

THE IRISH GENEALOGICAL QUARTERLY

Published by the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin

Volume Twenty One Number Four

(mi na Nollag) Dec 2012

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IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN INC. PO Box 13766 Wauwatosa WI 53213 -0766

Fax E-mail < janecmaher@yahoo.com> Home page http://www.igswonline.com/

MEMBERSHIP: Dues are \$15.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a family. Individual or Family membership each receive one subscription (4) issues to The Irish Genealogical Society Quarterly. Individual membership has (1) vate in elections and Family membership has (2) votes in elections. The membership year runs from 1 March to 28/29 February.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: <u>President</u>: Gary Shea (414) 540 0715 <u>Vice-President</u>: Kris Mooney (414)430 7402 <u>Recording Secretary</u>: Mary Kay Kuhfittig (414)962 2792 <u>Corresponding Secretary</u>: Sue Dolinar (414) 228 8979 <u>Treasurer</u>: Dawn Crowley. <u>Directors at Large (2)</u> Jack Domencich (414) 588 9475 and Tim Dowling (414) 364 0756 <u>Immediate Past President</u>: Jaan Condon(414) 282 0890 <u>Membership Chairperson</u>: Sister Sylvia Anne OSF (414) 699 8003

PUBLICATION: <u>THE IRISH GENEALOGICAL QUARTERLY</u> is published (4) times a year by the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin as a service to its members and as an educational services to the public through distribution to many libraries. <u>Editor</u>: Jane Maher (414) 258 9690 Copyright @ 2011 by the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin.

President's Message - Thanksgiving 2012

I see the current technologies of digitalization, the cloud, smart phones - apart from annihilating retailers like Borders and Blockbuster, and technologies like CDs and DVDs – as having powerful affects on doing genealogy. Tom Mroz's preview at our May 2011 meeting of Family Tree Maker Version 12's coupling of one's trees with those on Ancestry, is now a reality. I am enjoying easily synchronizing the family tree on my personal computer with the family tree in the cloud, at Ancestry. One backs the other up. The update we had on FamilySearch from Cindy Allgaier in our July 2012 meeting, caught my attention. I returned to the web site noticing images of original records, ease of use improvements, and their collection growing every day. The fun Ancestry app on my smart phone provides convenient searching, as well as maintaining and viewing of the aforementioned in-sync family tree. Marvelous. We are in a new age.

One of the safest generalizations made about genealogists is that we love libraries. Recently at my local library, the North Shore Library in Glendale, while perusing the recent acquisitions bookshelves, I noticed a new version of one of the books that helped me get started, a classic that is readable, comprehensive, and provocative. I checked the volume out and have been savoring it. I am happy to report it has not lost its punch.

Oft given advice is to revisit the old notes, go through the files, and reexamine documents. It's said that fresh insights emerge and brick walls are overcome. I look upon my rereading of **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy** (Third Edition, 2012) by Christine Rose and Kay Germain Ingalls as a similar exercise.

It's a mindset. To draw upon my favorite self-actualization technique, inducing flow, one can immerse one's self by reviewing.

This happens in a group setting, almost monthly, when the directors of the IGSW brainstorm about future program topics and projects. We have an excellent team, Dawn Crowley (treasurer), Sue Dolinar (interim corresponding secretary), Jack Domencich (at large), Tim Dowling (at large), Mary Kay Kuhfittig (recording secretary), and Jane Maher (representing past presidents), and I thank them!

Gary Shea

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Help Wanted

IGSW Corresponding Secretary

Skills Required:

For this position specifically: writing, communication, record keeping As a Board member: planning, ideas, negotiation, research, decision making

Job Description:

Founded in 1992, the IGSW a Section 501 (c) (3) non-profit was established: to stimulate genealogical communication, education, interest, and exchange of information, especially as it relates to Irish genealogy, to and with individuals, libraries and organizations; to provide instruction through publications and programs; to promote genealogical research; to boost interest in Irish heritage and culture; to encourage the collection and preservation of genealogical and historical materials; and to champion ethical standards and practices in the field of genealogy.

The duties of the Corresponding Secretary are to conduct the correspondence of the Society and to maintain a file of its correspondence. The Corresponding Secretary arranges the time and place of general and board meetings, and compiles and publishes program announcements for distribution and for publication in the Quarterly. The time spent accomplishing these tasks is about one to two hours per month.

The IGSW board meets no less than six times per year per the By-Laws of the organization - in a typical year, ten times. Generally, board meetings are held the hour before the general meeting, on the first Monday of the month, in the same location (the Irish Cultural & Heritage Center or the Shorewood Public Library are our usual meeting places).

To be a good fit for this position, you should have the following:

- A love of genealogy
- An interest in working with others
- An outgoing personality

You will be serving the remaining year of a two-year term of office with the opportunity of extending your service through election for an additional two years. As a board member you will be overseeing and leading the Society, working for its growth and well being. If this sounds like something that makes sense for you, please don't hesitate - apply today! Email or call any board member listed on the front of the Quarterly to tell them of your interest.



The Government of Ireland Honors IGSW Member Jean K. Bills

Certificate of Irish Heritage Jean Bills, Leo Varadkar, T.D., Minister for Tourism, Transport and Sport

The inscription reads:

The Irish nation cherishes its special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad who share its cultural identity and heritage.

Issued on behalf of the Government of Ireland by Eamon Gilmore, T.D. Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade.

Jean Bills' great-great grandparents, James and Catharine Gallagher, were born in County Mayo, Achill Island, in 1801 and 1810. They emigrated to Wisconsin during the famine years and settled near Reedsburg. One of their daughters remained in Ireland and her descendants still live on Achill Island; Jean visits them on each trip to Achill. Since 1991 there have been 30 visits. This ties in with **The Gathering 2013** which will be celebrating tourism with many events throughout Ireland next year.

Leo Varadkar, T.D. was in the United States promoting **The Gathering** recently and presented the Certificate of Irish Heritage to Ms. Bills on September 27th. She lives in Wauwatosa and is busy planning her next trip in January.



This is what remains of the stone cottage on Achill Island which was the home of the Gallagher family before they left for America. The property is still in the family.

Jean Bills, 82, is the founder of Celtic Women International and of Conference of Celtic Women. These two organizations produced eleven conferences for Celtic women from 1998 through 2008. Among the celebrated women who were brought from Ireland for the conferences were: Morgan Llywelyn, Alice Taylor, Meda Ryan, Maggie Cronin, Padraigin Clancy, Clodagh Horner and Dolores Keane.

In addition, a series of ongoing lectures for Celtic women have been held in Milwaukee since 1997 featuring Celtic topics by and for Celtic women from all seven Celtic nations. The lectures are currently held at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center ten times per year.



We have been notified of the death of IGSW member Edward J. Sayers of Bayville, New Jersey. We extend our sincerest sympathy to his family and friends and to all members of IGSW who have lost loved ones this past year. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Griffith's Valuation Revisited

By Kristine Mooney, Ph.D.

There is increasing material available online to help you with Griffith's research. The Griffith's Land Valuation Survey of 1848-1864 is an indispensable tool in reconstructing your ancestors' mid 1800s situation in Ireland. After the tragic loss of most of Ireland's 1800s census data in 1922, the Griffith's Survey came to be known as a "census substitute". It is actually a Survey conducted solely for taxation purposes. The Irish Poor Law Act of 1838 led to creation of 137 districts known as Poor Law Unions, each supporting a poor house. The Survey lists all households in Ireland and names the person responsible for taxes designated to support the local poorhouse. For most Irish, that person is a leaseholder rather than an owner, and the Survey notes the value of the acreage and buildings. Studying the accompanying maps helps you hypothesize about relationships and the likely neighbors, churches, schools, poorhouses and market towns that had a role in your ancestors' lives. Whether your ancestors emigrated before, during or after the famine, it is very probable that some of their relatives appear somewhere in the Griffith's Survey.

Working with Griffith's requires a name and a place, specifically a **townland**. The townland is a very old and very small unit of place in Ireland. The word 'townland' was originally based on 'ballyboes', the size of a land parcel deemed sufficient to sustain a cow. These townlands can be as small as a few acres or as large as several thousand acres in sparsely populated remote areas. Finding your townland is a key step in using Griffith's because the Survey is organized by townland. Searching the Griffith's for your surname can be done via the Grenham's CD or at the <u>askaboutirelnad.ie</u> website. Other sites such as <u>Ancestry.com</u> also now report Griffith's entries. Such "fishing" can help narrow down the list of possible townlands, but you will need to do further research to confirm you have the right place. Headstones, obituaries, local histories, Missing Friends advertisements, immigration records, etc - all can help identify that elusive townland.

The 60,000 townlands of Ireland are embedded in approximately 2500 civil parishes that in turn lie within the 32 counties that comprise the 4 provinces of Ireland. Note that the embedding is not perfect: while the townlands have clearly defined perimeters, some townlands straddle two parishes just as some parishes straddle two counties. Another complication is that townlands and parishes, and counties for that matter, may have the same name, so if an ancestor is from, say, 'Roscommon', you need to determine whether that place refers to the county, the parish or the market town of Roscommon. Another problem is that the spelling of your townland may not be consistent. The 1830's Ordnance Survey did standardize the spelling of townlands, but that doesn't mean your people complied with 'proper' spelling or stopped using a colloquial place name, e.g. "Raspberry Hill" in the case of my Sligo Connollys.

Once you have identified the townland, a good first step is to explore the townland's location and features. <u>maps.Google.com</u> can show you the current terrain, and Survey maps are available at our Irish Emigration Library and at <u>askaboutireland.ie</u>. You want to know your townland's position relative to county and civil parish boundaries, roads, churches, cemeteries and market towns. The closest resource may not have been the most accessible, so notice natural features such as rivers, lakes, bogs and mountains. Be sure to list the surrounding townlands, noting which are most accessible; your ancestor may have leased an additional parcel there or married into a family from there.

Now that you have a sense of place, let's turn to the Griffith's Valuation Survey. The detailed valuation reports and maps are available at **askaboutireland.ie**. Click on the 'Griffith's' box on the homepage, then search by surname or place name. Your search will result in a list of matches, and hopefully the list will be short.

You will see the following screen. In this example, a Missing Friends notice led me to search for the name Mooney in Kilcleagh parish in Westmeath.

		iriffith's Valuatio					
			Results :	1 to 3 of 3			
Occupier Surname	Occupier Forename	County	Parish	Details	Original Page	Map Views	Upload your content for this record
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MOONEY	DANIEL	WESTMEATH	KILCLEAGH	Q,		00	6
MOONEY	EDWARD	WESTMEATH	KILCLEAGH	Q		00	8

The second listing is a Daniel Mooney in the townland Hall, the place mentioned in Missing Friends. That, together with the name Daniel leading off five generations of my Mooneys here in America, tells me I likely have the right entry.

As the instructions state, clicking on the 'original page' icon will bring up the Survey page with the Survey data.

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My Daniel Mooney is listed fifth from the bottom (4 a) and he is a **cottier**, one who leases only a few acres. Maps reveal the townland of Hall to be very near the border with County Offaly and blocked to the south by a giant bog. County Offaly later proves to be significant, and its relevance might have been overlooked without taking time to view the maps.

Let's explore the information contained in the Griffith's Survey column by column. We will use the following example of Derrycarbry, Roscommon. Among the tenants there is my GGGF Michael Hayden.

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The first column notes the map reference - more on that later. Next are listed the names of **occupiers** or leaseholders, followed by the name of the **lesser** or landlord. For each property, only the person responsible for the lease is listed as an occupier. Leases were often written to last for the life of three persons: the occupier, a second person usually a son of the occupier, and a third person, sometimes a royal figure. Such a lease, termed a 'lease of lives' lasted until the death of all three parties. The Griffith's Survey lists only the occupier, and you will not find all members of the household listed as you find in a census. But other information may be very helpful. At the very least you have the names of neighbors, and members of these families may play some role in your ancestor's life after emigration. Watch for these names in U.S. census records, naturalization records, marriage and baptismal records, and other papers related to your ancestor.

Additional clues may be present in specifics of the Survey results. If you see multiple occupiers grouped within a bracket, as above, this indicates a shared lease, termed a **rundale**. All the occupiers share joint responsibility for the rent, though each have their own leased land, some with more acreage than others. Similar to cosigning a mortgage in current times, a **rundale** suggests very close relations within the group. A family relationship is likely, and close examination of baptism and other records can help investigate such relationships.

Another type of clue may lie in the Surveyor's annotating names. If two persons have the same name, they are distinguished by an **agnomen**, Latin for 'additional name', added in parentheses after the occupier's name. The Surveyors were instructed that when "two or more persons in a townland have the same Christian and surname, it will be necessary to obtain an agnomen (as Farmer). The most common agnomens were (junior) and (senior). Often father's names were used as agnomens, e.g. Patrick Kelly (Daniel) vs. Patrick Kelly (Patrick) - a wonderful clue for the genealogist. Sometimes physical characteristics, e.g. (tall) or location e.g. (hill) were used to discriminate the pair. More rarely you may find an agnomen employed when there is **not** an identical name listed for the townland. This

is still significant. If a place is named, the agnomen likely identifies the residence of the leaseholder when it is some place other than that townland. If a name or characteristic is the agnomen, it serves to distinguish the responsible leaseholder from a nonlisted, similarly named person *in that same household*, another tantalizing clue for the genealogist.

Next is the verbal description of the holding. The word 'house' means you have found where your ancestor lived, but if the description shows only 'land', you need to search the surrounding townlands for a residence. The word 'offices' usually refers to farm buildings, not to be confused with modern day offices. Rarely you may find a helpful entry such as 'forge' or 'herdsman house' that is a clue to occupation.

Next come the numbers. First is the measure of land, in statute acres, roods and perches, annotated as 'A. R. P.' \Im

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These measures are related to older measurement units, e.g. chains, poles and furloughs. An acre, based on an area able to be plowed by an ox in one day, contains 4,840 square yards as it does today, and a rood is one-quarter of an acre or 1,210 square yards. A perch is a smaller measure of 30 1/4 square yards or 272 square feet, the size of a larger living room. A perch also equals a square rod, the rod being a linear measure of 16.5 feet. Don't confuse a perch/square rod with the much larger quarter acre rood!

The last three columns state the value of the acreage, the value of the buildings, and the total value. The value reflects what would be a reasonable annual rent for the holding, and is listed in British pounds and shillings, with twenty shillings equaling one pound. The monetary columns are headed ' \pounds s. d.', referring to pounds, shillings and pence. The third d. column for pence (12 pence to a shilling) invariably has entries of zero. Poor cottiers' residences were valued at around 5 shillings, while house values over 1 pound suggest relative wealth. Values tend to be lower in remote and rural areas. Building and land values can be a clue to the status of your ancestor in the townland.

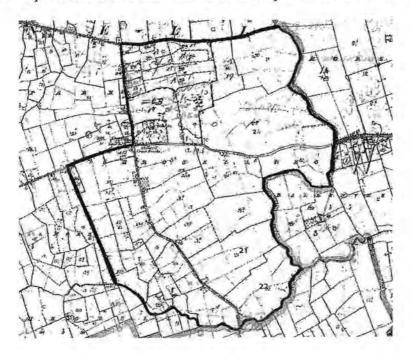
Your next step is to examine the map by clicking on the map icon back at the search results page. The resulting screen will look like a pink spider web; just zoom in and the map will remain centered on your townland. Just below the townland name on the map, you will see 'A. R. P.' and the listed acreage figures should match the total acreage for the townland in the Survey. If the total acreage and the number of parcels and their sizes seem to match the Survey data, then congratulations! You can identify the exact parcel within the townland where your ancestor lived. There is even a toggle at the top right on the <u>askaboutireland.ie</u> map page that shifts the map from mid 1800s to current day maps. This is a wonderful tool for planning a visit to your ancestral home.

It may be though that the maps and the Survey data do not match. Unfortunately, the Survey maps were redrawn when there were changes in ownership or in leases. This means that the map shown at **askaboutireland.ie** may not be the map referenced in the Griffith's Survey.

Other map collections available on paid sites may be of help in this situation. <u>Origins.net</u> (\$10.10 for 72 hours access) claims to have the largest collection of maps annotated by the Surveyors. The townland of Shronell Beg, Tipperary provides an example. Below is the Griffith's Survey page and the map of Shronell Beg from <u>Askaboutireland.ie</u>. Note how the total acreage is the same for both (558) but the plot numbers do not match. The map shows only 16 plots, while the valuation list shows 22 plots leased.

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So this map is not a match with the Survey data. In this case, the **Origins.net** map shown below does show 22 plots and their relative sizes do line up with the Griffith's entries listed above.

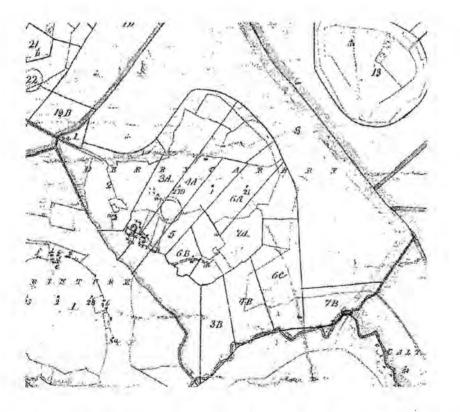


Origins.net may not always provide you with an answer. Let's return to the Griffith's for Derrycarbry in Roscommon whose tenants include my GGGF Michael Hayden. You recall the Survey clearly shows only 2 plots leased, one of them a shared lease or **rundale**.

VALUATION OF TENEMENTS

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Both the askaboutireland.ie map and the origins.net map show a much more complex division of Derrycarbry into multiple plots with many of these in turn subdivided. Below is the **Origins.net** map for Derrycarbry, essentially the same as the map at **askaboutireland.ie**.



Here the plots are numbered up to 8, and plots 3, 4, 6 and 7 are further subdivided. Definitely not a match to the Griffith's Survey data that shows only two parcels.

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The Valuation Office (Irish Life Centre, Lr Abbey Street, Dublin 1. Tel 817 1000 Website: www.valoff.ie) holds the "Cancelled Land Books" and "Current Land Books". These detail all hanges in holdings, from the time of the original valuation, up to the present day. The Valuation Office also holds the Ordnance Survey maps annotated/coloured to accompany the Valuation.

Visiting valoff.ie reveals that a Michael Hayden is listed as the current occupier of lot "3AB" in Derrycarbry. And this third cousin does indeed live on the homestead. A surprise is that 6 of the other 7 occupiers are named Gill, Flynn or Sheil -- very likely all are descended from the Gill, Flynn, Hayden and Sheil tenants from 150 years earlier. A quick look at the 1901 and 1911 Derrycarbry census (www.census.nationalarchives.ie) indeed shows these families do remain in Derrycarbry through time.

While the current numbering of land holdings at valoff.ie may not necessarily solve a mismatched Griffiths map problem, the site is worth checking. The website states that maps are "coming soon", and if they are these annotated maps, they have great research potential!

OUR IEL

Have you visited or been in contact with the Irish Emigration Library lately? If you haven't you may be surprised by the new material that is constantly being made available. Griffith's Valuation is available for your research and new books that may be just the help you need are all to be found at the IRISH EMIGRATION LIBRARY

The Library is open on Wednesdays from 2:00 – 6:00 pm. Appointments for other days and times are also available depending on the availability of the ICHC and library volunteers. Best to call the ICHC 414-345-8800 before coming to make sure the building will be open.

Members may also make use of the "Look Up" service that is offered.

For additional information and questions call: Jane Maher 414-258-9690

THE IRISH EMIGRATION LIBRARY Irish Cultural and Heritage Center 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53233-1910



12

Griffith's Survey Bits and Pieces

IGSW Round Table 10/1/2012

<u>What</u>: Griffith's Valuation Survey conducted between 1848 and 1864 lists all lease holding tenants and land owners in Ireland. The Survey also specifies the size and value of land held and the value of buildings.

Where and When: Below are the completion dates listed alphabetically by County

Antrim	10 July 1862	Leitrim	6 July 1857
Armagh	1 June 1865	Limerick	29 June 1853
Carlow	28 June 1853	Laois/Queen's	28 June 1853
Cavan	25 June 1857	Longford	6 July 1855
Clare	3 July 1856	Louth	5 July 1855
Cork	20 July 1853	Offaly/King's	2 July 1855
Derry/Londond	lerry 16 July 1859	Mayo	13 July 1857
Donegal	6 July 1858	Meath	10 July 1855
Down	12 July 1864	Monaghan	1 July 1861
Dublin	9 July 1853	Roscommon	1 July 1858
Dublin City	31 Oct 1854	Sligo	7 July 1858
Fermanagh	4 July 1864	Tipperary	29June 1853
Galway	29 June 1857	Tyrone	13 July 1860
Galway Town	14 July 1856	Westmeath	5 July 1855
Kerry	19 July 1853	Wexford	7 July 1854
Kildare	18 July 1854	Wicklow	4 July 1854
Kilkenny	8 July 1853	Waterford	5 July 1863
10 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -			

Key Terms:

Ordnance Survey alternate name for the Griffith's survey Occupier the name of the responsible lease holder or tenant Lesser the landlord Lease of Lives lease length equaling the life of the occupier and two others Lease of Years lease length written in years Rundale a group sharing responsibility for a lease; names are bracketed Agnomen Latin for 'additional name' distinguishing two tenants with the same name A. R. P. abbreviations for land measures of acres, roods, & perches Acre 4840 sq yds, based on the area an ox can plow in a day Rood 1/4 acre or 1210 sq yds Perch 30 1/4 sq yds or 1 sq rod, a rod being 16.5 feet £ s. d. abbreviations for British pounds, shillings (20=pound) and pence (12=shillings) Townland Ireland's smallest geographical unit, based on *ballyboes*, an area large enough to Poor Law Union 137 tax districts, each supporting a poor house DED or District Electoral Districts subdivision of poor law unions, and the grouping

framework for Griffith's townlands

The monument at Antietam to Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher & the Irish Brigade

September 17, 2012 marked the 150th anniversary of the Civil War battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg, Maryland). The battle has the ugly distinction of being the bloodiest single day of battle in American history, with 23,000 combined Union and Confederate dead, wounded and missing. The battlefield was visited by member Michele Patin and her husband, who snapped this photograph of the monument to Brig. Gen. Thomas Francis Meagher & the Irish Brigade while vacationing.

The monument is made from light grey granite originating in Co. Wicklow, Ireland, and was erected in 1997. It features a bronze bas-relief bust of Meagher on one side (shown), and a scene of the famed Irish Brigade in battle glory, flying its regimental colors on the other side. The monument is positioned near the observation tower at the end of the Sunken Road (A.K.A. "Bloody Lane"), the scene of an extraordinarily bloody assault by the Iron Brigade, commanded by Meagher, against several North Carolina Infantry Regiments. The inscription to Meagher reads:



BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER

THE IRISH BRIGADE COMMANDER WAS BORN IN WATERFORD CITY, IRELAND ON 23 AUGUST 1823. A WELL-EDUCATED ORATOR, HE JOINED THE YOUNG IRELAND MOVEMENT TO LIBERATE HIS NATION. THIS LED TO HIS EXILE TO A BRITISH PENAL COLONY IN TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA IN 1849. HE ESCAPED TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1852 AND BECAME AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. WHEN THE CIVIL WAR BROKE OUT, HE RAISED COMPANY K, "IRISH ZOUAVES," FOR THE 69TH NEW YORK STATE MILITIA REGIMENT, WHICH FOUGHT AT FIRST BULL RUN UNDER COLONEL MICHAEL CORCORAN. SUBSEQUENTLY MEAGHER RAISED THE IRISH BRIGADE AND COMMANDED IT FROM 3 FEBRUARY 1862 TO 14 MAY 1863. HE LATER COMMANDED A MILITARY DISTRICT IN TENNESSEE. AFTER THE WAR, MEAGHER BECAME SECRETARY AND ACTING GOVERNOR OF THE MONTANA TERRITORY. HE DROWNED IN THE MISSOURI RIVER NEAR FORT BENTON ON 1 JULY 1867. HIS BODY WAS NEVER RECOVERED.

- GRANITE FROM COUNTY WICKLOW IRELAND

NEWS FROM THE WEB

by Mary Kay Kuhfittig

TITHE APPLOTMENTS ONLINE

At long last, images of Ireland's Tithe Applotment Books are available free at the National Archives site, <<u>http://www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie</u>>

Tithes were assessments against landholders to support the Established Church of Ireland. Valuation of land was done beginning in 1823 and ending 1837. The books are considered a census substitute, but are not comprehensive. Only the land holder is named, not the entire household.

The National Archives also provides access to the 1901 and 1911 censuses, and soldier's wills, 1914-1917.

Planned future resources are:

Calendars of Wills and Administrations (1858-1922) Nineteenth-century census survivals (1821-1851) Valuation Office House and Field Books (1848-1860) Census search forms for the 1841 and 1851 censuses

NATIONAL LIBRARY PLANS

The National Library, located in Dublin, has been considering ways to provide its collection of genealogical records online. These would include parish records, directories, registers of elections, journals, newspapers and its photographic archive.

The library is now searching for a commercial partner to finance the project, which is thought to cost millions of euros. This would mean that when the records go online it will probably be through a fee-based service.

DEATH INDEXES ONLINE

<<u>www.deathindexes.com</u>> is what is says-----links to websites containing online death indexes, organized by state, county, and also a few large cities. Death records, death certificate indexes, notices and registers, obituaries, probate indexes and cemetery and burial records are listed.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS A DONOR FOR FAMINE RELIEF

In 1847 Abraham Lincoln, a newly elected member of the House of Representatives, gave \$10 (about \$500 in today's money) to Ireland for relief during the Great Famine. This was recently discovered by Irish historian, Christine Kenealy, who found the record while preparing for a book to be published at the end of 2012. The book is titled *International Donations, Private Charity for Ireland during the Great Hunger: The Kindness of Strangers*, and will be published by Bloomsbury Press.

Kinealy has remarked that "Lincoln always had a great affinity for the Irish and their plight. He kew and recited Robert Emmet's speech from the dock and his favorite ballad was Dady Dufferin's porm 'The Lament of the Irish Emigrant" set to music."

NAZI SECRET PLANS TO INVADE IRELAND

Documents with detailed plans for German invasion of Ireland, called "Operation Sealion" have recently been auctioned. Although Ireland remained neutral during World War II, the German military saw it as a potentially strategic spot. Invasion plans were scrapped by Hitler and his generals in September, 1940, when it became clear that the British RAF was a powerful defense against the German Luftwaffe.

The papers, with maps, photographs of strategic cities and sites, have been in possession of a family who have kept them private. The action was held at Lludlow Race Course in Shropshire, England. It was expected to sell for 600 pounds (\$957), but ended going to a Dublin bidder for 2,190.56 pounds (\$3,493.52)

IRISH PETTY SESSIONS COURTS

If you have the good luck to have an ancestor charged with a minor crime, you have a great opportunity to add to your family history.

The Petty Sessions Courts began in the 1820s and were standardised by law in 1851. Each county was divided into petty session districts, each with a number of Justices of the the Peace. Individuals could be charged by either police constables or other individuals. The most common offence, one-third of all cases, was drunkeness. 21% of cases related to revenue or tax cheating, 16% were assaults, local acts of nuisance 5%, and destruction of property 4%. Local acts of nuisance often referred to trepass by livestock causing damage. Poaching, taking firewood or turf, failing to obtain a dog licence, and failing to maintain fences and boundaries were also typical cases.

So where can these wonderful records be found? The original records are kept at the National Archives in Dublin. They include the 26 Republic counties with about 15 million cases and about 45 million name references. They mostly date from 1850 to 1910.

FindMyPast.ie is now digitising these records. They have been microfilmed by the LDS church and may be ordered through their Family History Centers

Records for the six counties in Northern Ireland are held at PRONI in Belfast. They have not been digitised or filmed.

Reports of some cases appeared in local papers.

The Enniskerry (Co. Wicklow) Local History Group has transcribed some of their local Petty Sessions records online at <<u>http://enniskerryhistory.org/home</u>> FindMyPast.ie is now digitising these records. They have been microfilmed by the LDS church and may be ordered through their Family History Centers

ENCUMBERED ESTATES COURT RECORDS

The Encumbered Estates Court was set up in 1849 to deal with the insolvency of landholders in Ireland after the Great Famine. Between 1849 and 1875 the Court sold around 8000 estates. Over half a million tenants are identified in the records, and every county is encluded.

Originally, these records could only be viewed at Dublin's National Archives. Now they are accessible at <FindMyPast.ie> which is a fee-paying site.

What can be found in these records? Estates were broken into lots, with each sale including names of tenants, the value of their rents and the terms of their tenancy. Maps are usually included. Lots in towns and villages are included as well as agricultural land.

US IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION PROJECT

Volunteers who indexed the 1940 census for Family Search completed the project in five months. Now Family Search is asking for volunteers to index passenger lists, naturalization records and other immigration related records. Volunteers may learn more and join in the project at <familysearch.org/immigration>

YELLOW FEVER AND THE IRISH

A recent study of 19th century outbreaks of yellow fever in U.S. southern cities, has revealed that a disproportionate number of sufferers were Irish immigrants, especially adult males.

Yellow fever is a tropical disease caused by a virus transmitted by mosquitos. It can not be transmitted from human to human. An epidemic ends once all susceptible humans have been infected and there are no more mosquitoes.

Studies of epidemics in southern cities such as Savannah and New Orleans show that children usually exhibited a milder form of yellow fever, and thereafter had lifetime immunity. Shiploads of Irish adult immigrants who had never been exposed to the virus provided fresh victims for the deadly mosquitoes. Once arrived at a southern city, Irish men tended to reside close to low swampy ground, a perfect breeding spot for mosquitoes. The men often found employment doing manual labor out of doors where mosquitoes, more prevalent in the daytime, were attracted to sweaty flesh.

In Savannah, Bartholomew Stephens, a 23-year-old Irishmen, died of yellow fever only two weeks before he arrived, and 25-year-old Michael Bennet lasted only ten days. James Gallagher, a 21-year-old carpenter who had been working on the roof of a house and walked about a mile two or three times a day to his work, was another early victim.

MORE FREE IRISH GENEALOGY BOOKS ONLINE

<<u>http://freeirishgenebooks.blogspot.com</u>> links to almost 5,000 books on the topic of Irish, Irish-American, Irish-Austrlian and Irish Canadian genealogy. They can all be free of charge online, and most can also be downloaded to readers such as Kindle, iPad, Tablet, etc.

U.S. CIVIL WAR'S FIRST CASUALTY WAS AN IRISHMAN

36-year old Private Daniel Hough, from somewhere in Tipperary, is thought to have been the first man killed in the Civil War. Hough emigrated to the U.S. in 1849, and enlisted in the army a short time later. Military records show he was 5 feet, 8 inches tall, with gray hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion. He was serving as an an artillerist at Fort Sumpter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina when war began with a Confederate attack in Aprill 1861. Although Confederate cannons had launched over 3,000 rounds in a two-day attack, no Union soldier was killed in the assault. The Union Army was offered an honorable surrender and given a 100-gun salute to fallen Fort Sumpter. On the 47th round a cannon fired prematurely, and Daniel Hough was accidentally killed.

It's not known were Daniel Hough was buried. He probably was initially buried on the parade ground at Fort Sumpter, but family from New York consisting of his mother, two sisters and a brother, William petitioned the government to have his body exhumed and returned.

GOLD RUSH IN IRELAND?

Counties Wicklow and Wexford are showing promise of having quantities of gold available for mining. The Connemara Mining Company has joined with a Canadian exploration firm to search. There is precedent for a search since the area was the site of a 1796 gold rush. Attention is being focused around the town of Avoca in County Wicklow where 7,000-9,000 ounces of gold were found over a 40-year period in the 1700s. As recently as 1959 a gold strike there set off another rush. Old footage of local people prospecting for gold may be seen at
britishpathe.com/video/gold-find-in-wicklow-mountain-ireland>

IRISH QUOTE

"My Ulster blood is my most priceless heritage."

James Buchanan, 15th President of the United States.

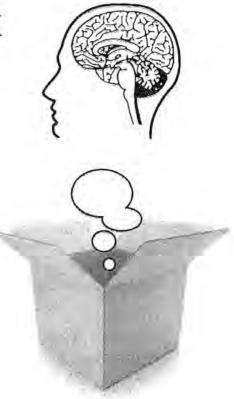
Thinking Outside the Box

IGSW Roundtable, October 1, 2012 Moderated by Michele Patin

Over the course of our genealogical research, most of us have got stuck one time or another. We hit the brick wall, with no way over, no visible chinks, no toehold, and no ladder of course. We throw up our hands in frustration, and repel the well-meaning advice of friends and experts alike: "Tried it!" "Been there!" "Do you think I haven't *thought* of that?!"

But sometimes when we're stuck, it's in a box of our own creation. Perhaps something about our research strategy has constrained us into a mindset that can only lead to failure. Are we asking the wrong questions? Have we ignored evidence or ruled out possibilities? Should we question assumptions?

At our October Roundtable, we invited people to try "Thinking Outside the Box." Members were asked to share experiences of how to think differently, to confront problems in novel ways, to work a genealogical problem out of its box and out into the open, where a more fruitful strategy can be played.



We started our discussion with a "box" from my own experience: I had no information about what happened to a collateral's wife. I knew her maiden name, I knew that she did not accompany her husband in the family's westward migration, and I knew that her husband appeared in later records as a widower. Finding her death record would be ideal, but impossible for rural Maryland in the 1850s. Finding her grave was another matter, however, since many cemeteries transcriptions are now online. I searched.... and searched to no avail. So I stopped searching, and started browsing.

Browsing is not the same as searching. Searching is linear: if you are on the wrong path, following it further will only lead you farther astray. Searching is also restricted and forces you to focus your attention and can lead to tunnel-vision — like ignoring erroneously filed or indexed documents, idiosyncratic spellings etc. Browsing is one way to get out of that box. It's like being at a bookstore. You may never discover your new favorite author unless you browse: walk around, glance at displays, and hover over the bargain tables. Or, it's like StumbleUpon, that gee-whiz tool of the Internet that lets you passively discover new web content you never knew existed, tailored to your interests (see: www.stumbleupon.com).

When I stopped searching, and started browsing, I began a fishing expedition, casting for *everything* I could find about the place my sought relative was last known to be living. I stumbled upon all kinds of local sources I had not considered before, and discovered that historic site surveys prepared in the 1970s are available online as "Inventory of Historic Properties" publications at the Maryland State Archives (see: <u>www.msa.md.gov</u> and <u>http://mdihp.net/index.cfm</u>). It was in a historic site survey that I found what I was looking for, quite by accident. The survey was of property belonging to a family whose name matched the maiden name of my elusive relative. The survey included not only an architectural assessment of the still-extant 1811 house and outbuildings, as well as historical background on its owners, but also a transcription of a tiny, overgrown and long-forgotten family burial plot adjacent to the property. And there was the woman I was looking for! In the site survey, her tombstone was transcribed as it read: with her first and middle name, followed by the name of her husband, and lastly the full names of her parents. *I never would have found that by searching — it came to light with random exploration*. And so our roundtable established the first of several ideas for "thinking outside the box:" **The Stumble Upon Principle.**

More discussion ensued, and our roundtable talked about the difference between focussed searching and random browsing techniques, as well as ways to search with more dexterity. Maura Bournique pointed out that even "googling" a name can be helpful in itself for genealogical purposes. Mary Graves added that spelling flexibility is important to ensure you cast a wide enough net; for example search a surname with both "Mc" and "Mac" or without these prefixes, or look for the name with middle initial "M." where the "Mc" has been mistranscribed. Dick Ammann offered a caveat in regard to searching the new 1940 census data: the name spellings are really glitch-y! Be creative and think phonetically — and to get outside this particular box, be sure to search different indexes of the same census data, which were prepared by different people.

Another thread of discussion developed about *questioning your assumptions*. Sandra Christensen spoke of her experience researching her ancestral Crozier and Potts lines. Her breakthrough came when she cast off presuppositions about maiden names, married names, and widows and widowers marrying. And creative thinking is called for when trying to penetrate the haze that can sometimes surround tragic family circumstances. Others piped in: Mary Graves noted that when you see a wide range of years between an older daughter and a youngest child, for example, it's possible that the daughter has had a child out of wedlock, who is being raised as the "child" of the grandmother. Sue Dolinar agreed, and gave an example of a daughter no one knew about — and whose existence was brought to light only through examination of probate records. Mary Graves added that in Canada, don't be surprised to find a will filed with deeds, since both are instruments which convey real or personal property. So, our roundtable's second consensus principle for "thinking outside the box" was: **Challenge your preconceptions, and consider all possibilities**. *After all, "Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth," said the greatest detective, Sherlock Holmes*.

Our conversation about unexpected outcomes and looking in unusual places led to more thoughts on how to guess where genealogical treasure lies. Gary Shea said hunches do pay off. Say an ancestor lived to the venerable age of 103. Maybe someone interviewed her about her life. Couldn't you check local newspapers and school projects for what might be a gold mine of details? Tim Dowling offered an example of a genealogical school project for Little Chute, Wisconsin, hosted at Rootsweb (see: <u>http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=littlechute</u>), with information placed online which has been "compiled over the last 14 years as part of a class project where students study their ancestors and how they are related to one another." Discussion followed about other ways to enhance your intuitive powers and guess where to look. Imagine yourself in the time of your ancestor, construct a chronology of their life and a timeline of events happening around them, create a personal profile including their occupation, religion, politics and health, understand their motivations, get to know their neighbors, their town, etc. *This exercise will open your eyes to untried avenues of research*. Dick Amann emphasized that archivists in libraries and local repositories are vast stores of information: be kind to them (bring cookies, he suggests!) and they will connect you to amazing resources to help you formulate and pursue a hunch. Again, our roundtable arrived at a valuable general principle for "thinking outside the box": **Hunches make good hypotheses — follow them up**.

Next followed an exchange about thinking sideways to maneuver outside a box of genealogical frustration. Don't get mad, get "crabby" instead — be like the crab and move sideways when you can't move forward. If you shift laterally in your family tree to research the siblings of your ancestor, you will certainly learn more about your collateral kin, but you may also learn about their ancestors. And their ancestors are your ancestors. The sister of your great-great-greatgrandfather may be the one who inherited the family bible or took the photo album, or the one who stayed in touch with family back in Ireland, or the one who had exactly the documentation you lack. The "box" you are stuck in may be unique to your specific lineage. So our roundtable agreed on another general principle: **Collateral research can get you around brick walls**.

Jane Maher told a compelling story of both sideways-thinking and hunches. A breach in her ancestral family of Ogle County, Illinois, between sons of two different wives of Patrick Hickey led to a lack of information. Jane is descended from the first wife, and always wished to find where Patrick was buried. When Jane's son John recently handled funeral arrangements that took him to Rochelle, in Ogle County, here was an opportunity. John spoke with a funeral director there, enquiring about local Catholic cemeteries; but he could not locate Patrick Hickey's grave. One thing led to another, and someone mentioned that descendants still lived in the area. Following that hunch, John found himself at the residence of the great-grandson of Patrick Hickey, descended from the second wife! This descendant explained that Patrick is buried up in Rockford, because one of the sons of the first marriage owned a plot there. Thus, two collateral branches of a family were able to reconnect and

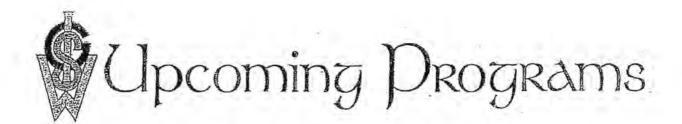
share information. Jane also pointed out that funeral directors can be a good source of information — they have good local family knowledge, are familiar with area churches and cemeteries, and have access to funeral records.

From there, discussion turned to a general consideration of cemeteries. That surely is thinking outside a different kind of "box!" Sue Dolinar pointed out that your browsing efforts can include walking or driving around a cemetery to get the lay of the land and learn the names contained there. Mary Graves noted that FindaGrave (see: <u>www.findagrave.com</u>) is a good place to prepare for such a visit. Dick Ammann observed that you should always look at plots adjoining graves you find. If you've brought a camera, take a photo of the entire group so you have a context for who is buried near whom. Maura Bournique agreed; often plots are sold in lots of eight, so look at all the persons buried there to unmask family relationships. Jane Maher nodded as well; large cemeteries are typically filled with small groups of plots purchased by families rather than individuals. *The roundtable concurred: graveyards are cities of the dead, and as such have neighborhoods, too.* Tim Dowling said that just as you would explore a family in the census by looking at others on the same page, and those before and after, you should glance about the cemetery, too. Mary Graves pointed out that the girl next door on a census page might be a future wife. Similarly, the woman in the family plot with a different surname might be a married daughter who died young; a lone elderly man might be a widowed father-in-law brought over from Ireland, etc. Thus, another all-purpose principle evolved from our "thinking outside the box": **Proximity is a good turn-key to family relationships**.

We weren't out of ideas, and I proposed one more to close: the notion of retracing our steps. As we mature as genealogical researchers, our instincts improve, and so do our skills at documentation. Many of us use elaborate filing systems, research logs, or software to track our progress; and all of us, hopefully, keep better records now than we did when we began with a shoebox. Yet somewhere in that shoebox is a document, photo or family story which has been begging for your attention. *And such is the wonder of the human brain — the greatest computer ever designed — that this item will immediately pop into your mind when confronted with the right trigger.* The right trigger would be a genealogical discovery that relates directly to a nagging item you've ignored for so long. When new evidence presents itself which corroborates or clarifies the evidence you already have, you will clap your hand to your forehead and exclaim "D'oh!" To speed up new discoveries, and to avoid forehead-clapping, open your genealogical shoebox and *let your brain re-catalog all those things you think you don't know.* Mine your own research for leads you've forgotten. Re-read your old notes from time to time. Fact-check your work as critically as a paid professional might. Be objective, be thorough. You may be surprised to learn that your best source for new research is the old pile you are sitting atop. In conclusion, one more "thinking outside the box" principle came to light from our roundtable: **It's never a waste of effort to retrace your steps to get out of a box.**

Near the end of our roundtable, member Darlene Chiappetta posed a challenging question about a box she was stuck in: What is the best way to initiate contact with a parish office to successfully get genealogical information? When parishes close or consolidate, and records move, genealogical inquiries often go unanswered or are responded to with incorrect pointers to other offices. Is there a trick to corresponding to get what you seek? The roundtable participants agreed this was a familiar problem. Advice included 1) visiting in person instead, 2) enclosing a donation with correspondence to compensate in advance, and 3) locating LDS microfilms of parish records photographed in the 1950s or 60s, before parish closure and consolidation caused confusion about record whereabouts. Can anyone out there suggest another way out of this box?

> If you have a "Thinking outside the box" strategy, or a story of creative genealogical reasoning to share with members, please write to IGSW at P.O. Box 13766, Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766 or email member Michele Patin at michele@GJD.com.



Monday, December 3, 2012 - 7p.m.

ICHC - Our annual holiday party.

Bring a treat to share.

Enjoy the conversation of other members and the music of June Brus.

June is a wonderful pianist and will be playing Irish and Christmas tunes.

There will be free coffee and tea and the bar will be open for you to purchase

sodas and alcoholic beverages.

Monday, January 7, 2013 – 7p.m.

Shorewood Library - 3920 N Murray Ave - Shorewood, WI

"A Visit to the Courthouse" by Jack Domencich

He will discuss getting information from the Registrar of Deeds, Probate and Land Records.

He will tell you how to work with the staffs in Milwaukee, Racine and West Bend

to trace your ancestors in each of these counties.

Monday, February 4, 2013

Shorewood Library - 3920 N Murray Ave - Shorewood, WI

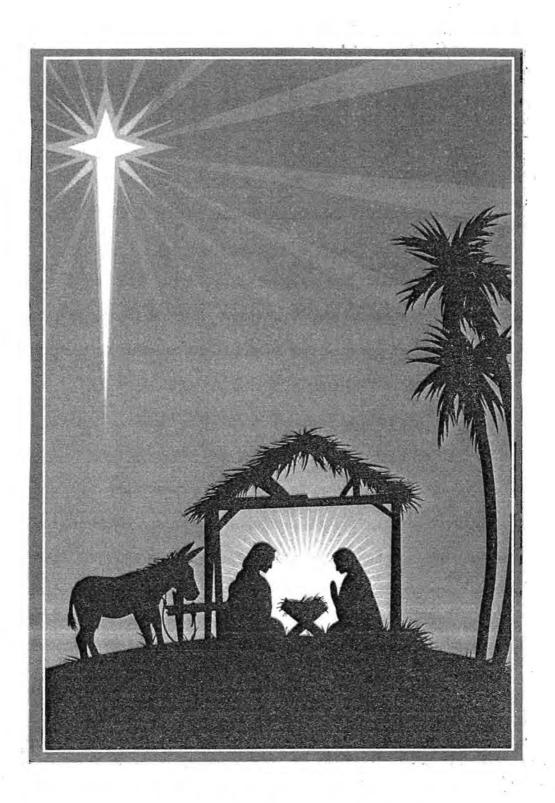
TO BE ANNOUNCED

Watch igswonline.com for further information as to time and place.

IGSW Programs are free and open to the public.

Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin . P.O. Box 13766 . Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766

2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233



A Blessed Christmas and may your New Year be filled with Joy and Peace to all people of Good Will



IGSW Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin P.O. Box 13766 Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766

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