic towards me. Of course, I was in charge of the Commandant who was quite a formidable character and the only one with a gun, so I wasn't worried.

While I was ordering a couple of beers at the counter one of the Volksdeutsche came up to me and started a tirade about the dastardy of the Brits who had just bombed Hamburg and burned a large part of the city. I remembered reading a Völkischer Beobachter a few months previously. It had huge headlines in the front page - London ist in Flammen (London is a sea of flames). I reminded him of this and

said, "when London burns it's a lovely war, but when Hamburg burns it's not so good." This drove him completely mad, but I enjoyed taking the mickey out of him as he couldn't do anything.

The Commandant was knocking back the beers by this time and couldn't have cared less about the argument. Later we sat at a table where a very pretty young Polish girl was drinking with her German soldier boyfriend. As I sat down, she gave me a kick under the table, pointed at the German soldier and drew her finger across her throat. She didn't seem to give a damn, but I felt she was overdoing it and tried to cool her down.

The Commandant really liked his beer and by the time we got up from the table he could hardly stand. I had had quite a few beers myself and it was only with the greatest difficulty that I was able to keep him on his feet as we started back for the camp. The journey took ages as we took both sides of the road and I almost had to carry him with his arm around my shoulder. We were within sight of the town when I heard a siren behind me. I looked around and saw a convoy with a scout car in front and a General in the 2nd car with flags flying. (Graudenz was a big military centre associated with the Russian Front where hostilities had commenced 2 months earlier). I can still see the General's face - he looked just like Rundstedt - he stared straight ahead but even in my alcoholic miasma; I knew he had seen everything. The Commandant too late woke up to the situation, attempted to come to the salute but made an awful mess of it.

I now began to have some misgivings about our caper and wondered what the outcome would be. However, we continued back to camp which we approached through a large square. At the end of the square was the POW compound with barbed wire quadrangle where all the POWs had gathered prior to evening roll call. As we got near, I could hear them shouting at one another "for Christ's sake, come and look at this - the M.O. and the Commandant both rotten drunk." As we passed along the outside, I could see them lining the barbed wire and most of them doubled up with laughter. When we got to the camp entrance the Commandant asked me if I could do anything about his cough. I said "sure" and took him up to the M.I. room. I gave him some expectorant. He then decided to salute me but tripped on a stove and fell flat on his face.

I was very apprehensive about the outcome of this episode and kept a low profile for a long time. I was surprised when nothing drastic eventuated and after about 6 weeks I asked for another walk outside. I well remember the guard I had on this occasion - a tall lantern-jawed W.W.1 veteran. We walked for miles and he never said a word. Eventually he said, "so you have been drinking with the Commandant." I said "yes." He just shook his head and said "Das geht nicht! Das geht nicht!" - loosely translated - "you can't do that here."

Later we heard that the Commandant had been transferred to a penal battalion on the Eastern Front. I couldn't help feeling sorry for the poor old sod. Very few survived the penal battalion. It was a tough price to pay for a few beers.

My Cousin was Lost in History and Lost in Action.

The Story of Alexander Whitcroft Jnr. 1889 – 1915

Michael Nelson

Introduction

Although born some 130 years ago (October 1889) Alexander Whitcroft Jnr. was my first cousin. His father, also Alexander, married my father's eldest sister Catherine Frances Nelson in 1885 when my father was just 10 days short of his first birthday; - a possible explanation of how my Whitcroft relatives were lost in history.

This story has its origins in Charlestown, Ardee, Co. Louth in the 1800s. Charlestown is a townland 2.5km NW of Ardee, and is divided by intersecting roads meeting at Charlestown Cross – which is essentially the Charlestown village centre. Adjacent these crossroads are the Church of Ireland Parish Church, Schoolhouse, Sexton's House and an old forge. In the late 1800s, Charlestown consisted of about two dozen houses and less than 100 people; - some 10% of whom were Nelsons.¹

My Grandfather John Nelson was Church Sexton up to his death in 1898, after which his role was filled by my father's brother William. In the 1840s, another John Nelson is recorded as Charlestown's 'Parish Schoolmaster' and in the 1850s a Mary Anne Nelson was likewise recorded as Charlestown's 'Schoolteacher'.

In the mid-1880s the live-in schoolmaster at Charlestown Schoolhouse was Alexander Whitcroft. He was a member of the Whitcroft family living locally in the neighbouring townland, Lisrenny. The families would have been known to each other having inter-married in the 1870s. And so it came to pass that Alexander Whitcroft married Catherine Frances Nelson in Charlestown Church on 16 September 1885.

Alexander and Catherine were soon to move to Clonakilty, Co. Cork, where Alexander took up a teaching post in the local townland of Muckcross. It was here that their first two children were born; Nathaniel William in 1886 and Isabelle in 1887. For reasons unknown, in July 1887 Alexander advertised in the Dublin Daily Express for a new teaching post which saw him move with his family to Castlebar. It was here on 29th October 1889 that Alexander's and Catherine's youngest son was born – whom they christened Alexander Francis John.

By the late 1890s the family had moved yet again to finally settle in Bowness Street, Belfast. In 1907, Alexander Jnr., at the age of 18, enlisted with the Royal Irish Rifles (Infantry Battalion). At the outbreak of WW1, Alex Jnr's Infantry Battalion was

¹ Interpolated from the 1901 Census and family records.

transferred to Hursley Park Winchester where it was amalgamated with other overseas battalions to form the British Army's 8th Infantry Division. This new Army Division became part of General Haig's 'First Army' after being transferred to Flanders in November 1914.²

Alexander Jnr. in World War One

The Battle of Nueve Chapelle 10-13 March 1915.

In early 1915 there was a perceived weakness in the German line on the Western Front after substantial forces were sent to the Eastern Front against the Russians in early 1915. Haig hoped to exploit this weakness by having his 'First Army' attempt to puncture the German front line salient established around Nueve Chapelle in Northern France (Hart 2013). The French had already expressed criticism of the British Army for not making a meaningful impact on the Western Front. For the same 'lack of positive contribution', the War Council in London were considering the redeployment of its army away from the Western Front to Dardanelles and Balkans.

The Nueve Chapelle offensive was seen as an opportunity by Haig to respond to these criticisms. And so it was that the battle for Nueve Chapelle became the British Army's first significant operation of WW1, following their miserable winter operations of 1914-15 with months of defence in sodden trenches (Baker 2019).

The objective of the operation was to eliminate the salient around Nueve Chapelle in order to take the German position at Aubers Ridge, some 3.5Km further East, where the Germans held an important commanding position in securing the salient. To capture Aubers Ridge and village would threaten Lille, a strategic German position commanding significant rail and road junctions in Northern France and close to the Belgium border (Simkins *et al* 2003).

The battle commenced with a bombardment of German lines at 7:30 am on 10th March 1915, following which Alex Jnr's infantry division were put into action. Although the lightly defended village was quickly overtaken, further British advance was frustrated with confused communications and scarce supplies. A counter offensive by the Germans the following day, and heavy losses by the British in attempting to take Aubers Ridge saw the attack being called off on the 13th March.

Although successful in taking Nueve-Chapelle, the prime objective of seizing Aubers Ridge had failed. On Alex's military record the Battle of Nueve-Chapelle is succinctly noted as "*British tactical success / stalemate*"; indicating that despite the tactical breakthrough, the success could not be exploited. For Alex, at the age of 25, the experience provided him with the cruel realisation of the horrors of war. His infantry division incurred almost 5,000³ of the total 14,000 casualties suffered by the British Army in the attack (Simkins *ibid*).

² From Military Records.

³ From annotations to Military Record.

Upon reflection, one has to evaluate the 'value' of this nominal success relative to the cost of 14,000 casualties over a 3-day period. The repetition of this catastrophe, not only at Aubers Ridge two months later, but also at Gallipoli, the Somme and elsewhere suggests that soldiers, like ammunition, are merely a commodity.⁴

The Battle of Aubers Ridge 9th May 1915.

Later in March 1915 the French and British decided to mount a further offensive to break through the German lines in Northern France. Haig, encouraged by his (irrelevant) success a few weeks earlier and his opinion that the German lines were weakened after the Nueve Chapelle attack, decided to launch a surprise attack on Aubers Ridge from his army's positions on the plains of Neuve Chapelle. The French agreed to attack the German lines 25Km further South.

Both attacks were launched on Sunday 9th May 1915.

The British launched their attack at 5:00 am with a bombardment of the German front lines. By 5:30 am, Alex Jnr's infantry division were deployed to cross the mere 100m wide No-Mans-Land towards the bombarded German trenches and break through the line. But almost immediately after leaving their trenches the men came under heavy machine-gun fire from the German line.

Poor military intelligence had failed to identify that immediately after the Nueve Chapelle attack, the Germans had quickly reinforced their front line with both manpower, defences and artillery in order to maintain their salient on the Western Front. Therefore no surprise was achieved because the British bombardment was wholly insufficient to break the German wire and trench defences; nor to knock out the German front-line machine-guns (Edmonds 1928).

Alex Jnr's infantrymen were shot down as they ran towards the German lines with many caught up in the barbed wire to become 'sitting-ducks' for the Germans. An hour after the initial bombardment, orders were issued to stop the attack, but hundreds of infantrymen were already trapped in No-Man's-Land, unable to advance or retreat. The British front line was soon filled with the dead and wounded (Le Maner n/d).

Notwithstanding, Haig, without taking cognisance of the severity of his losses during the early morning attack relaunched the attack later in the day. But it was to be as disastrous as the early morning encounter. To worsen the situation, Haig's misjudgement of munition requirements saw the soldiers running short of ammunition⁵. By nightfall, Haig, realising the increasing extent of British casualties,

⁴ A concept reflected in the WW1 poem "*Cannon Fodder*", by Alec Waugh.

⁵ The inadequate supply of ammunition in both speed and quantity to the Western Front in 1915 led to a political crisis in Britain known as the 'Shell

the less than adequate supplies of ammunition available and hence the futility of the offensive, called off the attack.

Troops retreated to their defensive line positions and encampment; - but Alex Whitcroft Jnr. was not amongst them.

The aftermath:

This Battle of Aubers Ridge was an unmitigated disaster for the British army. Alex Jnr's infantry regiment were for the most part slaughtered in No-Man's-Land (Hart *ibid*). No ground was won and no tactical advantage gained; and it is doubtful if it had the slightest positive effect in assisting the French attack further south at Vimy Ridge (Edmonds 1928). In that single day the British Army had lost over 11,000 men at Aubers Ridge (dead, wounded and lost in action), which in relative terms, was one of the highest casualty rates of the Great War (Simkins, *ibid*).

It took 3 days to recover the wounded at Auber's Ridge (Baker 2019); - but Alex Jnr. was not amongst them. Nor were his remains found amongst the bodies recovered later.

Alexander Whitcroft Snr. had already died before the start of WW1. In August 1915, the War Office informed Alex Jnr's mother Catherine in Belfast that her son had been lost in action on 9th May 1915, presumed dead, at the Battle of Auber's Ridge. On Alex Jnr's military record, the Aubers Ridge offensive carries the simple summary: "... overall German victory / British disaster."

General Haig's competency as commander of British Forces, particularly relative to the massive manpower losses with little gain as epitomised later by the debacle of the Battle of the Somme, was to become politically controversial. Whist politically hailed as a hero after WW1, the memories of the losses resulting from his poor military tactics were high in the general psyche of the masses.

"Haig was a man of supreme egotism and utter lack of scruple – who, to his overweening ambition, sacrificed hundreds of thousands of men. A man who betrayed even his most devoted assistants as well as the Government which he served." (Sir Basil H. Liddle-Hart, British Army Captain WW1 and distinguished military historian).

Alex Jnr's ignoble death invokes the haunting thought: *"... the proliferation of severed body-parts and rotting corpses ... bitterly contrasts with the comforting delusions back home over the heroic nobility of a soldier's death."* (Brennan 2013).

Crisis'. The crisis ultimately caused the fall of the Asquith government and his replacement by Lloyd George as Prime Minister the following year.

Alexander Whitcroft, Pte. 8754 Royal Irish Rifles, is commemorated in the Mayo Peace Park, Castlebar, and the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium.

Lost, but not forgotten. May he RIP.

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Mayo Peace Park War Memorial

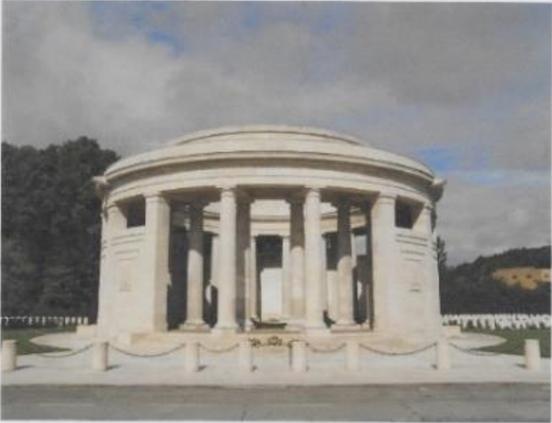
Ploegsteert memorial.

In Memory of
Rifleman
Alexander Whitcroft

8754, 1st Bn., Royal Irish Rifles who died on 09 May 1915

Son of the late Alexander and Catherine Frances Whitcroft. Enlisted 1907.

Remembered with Honour
Ploegsteert Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Cumann Genealais na hÉireann GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

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