



THE IRISH GENEALOGICAL QUARTERLY

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Table of Contents

President's Message.....	Gary Shea
The Tragedy Of Duffy's Cut.....	Mary Kay Kuhfittig
Beyond Names Dates and Places.....	Patricia Keeney Geyh
Recent Acquisitions Of The Irish Emigration Library.....	Mary Kay Kuhfittig
News From The Web.....	Mary Kay Kuhfittig
Research Request Form.....	Staff
"Who Do You Think You Are".....	Jane Maher Maher
March Meeting - The Dunn Family Collection and Francis O'Neill Cylinders	
April Meeting – IGSW Roundtables "Wormholes".....	Michele Patin
Irish Emigration Library Resources	Michele Patin
May Meeting – Potato Blight.....	Michele Patin
Upcoming Programs.....	Sue Dolinar

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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) vote in elections and Family membership has (2) votes in elections. The membership year runs from 1 March to 28/29 February.

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President's Message – Share Your Ideas

There are a handful of issues and topics that have the energies of your board. The biggest so far, measuring time spent in board meetings, surprised me. I think of the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin in terms of benefits to the members and community service. We're a non-profit providing Irish Fest Genealogy Tent staffing and co-ordination, support for the Irish Emigration Library, a readable informative periodical, the useful annual surname lists, a web site and monthly programs.

That last one, generally on the first Monday, at the Shorewood Library, the Irish Cultural & Heritage Center, or off site in diverse places ranging from the Milwaukee Police Academy on Teutonia Avenue to the Ward Irish Music Archives in Wauwatosa, delivers a regular dose of knowledge, inspiration, entertainment and camaraderie. I recall dozens of superb programs. They get me to reconsider my research, check into new-to-me untapped resources, perceive historical subtleties, and even gain a little wisdom. Over the years society members have been extremely fortunate to learn from James Ryan, John Grenham, Kyle Betit, Pat Geyh, Tom Cannon, Carl Baehr, John Gurda, Leonard Levine, Martin Hintz and so many many others.

To borrow from Shakespeare, there may be the rub. The board, now charged with program planning, is feeling some pressure. How do we keep the good stuff coming? A hole in the schedule – June – now thankfully filled – brought the task and the process to the front burner. We, the board, are talking about how to get the job done well. We are in training, teaching ourselves to be on the lookout, to be I.G.S.W. PR and sales people, strengthening our negotiation skills and foremost to be gracious hosts.

You can help. If you have an idea for a specific topic, let one of us know. We will follow up. Our names and contact information are on the front of the quarterly.

Gary Shea

THE TRAGEDY OF DUFFY'S CUT

When I was a child my mother talked about her Irish grandfathers coming to America and working for the railroad. I pictured them wearing the spiffy uniform of a conductor, or as engineers, merrily tooting the train whistle as they drove along. Of course, among thousands of other young Irish men, they were really doing hard physical labor, digging ground and laying tracks.

The bones of 57 of these men were recently discovered in an unmarked mass grave about 30 miles outside of Philadelphia. Twin brothers, William and Frank Watson, grandsons of a past assistant to a Pennsylvania railroad president, started looking through some old family papers. A 1909 company file alerted them to a 1832 cholera outbreak in a railroad camp that the newspapers had inexplicably smoothed over. The Watsons were sure there had been a coverup by the railroad so as to not discourage recruitment of more laborers, and in 2002 they started an investigation. Seven years later they made the initial find of human remains at the site called "Duffy's Cut."

Philip Duffy was a railroad contractor, responsible for hiring men to build a stretch of of the Philadelphia and Columbia railroad in 1832. Duffy was an Irishman himself, but of the middle class, able to speak Irish as well as English, and knowledgeable in the ways of the American economy. It is thought that his family came from Donegal in the 1790s. A local newspaper of the time mentioned that he was known to hire "the sons of Erin." In 1831 there was widespread famine in western Ireland. Ships arriving from Ireland were not as frequent then, so Duffy made sure he was at the dock whenever a shipload of immigrants arrived at Philadelphia. He could speak to them in Irish and promise them work, and even provide lodging at this house. The 1830 census record shows a total of twenty men between the ages of twenty and thirty living at the Duffy house.

In 1832 Duffy was instructed to take charge of Mile 59, a very tough and hilly stretch, the most difficult part of the line to construct. When the *Jack Stamp* came from Liverpool into the port of Philadelphia in the summer of 1832, fifty-seven young Irishmen, mainly from Donegal, and a few from Tyrone and Derry, disembarked. Duffy was there to greet them. Here was a man like themselves, from Donegal, a Catholic, and an Irish speaker, offering them immediate employment. They were to be paid fifty cents a day, provided with a shanty shelter, and given whisky to quench their thirst.

Six weeks later all fifty-seven were dead, their bodies thrown in a ditch.

For six weeks they had performed the punishing work of cutting through sticky and heavy clay soil containing stones and shale to level a hill, then taking it to fill a neighboring valley to flatten the ground where the railroad tracks would go.

In August cholera was raging over the countryside. The disease was caused by fecal contamination of drinking water, but people at that time supposed that the contagion was spread through the air. Irish Catholics were often blamed for the disease because immigrants died of it in disproportionate numbers. When some of the workers at Duffy's Cut started exhibiting symptoms, others fled to nearby houses, where they were turned away. Returning to the shanty, one after another became sick. It was unusual for all in a group to perish; a rate of fifty to sixty per cent mortality was more likely. Contemporary newspapers reported only a "handful" of men died. So far two skulls have been found showing significant trauma, which may indicate that some were murdered.

When cholera first broke out in the camp a neighboring blacksmith was the only person who was willing to tend to the men. When news of the outbreak reached Philadelphia the Sisters of Charity sent our four nuns to help. The blacksmith and the nuns all escaped the contagion. After all the men were dead the nuns were forced to walk back to the city, since fearful people along the way would not help them. After loading each body, one by one, on a sled to take to the burial site, the blacksmith torched the shanty.

Dr. William Watson, a history professor, was intrigued by his grandfather's papers revealing the cholera tragedy. A note with the papers stated that they should never be removed from the office. Reference was made to other documents which are missing, and believed destroyed. Dr. Watson believes that the 100 % casualty rate indicates that more was involved than cholera. Joined by his brother, Rev. Frank Watson, a Lutheran minister, he has dedicated years to finding the victim's remains and learning their stories.

After many excavations which revealed only artifacts such as clay pipes, one stamped with the image of an Irish map, an expert in geo-physics was brought in and subsurfacing imaging technology revealed a full grave 35 feet long by 15 feet wide. The first set of remains found were those of teen-ager John Ruddy. They know he's a teen-ager because the plates of his skull bones are not completely fused. He was five feet, six inches, with strong bones. He had a rare genetic defect in that he never grew an upper right molar. He was buried upside down, and a piece of track lay about a foot above his head. Nearby were the remains of the sled used by the blacksmith to drag each man over to the fill as he died. John Ruddy was probably the last man to be buried.

The Watson brothers are determined to find every last body and reinter the bones in sacred ground. The West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia will donate plots for any unclaimed

remains. DNA studies are being performed on remains recovered and attempts made to locate living family members in Ireland. A Ruddy family in Ireland who exhibit the same congenital defect as John Ruddy have already contacted the Watsons. If DNA studies confirm a relationship, the body will be shipped back to Ireland.

The Watsons found the following men from the ship record and believe they are among the dead:

George Doherty, age 28 from Donegal
John Ruddy, age 18 from Donegal
William Putetill, age 20 from Donegal
William Devine, age 21 from Donegal
James Deveney, age 26 from Tyrone
Daniel McCahill, age 25 from Donegal
Bernie McGarty, age 20 from Donegal
David Patchill, age 20 from Donegal

Robert Skelton, age 20 from Donegal
Patrick McAnamy, age 20 from Tyrone
Bernard McIlheaney, age 23 from Donegal
George Quigly, age 22, from Donegal
Samuel Forbes, age 23 from Tyrone
John McGlone, age 25 from Derry
John McClanon, age 24 from Derry

The Watson brothers need money to pursue DNA studies on the remains. Donations may be sent to: Duffy's Cut Project Headquarters
Immaculata University
21 Faculty Center
P.O. Box 667
Immaculata, PA 19345-0-0667

All throughout the United States, along canals, bridges and rail lines, there are certainly more nameless men buried in similar sites. Thanks to the Watson brothers and their associates, 57 young Irishmen will be taken from the trash heap in which their bodies were dumped, will be identified, and given proper burial.

SOURCES

William E. Watson, et.al. *The Ghosts of Duffy's Cut, the Irish Who Died Building America's Most Dangerous Stretch of Railroad* (Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2006)

1830 US Census, Willistown, Chester, Pennsylvania, Page: 225; NARA Roll: M19-148; Family History Film: 0020622

Abigail Tucker, "Ireland's Forgotten Sons Recovered Two Centuries Later," *Smithsonian Magazine*, April, 2010

Frances Trollope, *Domestic Manners of the Americans*, (Cambridge University Press, 2009)

"Unearthing the Grim Truth of Duffy's Cut," *the Ulster Herald*, August 30, 2007

Beyond Names Dates and Places

by Patricia Keeney Geyh

All genealogists hit a brick wall occasionally. That, of course, is the frustrating time when no matter how carefully and thoroughly the records have been checked it seems impossible to go back one more generation in a particular branch of the family tree. For Irish genealogists this is frequently when they have traced the ancestor back to the east or south coast of North America-- to the place where their Irish family first entered America.

Reaching the brick wall is sometimes the point at which the research information is, for all intents and purposes, put on the shelf. After all there is little or nothing more to be found. Right? To the diehard genealogist, however, this is the time to learn more about the ancestors that they have already identified.

To get to that wall it had definitely been essential to concentrate on names and dates and places. Genealogy however is more than just this. It is the record of people--our people--who were not necessarily famous or heroic, but lived their lives as best they could in this land we now call the United States of America. Because of them we are here. So how can we find more about them? It helps if we can locate the particular route they took to get to their final destination. For purposes of this discussion we will say that destination was Wisconsin.

During the 1700's large numbers of Irish from Ulster migrated into the British colonies. They were the descendants of the Scots who were brought into Ireland in the 1600's. In most cases they entered North America through Philadelphia. From there some traveled inland to the Pittsburgh area. Others came through the Great Appalachian Valley south into the Carolinas. After a time many followed the Wilderness Trail into Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and west. They were generally Protestant and were called Scots-Irish. Many stopped and settled at various spots along the Great Valley road and across the Appalachians.

After the Revolutionary War and before 1850 the majority of Irish immigrants into North America came into Canada and from there migrated into the United States. Of those who came into Canada it is estimated that only 1/3 stayed in Canada and they were primarily Protestant. Later on when so many thousands entered through New York City they would travel on the Hudson River north to Troy or Albany, New York where they would take the Erie Canal to Buffalo and then travel on the Great Lakes to Wisconsin. Additional thousands entered through Boston and would take wagons, or later, trains, to Troy or Albany where they too would board a boat on the Erie Canal.

Another port of entry much used by the Irish was New Orleans. Boarding a steamboat on the Mississippi enabled them to travel into the midwest with relative ease.

Whether in Canada or traveling through New York and the Great Lakes, or traveling along the Great Valley south and then into Tennessee and Kentucky, or traveling up the Mississippi from New Orleans, these people would stop and stay in towns along the way where they would work until they earned enough money to travel onward. When train travel became a reality these people traveled the rails.

Our assumption, for purposes of this discussion, is that our researcher has learned of some of the places in which the Irish immigrant settled on his/her path to the west. What we want to do here is learn more than just the names of these places. Remember we are not searching for specific information about our own ancestors, but we are searching for information about the sort of work they may have done, the activities in which they may have been involved, the sort of community in which they may have resided--in short the sort of life they led.

Perhaps a look at the **local newspapers** might be helpful. Most genealogists have looked at the newspapers in the communities in which their family settled. They have found records of death, marriage, birth as well as other important activities in which their family was involved. Even if the particular ancestor is not named in that paper however, there is still much to be learned.

The best paper in which to begin the search is that produced in the county seat. This gives information about all the major issues of the day in that community as well as the laws that were broken, the civic projects in progress, the elections being held. The advertisements are a mine of information. The pen and ink drawings of dresses for sale at the local shops give us an idea of how the women dressed. Did you think ads for medication to deal with erectile dysfunction are peculiar to 21st century culture? Think again! Then look for the patent medicine advertisements in the late 19th and early 20th century papers.

What sorts of activities took place in the local churches? What buildings were being constructed throughout the town? The county newspapers usually had gossip columns for each of the small towns in the county. They are a joy. One such columnist spoke harshly to the young men who went to dances with dirty hands because the girls then had a terrible time cleaning the back of their dresses after dancing with them.

The front pages of these papers usually had articles dealing with national and international events. Our ancestors may not have been literate, but they knew those who were, and exchanged information in the pubs and in the sewing circles. This, then, is a picture of what was important to them--of the life they led.

County histories are also invaluable sources of information. Towards the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century publishers went in to the various counties in Wisconsin and announced they were writing a county history. They did a fairly accurate job of writing the history of that county as well as the history of the various towns, large and small, within that county. This is excellent information to use as background when understanding the lives of our family members.

In addition to these histories written by professionals, the residents of the county were offered an opportunity to purchase space in the book to write about the history of their own family. Some purchased a quarter of a page and some purchased more, even two or three pages. Oftentimes this family information included naming all the ancestors of these people, back to the immigrant coming into Wisconsin. The "every name" index in the back of these books usually includes only the names of the persons who bought the space, not all the names given in every family article. The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society has created a truly complete every-name index for each of these books and they are readily available in most Wisconsin libraries.

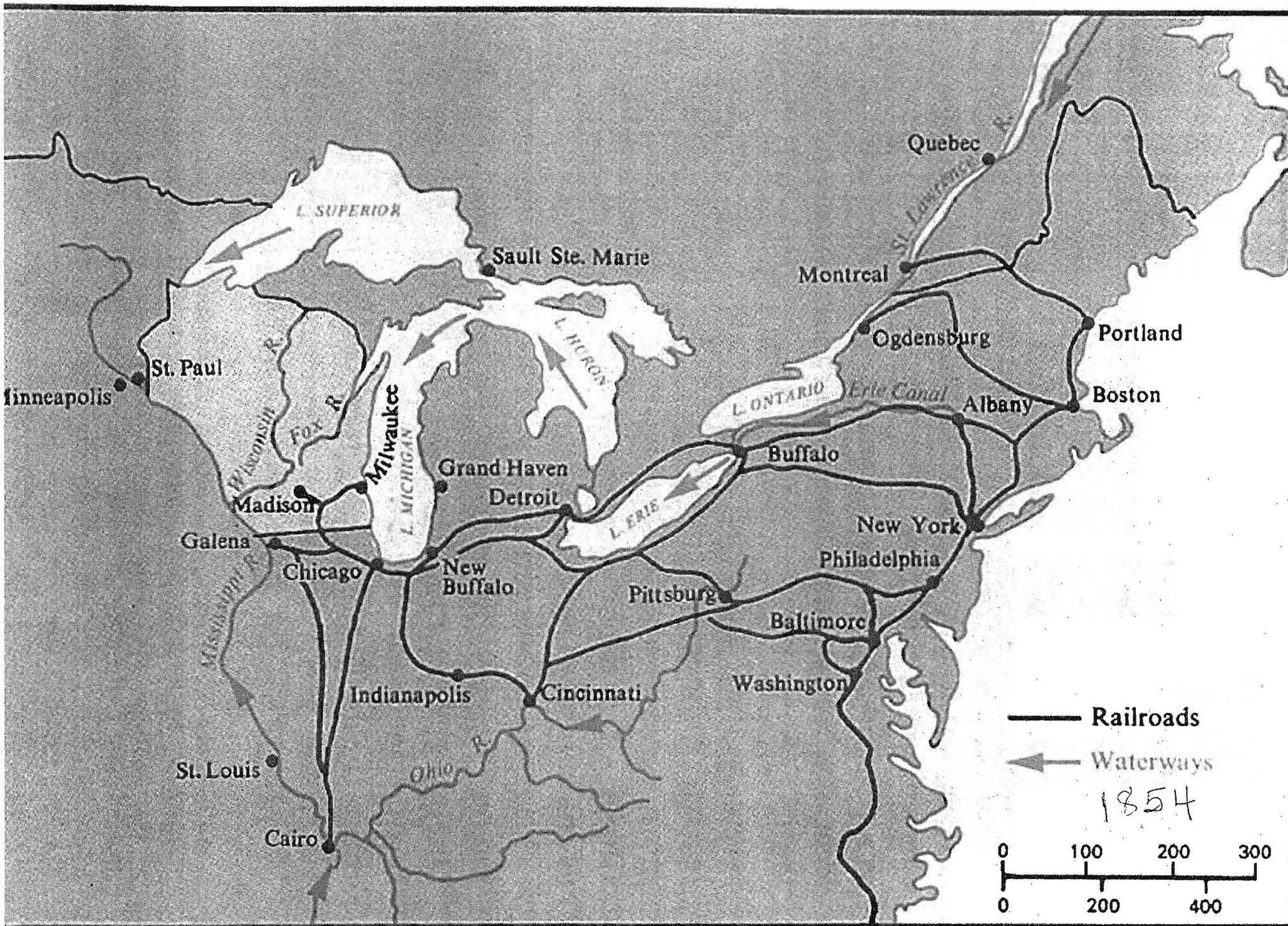
Diaries are excellent sources of information--by this is meant diaries of anyone living in the area of interest to the genealogist, not necessarily the diary of a family member. Names, places, items of interest to the diarist are all of value to the researcher working to learn of the lifestyle of her/his family in this area. The diary that is on the table beside me as I write this article is a dead bore. Nonetheless it clearly tells of the life of tedium and routine lead by the woman who wrote it and is undoubtedly typical of the life of other ladies in her area at this time.

A large percentage of the Irish who migrated into Wisconsin were Roman Catholic. The book ***The Catholic Church in Wisconsin*** published by the Catholic Historical Publishing Company in 1896 is a wonderful source of information for this group. There is a description of each parish in existence at the time of publication. If a large percentage of the members of that particular parish came from another nearby parish that second parish is listed. The ethnic background of the members of the parish are often given. The activities and organizations within the parish are noted.

The regular population schedules of the U.S. Census have been perused carefully by all genealogists. The information on these population schedules is invaluable for, among other things, finding the places between the port of entry and Wisconsin in which some of the children were born. Few researchers, however, have studied the **Social Schedules**. In these are listed all the churches in each community, all the cemeteries and in some cases maps of their locations, social organizations and businesses. These schedules are difficult to find, but those for Wisconsin are located at the Wisconsin State Historical Society library in Madison, Wisconsin.

In recent years many small communities and many parishes have written histories of their communities and organizations. These usually celebrate an anniversary or major event in the community. Generally speaking they are well done with a great deal of local research and explore the lives of those living within the community.

We come to the end of this discussion with the hope that all of us will continue to work to re-create the environment, the problems, the thoughts, the joys --in short, the lives of our ancestors. There are many sources not discussed in this article that can be of value in this pursuit--it is hoped that this discussion has encouraged you to find them.



RECENT ACQUISITIONS OF THE IRISH EMIGRATION LIBRARY

by Mary Kay Kuhfittig

DONATIONS

Joanna McDonald, *The Faces of Irish Civil War Soldiers*, (Redondo Beach, CA, Rank and File Publications, 1999) US 42 McD

Mark Codd, *Kelly and Killanne in 1798* (Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford: Corrigeen Tee Publishing) IRE WEX 30 COD

Peter Duffy, *The Killing of Major Denis Mahon* (New York: Harper Collins, 2007) IRE ROS 30 DUF

Sean Duff, ed., *The Macmillan Atlas of Irish History*, (New York: Macmillan Co., 1997) IRE 30 DUF

Ordnance Survey Letters Offaly, Letters Containing Information Relative to the Antiquities of the King's County, Collected During the Progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1837-38, (Dublin: Four Masters Press) IRE OFF 61 HER

Anne Coleman, *Riotous Roscommon, Social Unrest in the 1840s*, (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 1999) IRE ROS 30 COL

Samuel Ward Stanton, *Stanton's American Steam Vessels, The Classic Illustrations* (Mineola, NY: Dover Publishing, Inc., 2002) US 53 STA

Maire MacConhail, *Tracing Irish Ancestors*, (New York: Harper Collins, 1997) IRE 25 MaC

Wright's West Allis (Milwaukee County, Wisconsin) City Directory, 1970, (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Co., 1970)

NEWS FROM THE WEB

By Mary Kay Kuhfittig

1. *Ancestry* magazine, which has discontinued publication, has placed all of its sixteen year issues on google books. Go to google books and search for "Ancestry," or type in the following url.

<http://books.google.com/books/serial/FTgEAAAAMBAJ?rview=1&lr=&sa=N&start=0>

2. Trinity College Library has provided 3,400 depositions of 1641 from Protestant men and women of all classes, reporting their experiences after the Irish Catholic Rebellion. Quoting from the site: "provides a unique source for the social, economic, cultural, religious and political history of 17th-century Ireland, England and Scotland." The depositions are fully searchable and free. Access them at:

<http://1641.enneclan.ie>

3. More church baptism, marriage and burial records from pre-1900 will be added for Dublin City, Carlow, Cork City, West Cork and Kerry after June 16th at:

www.irishgenealogy.ie

4. Among many other things they have been digitizing www.familysearch.org has added the following records for Ireland:

Births and Baptisms 1620-1881

Deaths 1864 -1870

Marriages 1619-1898

Civil Registration Indexes 1845-1958

5. A new website, www.MormonMigration.byu.edu has passenger lists from Europe to America, and transcriptions of immigrant first-hand accounts. They plan to include scholarly articles about western migration, documents, images and maps. The information is not restricted to Mormons.

6. The LDS Family History Center Library will change the ordering of microfilm to an online process only. This will be available in November or December of 2010.

7. County Clare has 47 Catholic parishes with approximatedly 500,000 baptismal records. The Clare Roots Society has transcribed the Ennis Parish (Drumcliff) Birth and Marriage Registers. This includes baptismal records from 1841 to 1900 and marriage records from 1837 to 1900. It is planned to eventually transcribe all Clare parishes. The Ennis records are at:

www.ennisparish.com/genealogy

8. A Massachusetts native in possession of documents that detail Co. Roscommon Irish families for many generations beginning in the mid 1700s has donated them to the Ballykilcline Society. They will be displayed at the Kilglass Parish community center and at two Roscommon branch libraries. The documents list dozens of descendants of people from Kilglass Parish who emigrated to Rutland, Vermont. The Ballykilcline Society has given copies to the New England Historical and Genealogical Society in Boston, the Rutland Society in Vermont, and the Roscommon Heritage Center in Strokestown. To learn more about the Ballykilcline Society and to see many Irish genealogy links go to:

www.ballykilcline.com

9. The National Archives of Ireland already has the 1911 census online, and will upload the full 1901 census sometime in June. The site is at:

www.nationalarchives.ie

10. The Irish Family History Foundation has added the following records to its database: County Wicklow Church of Ireland records, Derry City gravestone inscriptions and Inishowen (Northeast Donegal). See www.brsgenealogy.com

**Research Request Form
IGSW Members Only**

**Irish Emigration Library
2133 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1910**

Name: _____

Address: (Including ZIP) _____

Phone (With Area Code) _____ e-mail _____

Research Subject _____ Sex _____

(One only – if person both First and Surname)

If known: Co. In Ireland _____ Parish _____

Townland _____ Birth _____ Death _____

Port and approx. date of emigration _____

State Question/Problem: _____

If you have a Family Group Sheet that includes the search subject please send it along with any other information that you feel will assist the researcher.

Please check type of search requested: (See reverse side for explanation of a search)

Search 1 _____ Search 2 _____ Search 3 _____ Search 4 _____

Search 5 _____ Search 6 _____ Search 7 _____ CDs _____

Cost for Members of IGSW \$4.00 per search

Enclose a check for number of searches _____ X \$4.00 = _____

Send to the above address. Note: Fee will cover copy and mail costs. When possible our reply will be made by e-mail. Every effort will be made to fill your request. However, fees are not refundable.

For Staff Use Only -- Date Received: _____ Request No. _____

Name of Researcher: _____

Date Started _____ Date Completed _____

SEARCH ONE:

This search is structured to identify the six major administrative divisions (county, barony, civil parish, diocese, poor law union and probate) as well as the location of churches and graveyards if a parish or townland is known. Four major resources, including three books by Brian Mitchell are used:

- 1) General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland (includes Ordnance Survey Map numbers)
- 2) Guide to Irish Parish Registers (earliest dates, all denominations)
- 3) Guide to Irish Churches and Graveyards (location of all denominations)
- 4) New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland (maps of major administrative divisions)

SEARCH TWO

The Index of Milwaukee County Naturalization Records of Irish Born From 1836 to 1890 by Josephine Christon.

SEARCH THREE

- 1) **US Census Index** – Here you must specify three contiguous or non contiguous census years between 1790 and 1920 (There is no 1890 census, nor are all states covered 1900-1920.) If you specify a State we will also search CDs dedicated to that state and year.
- 2) **Ireland Census Index** – Dublin City 1851, Ireland 1831 (Co. Londonderry), 1841 (Co. Cavan), Surviving Census Records of the 1851 Census.
- 3) **United Kingdom Census Index** – British Census 1851, 1881
- 4) **Canadian Census Index** – Canadian Census 1881

SEARCH FOUR

Index to Griffith's Valuation - This is an evaluation of land for tax purposes conducted between 1848 and 1864. The CD yields the full name of the householder, his county, parish and townland of residence.

SEARCH FIVE

Tithe Applotment records were levied in the 1823 – 1838 period. There are three resources available at our library.

- 1) **Index of Tithe Applotment for Northern Ireland** – Counties Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh, and Tyrone.
- 2) **Index of Tithe Applotment for County Longford**
- 3) **List of Tithe Defaulters** - Counties Carlow, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, and Wicklow

SEARCH SIX

Index to Ontario Land Records – This is an index on microfiche of the original transaction with settlers on the Ontario Crown Lands. It also includes Peter Robinson settlers and those who leased or purchased land through the Canada Land Company

SEARCH SEVEN

In addition to the above resources you may select any two CDs from our extensive collection. Here you may wish to further refine your research goal. You may review our collection by visiting our Website at www.execpc.com/~igsw then click on "Wisconsin Resources" and finally on "Computer Resources". You may print this listing. Excluded are **Grenham's Irish Surnames** and **Grenham's Irish Record Finder**.

“WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE”

Jane Maher

The popular TV Series featuring celebrities tracing their family trees was first shown on BBC. Researching family history is one of the United Kingdom's most rapidly growing pastimes.

Ancestry.com has partnered with NBC to show the series in America. A celebrity or not, you have the same material to draw upon. The process may have moved a bit quicker by hiring professional genealogists to do the research but we all have the same resources to work with.

Start with yourself, who ever you are, and go back one generation at a time. The value of censuses, vital records, newspapers and oral history were all evident in the series.

Have you visited the Irish Emigration Library of late? You many be surprised at what you might find. Genealogical Records are an ever evolving process. Just because you looked for it once and did not find it, at a later date it could be available.

Many IGSW Members work in the Genealogical Pavilion at Irish Fest and we look forward to seeing you August 19th-22nd. If you are beginning your family history research, an advanced researcher or up against a “brick wall” we may just have what you are looking for.

The 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry representatives and the Woods National Preservation Team will have many new records available. Take part in our “Faces of Ireland” Photo Exhibit.

The latest DNA update will be available. Our own genealogists will be doing computer lookups on Ancestry.com.

We are most fortunate this year to have as our guest a professional genealogist from North Ireland. Mrs. Joan L Petticrew from Lisburn, County Antrim will be available for personal consultation.

Our ever popular Family Surname History, the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin, the Irish Emigration Library and a large selection of Books will all be available for you to enjoy and help in your Family History Search. One never knows what celebrities are out there!

THE DUNN FAMILY COLLECTION & FRANCIS O'NEILL CYLINDERS

Presented March 1, 2010 by Barry Stapleton & Jeff Ksiazek

In March, IGSW members enjoyed an outstanding program about the Dunn Family Collection of the Ward Irish Music Archives (WIMA). WIMA director Barry Stapleton and archivist Jeff Ksiazek spoke about this remarkable assemblage of original wax cylinder recordings of traditional Irish music — as well as instruments, manuscripts, books, ephemera, photos and apparel from the early 20th Century. We learned the extraordinary story of the re-discovery of the recordings, and their subsequent donation by the Dunn family of Milwaukee, and heard about the Archives' efforts to make these historic treasures accessible to the wider public through a CD issue and interactive web site. Watch the Archives page of the Irish Fest web site at www.irishfest.com/archives/ for more information in the months to come!



THE WARD IRISH MUSIC ARCHIVES (WIMA)

As host of the largest Irish music festival in the world, Milwaukee Irish Fest has preserved the long history of Irish music through the creation and support of the Ward Irish Music Archives. WIMA is housed at the Irish Fest Center in Milwaukee.

Established in 1992, WIMA has grown to over 40,000 Irish music artifacts including over 5,000 CDs, 5,000 pieces of sheet music and over 20,000 recordings. Ranging from rare cylinder recordings to contemporary music, items in our collections date back to the 1700s.



MAJOR COLLECTIONS

The Dunn Family Collection

Includes 32 rare cylinder recordings made by Francis O'Neill in 1904, Victrola, musical manuscripts and Hibernian uniform.

The Ed and Cathy Ward Collection

Recordings and sheet music plus many working phonographs and jukeboxes.

The Milwaukee Irish Fest Collection

Core collection containing over 15,000 items.

The Irish Fest Summer School Collection

Held annually prior to Irish Fest. WIMA has recorded most of the internationally renowned musicians, dancers and educators who have taught at the school since 1996.

Michael & Mary Comer Collection

Michael & Mary Comer broadcast their weekly "Echoes of Erin" radio program for more than 25 years in Cleveland, Ohio. Over 5,000 recordings and their broadcast studio were donated.

Stapleton Bing Crosby Collection

The largest public collection of Bing Crosby recordings outside of Gonzaga University.

The Tommy Makem Collection

This collection includes Tommy's first Aran Sweater and tin whistle. Tommy's first banjo is currently on loan from his family.



One of WIMA's main goals is to disseminate content from its collections. This is done by taking major exhibits around the country and by PowerPoint presentations on particular artists or genres within Irish & Irish American music.

EXHIBITS

- John McCormack: Great Irish Tenor
- George M. Cohan
- Bing Crosby
- History of Irish Rock Music
- History of Irish Traditional Music
- Music of the University of Notre Dame
- 75 Years of RTE (Radio Television Erin)
- Irish American Song Stories
- Come Back to Erin: Irish Travel Posters
- Irish American Entertainment Hall of History
- The Irish in Film
- Irish Railways: 1834-2001
- Spencer Tracy & Pat O'Brien
- A Celebration of Irish American Women
- Remembering Tommy Makem

POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

- Rosemary Clooney: Videography
- Morton Downey Sr.
- Irish Sheet Music Collections
- History of Irish Traditional Music
- Irish & Irish Americans in Popular Music
- Patrick Gilmore



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IGSW Roundtables April 5, 2010

“Wormholes” Roundtable - Moderated by Michele Patin

The following is an updated and expanded version of the handout supplied at this April Roundtable

Wormholes

In physics, a “wormhole” is a theoretical shortcut through space and time. This evocative term allows us to visualize the burrow of a tiny worm as it works its way through an apple. We can see the hole at either end, and imagine a tube connecting the two ends. (And perhaps the burrower himself, resting comfortably somewhere in between. Eeeee-ew!) In the same fashion, an analogous wormhole could connect across the folded fabric of our space-time continuum — or so theoretical physicists imagine.

The wormhole as a hypothetical contrivance is often relied upon by science fiction writers as well as general purveyors of popular culture, since it allows for a convenient point-to-point conveyance which obviates the need for more mundane means of transportation.

While there is as yet no empirical proof that space-time wormholes exist within our real universe, I have to admit that I have some evidence that similar wormholes were used by my ancestors to get from Ireland to America. Allow me to explain...

Wormholes in Irish Genealogy

What do I mean by a wormhole in genealogy? A wormhole directly connects people of one community in Ireland with another community in the U.S. In a “perfect” wormhole, people from the original, intact community back in Ireland, would be transported directly to the destination community in the U.S., only to find waiting their old neighbors and relatives, ready to receive them.

I found two important wormholes in my Irish ancestry. One I had known about for a while because it is very well-documented: it is the wormhole that connects people from the “copper mines” area of the Beara peninsula in West Cork with areas of hard-rock mining in the U.S. (More about that later.)

My second wormhole was more of a surprise. I discovered it when I learned that 1) two of my great-grandparents, who met and married in Worcester, MA, came from townlands less than 5 kilometers apart back in Ireland; and 2) siblings on both sides of that lineage who emigrated likewise married in America to spouses who came from nearby townlands.

You have probably found similar wormholes in your family history. The wormhole idea is not new — it’s just a new way of looking at this phenomenon. The purpose of this roundtable is to document wormholes in Irish genealogy and understand what causes them. Let’s begin with a little background to get started.

The Irish in North America

We all know about major loci of Irish American settlement in the U.S. It’s no surprise that large cities like Boston, Philadelphia, New York or Chicago have important Irish-American communities. Cities — with their opportunities for unskilled labor, accessible rental housing, and pre-wired social support networks — are magnets for immigrants. And cities that are also ports of entry are obvious destinations. But what about smaller communities? Pearl River, NY boasts 56% with Irish ancestry; Drexel Hill PA 42% and Scranton, PA 30%; Milton MA 43% and Braintree, MA 36%. How so? Why were there so many people of Irish descent in Butte, Montana? in St. Paul, MN? or the Five Points neighborhood of New York City?

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._cities_with_large_Irish_American_populations see also: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Irish-American_communities (accessed March 2010)

Patterns of Emigration

Students of the long history of emigration to this country are familiar with specific patterns of movement as well as social phenomena that contribute to this patterning. *Many of the social and political forces that moved people from the old country to the new would certainly result in something that appears like a "wormhole."* For the Irish, two very important emigration factors were the following:

- **Chain Migration**

A pioneer emigrant leaves the homeland for America, and sends home remittances from their earnings to bring wife and children, siblings, parents and more distant relatives across the pond.

- **Assisted Emigration Schemes**

Emigration was promoted and sponsored by the British government and by Boards of Poor Law Guardians; by individual estate holders and landlord's agents in Ireland; by church leaders; and even by Americans — individuals as well as relief agencies and other immigrant assistance societies in the U.S.

Because chain migration enabled passage of persons who were related or knew each other in the home place, groups of chain emigrants are likely to result in a wormhole community which is a mirror image of a specific locale or parish back in the homeland. Likewise, when emigration was assisted by underwriting the cost of transportation of whole families en masse from one location in Ireland to the new world, this phenomenon also would create a wormhole.

Understanding these mechanisms points out a critically important corollary of wormholes in Irish genealogy: if you can document an emigrant ancestor within a wormhole community, you have a headstart on finding his/her place of origin in Ireland. *Then, even without direct evidence about your own ancestor's place of birth, a glance around to his/her neighbors may lead you back to place of origin.*

Some Examples of Chain Migration:

Beara Peninsula Emigrants to Hard Rock Mines in the U.S.

I mentioned the example, in my own family history, of communities of West Cork Irish in the U.S. settled in areas of hard-rock mining — places where copper, lead, zinc, gold were extracted. This is actually a set of wormholes resulting from chain migration on a grand scale. Many of these communities were begun when skilled laborers with mining experience from the Bera peninsula in County Cork came seeking (or answering ads for) mining jobs in America. Once established, they sent word to friends and relations back in Ireland that the streets here were paved with gold, encouraging them to make the crossing. Many sent money to allow family members and sweethearts to emigrate. Irish-American communities in the U.S. that trace their origins to families in the copper mines districts of West Cork include: Butte, MT; Houghton & Hancock, MI; Virginia City, NV; Providence, RI; Park City, UT; and southwestern Wisconsin (e.g. New Diggings). The genealogies of Irish families in the Bera peninsula has been extensively researched by Riobard O'Dwyer, N.T. in a series of books recently re-published. Research into the diaspora of Irish miners in America is on-going by William H. Mulligan, Jr., a professor at Murray State University in Kentucky.

Emigrants to Argentina from Counties Westmeath and Wexford and More

IGSW member Kris Mooney shared an extraordinary example of a wormhole in Argentina that is less well-known. This emigration began with the Argentine War of Independence, in which several Irish expatriates played a prominent role. Argentine war hero Jose de San Martin asked one of these Irish soldiers, John Thomond O'Brien from Co. Wicklow, to recruit Irish to settle in the newly independent country. O'Brien met John Mooney of Streamstown, near Ballymore, Co. Westmeath, who soon removed his family to Argentina and started a chain of Irish emigration to Argentina. Westmeath and parts of adjacent counties ultimately provided two thirds of all the Irish emigrants in the 19th century. In addition, a man named John Brown from Wexford moved to Buenos Aires in 1824 to represent the business interests of his shipping company employer. One thing led to another, and this started a similar, though smaller, chain of emigra-

tion from Wexford emigration to Argentina. Successive waves of emigrants built upon this base, swelling the ranks of Argentines with Irish descent. You can learn more about this unusual chain migration at http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/magazine/articles/uhf_argentina1.htm. IGSW member Mary Kay Kuhfittig also wrote a personal account of her pursuit of an elusive collateral relative, Phillip Hier of Killinick, Co. Wexford, who ended up in Argentina (*Irish Genealogical Quarterly*, V.13, No.1 (March 2004, pp. 9-12).

Some Examples of Assisted Passage and Emigration schemes:

Examples of assisted emigration are: the Peter Robinson Settlers (Ontario); the Connemaras (Minnesota); the removals from the Coolattin Estates of Lord Fitzwilliam; W.S. Trench's emigration scheme from the Landsowne Estate; The Petworth Project—Wyndham Estates (Ontario); and the founding of O'Neill, Nebraska (not exactly an assisted emigration scheme, but rather an interesting mass recruitment variation.)

Peterborough, Ontario and the Peter Robinson Settlers

In an attempt to quell disturbances and political foment at the height of the "tithe war" in north Cork in the 1820s, the British government experimented in resettling poor rural Irish families onto new lands in Upper Canada (now Ontario). Peter Robinson, an ex-soldier and MP from Upper Canada was chosen as the person to direct the emigration of poor farmers to be settled in the Bathurst District. Candidates for emigration were found by advertisement and screened by Robinson who issued tickets of embarkation for a total of 568 persons. Two ships, the *Stakesby* and the *Hebe*, set out in 1823. Passenger lists are available online at: <http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/passengerlists/peterrobinsonindex.htm>. The initial experiment was deemed a success, and in 1825, a larger group of settlers emigrated under Robinson's supervision, and were settled in what is now the town of Peterborough, Ontario. Lists of the second group of settlers can be found online at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ote/ships/canada-ships.htm>. See also the museum web site at www.peterboroughmuseumandarchives.ca/robinson.htm

Bishop John Ireland and "the Connemaras"

Not all assisted emigration schemes were successful. One which had a tragic conclusion and became emblematic of failure was the community of Graceville, near Morris, MN, founded by Bishop John Ireland in 1880. A combination of luckless planning on the one hand and anti-immigrant sentiment on the other -- along with one of the worse blizzards in memory -- ironically led Bishop Ireland to evict the very people he had brought out of destitution in Ireland. Although this attempted re-settlement of West Coast Irish famine families was deemed a failure and a scandal, the story was not completely bleak. Some of this displaced emigrants later settled in the St. Paul shantytown of "Connemara Patch" and still have descendants. The Minnesota Historical Society offers a book by Bridget Connelly, "Forgetting Ireland," who traced her roots back to the "Connemaras" community. http://shop.mnhs.org/moreinfo.cfm?product_id=142. You can read an excerpt of the book at: http://shop.mnhs.org/web_assets/0873514491_excerpt.htm

"General John O'Neill" and the town of O'Neill, Nebraska

An interesting variation of assisted passage is the Irish "colony" of O'Neill, Nebraska. O'Neill bears the name of its founder, "General" John O'Neill of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (the Fenians). O'Neill was born in Ireland in 1834 and came to America, serving as a Union Army officer in the U.S. Civil War. After resigning his commission, he became active in radical Irish-American politics and took part in the Fenian raids into Canada in 1866, 1870 and 1871. These independent military raids on assets of the British government in Canada were perpetrated to pressure Britain to withdraw from Ireland. O'Neill was imprisoned for his part in the 1871 raid, but after his release he became a land speculator and promoter of Irish settlement in Nebraska in Irish newspapers. In 1875, his pamphlet, entitled "Northern Nebraska As a Home for Immigrants," was published in Sioux City, Iowa, and distributed in response to thousands of inquiries O'Neill received. O'Neill encouraged immigration to Nebraska, recruiting from many parts of Ireland; his pamphlet described the Nebraska counties which he deemed suitable for his displaced countrymen. The town of Holt, Nebraska, was founded by O'Neill and later renamed after him.

Irish Emigration Library Resources

Emigration Communities and Patterns of Migration

Descendancy charts, Maple Grove, Wisconsin: one community's genealogical past and future. Maple Grove (Wis.) : Friends of St. Patrick, Inc., 2001. **Call No. US WI 22, vol 1-2**

Ireland to Minnesota : stories from the heart / compiled by the Hibernians of Minnesota. St. Paul, MN : Hibernian Life Insurance Fund of Minnesota, 1996. **Call No. US 17**

Irish emigrants in North America / by David Dobson. Baltimore : Reprinted for Clearfield Co. by Genealogical Pub. Co., 1997-2000. **Call Nos. IRE 17 DOB part 1, 2, 3; US 26 DOB part 4 & 5 and part 6**

Irish emigration and Canadian settlement : patterns, links, and letters / Cecil J. Houston, William J. Smyth. University of Toronto Press; Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation, 1990 **Call No. CA 17 ACT**

The Irish in the new communities / edited by Patrick O'Sullivan. Leicester, England; New York: Leicester University Press; New York: Distributed by St. Martin's Press, 1992. **Call No. IRE 17 OSO vol. 2**

Irish settlers of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, 1840-1860, Thomas P. Kinney. Fitchburg, Wis. : Fitchburg Historical Society, 1993. Includes bibliographical references (p. 97-99) and index. **Call No. US WI DAN 30 KIN**

Patterns of migration / edited by Patrick O'Sullivan. Leicester, England; New York: Leicester University Press; New York: Distributed by St. Martin's Press, 1992. **Call No. IRE 17 OSO vol. 1**

St. Patrick's Maple Grove, Wisconsin : church burial records; Maple Grove, Wis.: Friends of St. Patrick, **Call No. US WI SHA 11 HOF**

St. Patrick's, Maple Grove, Wisconsin : church census records, 1878 to 1913. Maple Grove, Wis. : Friends of St. Patrick; **Call No. US WI SHA 11 HOF**

St. Patrick's of Maple Grove, WI : baptismal records, 1865-1868, translated by Friends of St. Patrick, Inc., Reedsville, Wis.: The Friends, 2000 **Call No. US WI SHA 11 HOF**

The Uncounted Irish in Canada and the United States / by Margaret E. Fitzgerald and Joseph A. King. Toronto: P.D. Meany Publishers, 1990. Includes bibliographical references and index. **Call No. IR 17 FITZ**

Women Emigrants

Erin's daughters in America: Irish immigrant women in the nineteenth century / Hasia R. Diner. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983. Includes bibliographical references and index. **Call No. US 30 DIN**

Irish women and Irish migration / edited by Patrick O'Sullivan. London; New York: Leicester University Press; New York: Distributed by St. Martin's Press, 1995 **Call No. IRE 17 OSO vol. 4**

Assisted Emigration - Miscellaneous Topics

Assisting emigration to Upper Canada: the Petworth project, 1832-1837, Wendy Cameron and Mary McDougall Maude. Montreal: McGill-Queen's Univ. Press, 2000. Wyndham Estates. Call No. **CA 17 CAM**

Emigrants from Ireland, 1847-1852 : state-aided emigration schemes from crown estates in Ireland, Eilish Ellis. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1977. Includes bibliographical references. Call No. **IR 17 ELL**

A farewell to famine. Jim Rees; Dee-Jay Publications, 1995. Call No. **IR 30 REE**

Mr. Tuke's fund for assisted emigration 1882-5 James H. Tuke. REF: IET0048. Dublin, Ireland : Archive CD Books. Assisted emigration from Co. Mayo and Co. Galway. **CD # B-70**

Sending out Ireland's poor: assisted emigration to North America in the nineteenth century, Gerard Moran. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2004. Call No. **IR 17 MOR**

Assisted Emigration – Peter Robinson

Emigration to Canada: Robinson settlers. Fermoy, Co. Cork, Ireland : Thomas Lindsey; Facsimile of original records. Call No. **CA 17**

Irish emigrant settlers in the pioneer Kawarthas, Howard T. Pammett. Ontario (Can.) : Ontario Genealogical Society, 1978. Reprinted from Families, Vol. 17, No. 4 (1978) Call No. **CAN ONT 30 PAM**

Parliamentary papers--emigration to Canada : Peter Robinson immigrants to Canada. Dublin (Ireland) : Archive CD Books, 2007. **CD # C-15**

Assisted Emigration - Lord Fitzwilliam

Fitzwilliam tenants: people listed in the Coolattin estate emigration from Co. Wicklow, Ireland, 1847-1856. Haberfield, New South Wales, Australia: Clever Cat Genealogy, 2002. **CD # A-71**

The McCabe list : early Irish in the Ottawa Valley / Bruce S. Elliott ; index by DeAlton Owens. Rev. ed. Toronto : Ontario Genealogical Society, 2002. Call No. **CA ONT 17 ELL**

Surplus people: the Fitzwilliam clearances 1847-1856, Jim Rees. Cork: Collins 2000. Call No. **IR WIC 17 REE**

Irish Emigration from the Copper Mines Area

The Butte Irish: Class and ethnicity in an American mining town, 1875-1925 / David M. Emmons. Urbana : University of Illinois Press, c1989. Includes index. Call No. **US MON 48 EMM**

Who were my ancestors? Genealogy (family trees) of the Allihies (Copper Mines) Parish, County Cork, Ireland. Riobard O'Dwyer. Astoria, Ill.: K.K. Stevens Publishing Co., 1988. Call No. **IR COR 22 ODW**

Who were my ancestors? Genealogy (family trees) of the Bere Island Parish, County Cork, Ireland; Riobard O'Dwyer. Astoria, Ill.: K.K. Stevens Publishing Co., 1989. Call No. **IR COR 22 ODW**

Who were my ancestors? Genealogy (family trees) of the Eyeries Parish (Castletownbere), County Cork, Ireland; Riobard O'Dwyer. Astoria, Ill.: K.K. Stevens Publishing Co. 1976. Call No. **IR COR 22 ODW**

Who were my ancestors? Genealogy (family trees) of the Castletownbere (Killaconenagh) Parish, County Cork, Ireland; Riobard O'Dwyer. Astoria, Ill.: K.K. Stevens Publishing Co. 1989. Call No. **IR COR 22 ODW**

Other Resources — Books & CDs Not in the IEL

"From Famine to Five Points: Lord Lansdowne's Irish Tenants Encounter North America's Most Notorious Slum," Tyler Anbinder, *American Historical Review*, Vol. 7, No. 2 April 2002; available online at <http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/107.2/ah0202000351.html>

Inventing Irish America: Generation, Class, and Ethnic Identity in a New England City, 1880-1928; Timothy J. Meagher. Notre Dame, Ind. : Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 2000. A study of the Irish of his hometown of Worcester, Mass. within the wider context of the history of the Irish immigration and acculturation.

The Lansdowne Estate in Kerry under W.S. Trench 1849-72, Gerard J. Lyne. Dublin: Geography Publications 2001

Models for movers : Irish women's emigration to America / Ide O'Carroll. Dublin : Attic Press, 1990.

New directions in Irish-American history, Kevin Kenny; University of Wisconsin Press March 2003

Ourselves Alone: Women's Emigration from Ireland, 1885-1920. Janet A. Nolan, Univ. Press of Kentucky, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A., 1989.

Peter Robinson's Settlers; Bennett, Carol. Juniper Books, Ontario, U.S.A., 1987.

Some Internet Resources for Finding Wormholes

Forums and blogs abound on the internet with postings by people looking for lost relatives or genealogy tidbits. Often these reveal that people from a given locale in Ireland arrived in a specific area of the U.S. Hundreds of forums and blogs can be discovered (the subject of another roundtable tonight).

For example, I was able to learn more about Irish emigration to Worcester by looking at postings on <http://www.worcestertalk.com>. I discovered that the Irish in Worcester became the subject of research by local historians John Canavan, Thomas Canavan and Mary Ellen Radziewicz, who have presented their research into burials and vital records. (e.g. <http://www.worcestertalk.com/index.php?topic=1057.0>) They also made their data available to TIARA, the Irish Ancestral Research Association, online at: <http://tiara.ie/worclrishA.php> and <http://tiara.ie/worclrishA.php>

You can also "dig" for wormholes using the mailing lists at the Ancestry-sponsored Rootsweb website. Use the listfinder at <http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/> to find a locality-specific mailing list, then browse that list or mine it using the search function at <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/> Or, instead of looking for surname or specific individual, try searching the "Missing Friends" ads of the Boston Pilot by arrival and destination location using the advanced search functions at <http://infowanted.bc.edu/search/>.

An interesting place to begin researching assisted emigrations: the PRONI online exhibition entitled "19th Century Emigration to North America" at the following impossibly long URL at the PRONI web site: http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/exhibitions_talks_and_events/19th_century_emigration_to_the_north_america_online/helping_hands/the_irish_poor_law.htm

The PRONI site has some in-depth information about several of the most important emigration schemes. The site includes a chapter on Vere Foster's philanthropic assisted emigration, which will be of special interest because of a Wisconsin connection. Vere Foster was a member of the Irish aristocracy whose family seat was in Ardee, Co. Louth. From his personal funds and monies raised by subscription, Foster paid the passage of thousands of emigrants to Canada West and New York. The PRONI web sites includes a passenger list of the City of Mobile, a ship on which he traveled with 140 emigrants, mostly young women, to New York in 1857. (This particular passage became the subject of controversy because

the shipboard conditions were less than ideal and the comportment of the rough sailors and the young ladies was less than saintly. It was later reported that some of the emigrant "ladies" became common prostitutes!) Foster advertised for young single women to emigrate on the City of Mobile by letter published in March 1857 in the Newry Examiner and Louth Examiner, and those who responded came mainly from Louth and south Down. The ship sailed on the 26th of May. The passenger data is available online at castlegarden.org (search by ship name "City of Mobile," arrival date 1 July 1857; 842 passengers listed, not all were Foster's charges.) A transcription of Foster's leaflet which lists all the emigrants and their destinations, and includes 39 emigrants who all ended up in Janesville Wisconsin: http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/exhibitions_talks_and_events/19th_century_emigration_to_the_north_america_online/helping_hands/vere_foster.htm

The emigrants destined for Janesville were under the care of Rev. Michael McFaul. Father McFaul was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1823 and entered the Seminary of St. Francis in Milwaukee. He was ordained in 1847 and took his first appointment at Janesville at St. Patrick's Church. Lists of the Vere Foster emigrants from several ships are available on some personal genealogy pages, see Marj Kohli (Waterloo, Ontario) pages at <http://jubilation.uwaterloo.ca/~marj/genealogy/children/Organizations/foster.html> See also the Brendan Hall (Geneological Society of Ireland) Co. Louth pages at http://www.jbhall.freesevers.com/1856_emigrants.htm

Postscript: Some Additional Examples

Our roundtable on April 5 was well attended, and members had many questions and offered other examples of wormholes in Irish genealogy not mentioned above:

- The Irish community which founded St. Patrick's Church in Mauston, Juneau Co.. Wisconsin
- Emigrants from Ballykilcline, Co. Roscommon -- see the website www.ballykilcline.com and also the book, the *End of Hidden Ireland* by Robert James Scally
- Bishop Mathias Loras of Dubuque, who corresponded with the Irish Emigrant Society of New York beginning in the 1840s and promoted Iowa as a destination for Irish emigrants. The bishop also sponsored the Catholic Settlement Society of Iowa, founded in 1856. As a starting point, see the reprinted articles at <http://www.celticcousins.net/irishiniowa/dubuque.htm> about Loras and the Iowa connection.
- Father Thomas Hore of Arkansas and later Iowa, and the 1850s migration from Leinster to the community of Wexford, Iowa; see the book *A Farewell to Famine* by Jim Rees; and again, for reprinted articles as an overview, visit <http://www.celticcousins.net/irishiniowa/irishsettlersiniowa.htm>

Now... what about you?

Do you have an ancestor who was part of a "chain gang," who disappeared down a "wormhole" like the ones we have described here? Tell us!

We will try to collect more examples of Irish wormholes and share what we have learned in print on the pages of a future *Quarterly*. Submit your stories by email to IGSW member Michele Patin at Michele@GJD.com, or by post to the main IGSW address, P.O. Box 13766, Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766.

POTATO BLIGHT

Presented May 3, 2010 by Sharon Morrissey

In May, the IGSW invited Sharon Morrissey, Consumer Horticulture Agent with Milwaukee County office of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, to talk to our members about Late Blight, also called Potato Blight. Late Blight is a disease which affects tomatoes and potatoes as well as other members of the nightshade family. It is caused by the fungus-like organism, *Phytophthora infestans*. Late Blight, of course, is most famous as being responsible for the massive failure of the potato crop in Ireland (and elsewhere in Europe) for several successive years the 1840s. This led to the great famine, "An Gorta Mor." The resulting decimation of the rural population through starvation and disease, combined with emigration, forever changed the landscape of Ireland.

Almost a century later, late blight had a profound effect right here in Wisconsin. In 1942 about one-third of the state's commercial potato crop was infected with the disease. And last year, in 2009, late blight paid an unwelcome visit to Wisconsin and was reported on tomatoes in 26 counties and on potatoes in five counties.

Sharon gave us a well-prepared and thoughtful overview of late blight, offering helpful guidelines for gardeners. She supplied the following "Garden Facts" handout about late blight, prepared by the Milwaukee County Extension office, and reproduced here with permission. Sharon also spoke about the impact of late blight on Irish history, and shared a bit of her own Irish family history with us.

Many thanks, Sharon! For more information about the Milwaukee County UW extension and its resources for horticulture and urban agriculture, visit <http://milwaukee.uwex.edu/>



Late Blight

Amanda Gevens, Anna Seidl and Brian Hudelson, UW-Madison Plant Pathology

What is late blight? Late blight is a destructive disease of tomatoes and potatoes that can kill mature plants, and make tomato fruits and potato tubers inedible. This disease also affects, although typically to a lesser extent, eggplants and peppers, as well as related weeds such as nightshade. Historically, late blight was responsible for the Irish potato famine, which led to the death of at least one million Irish, and the emigration of another one million Irish to Great Britain, the United States, Australia, Canada and other countries. More recently, the disease caused severe losses for fresh market tomato producers and home gardeners in Wisconsin.



Late blight can decimate tomato and potato plants in seven to 10 days if weather conditions are cool and wet.

What does late blight look like?

On leaves of tomato or potato, late blight begins as pale-green or olive-green areas that quickly enlarge to become brown-black, water-soaked, and oily-looking. Stems can also exhibit dark-brown to black areas. If weather conditions are cool and wet, entire plants can collapse and die from late blight in seven to 10 days. Tomato fruits with late blight develop large, often sunken, golden- to chocolate-brown, firm spots with distinct rings. Potato tubers with the disease develop a reddish-brown discoloration under the skin and these areas may become sunken.

Affected leaf, stem, fruit or tuber tissue often eventually develops a white-gray, fuzzy look as the late blight organism begins to reproduce. Other tomato and potato diseases such as Septoria leaf spot (see University of Wisconsin Garden Facts XHT1073), early blight (see University of Wisconsin Garden Facts XHT1074) and Verticillium wilt may be misidentified as late blight.

Where does late blight come from? Late blight is caused by the fungus-like water mold *Phytophthora infestans*. There are several variants of this organism. Some variants cause more severe problems on tomatoes; others are more of a problem on potatoes. *P. infestans* can be introduced when sporangia (i.e., spore-like structures) of the organism are blown into an area on prevailing winds. *P. infestans* can also be introduced on infected plants (e.g., tomato seedlings) or potato tubers that are brought into an area for sale. *P. infestans* is unlikely to survive over the winter in Wisconsin soils. However, the organism can survive on infected plant material that remains alive through the winter. Such plant materials can include *P. infestans*-infected tomato plants or fruits kept warm in compost piles, and *P. infestans* infected potato tubers that have remained in the soil after harvest or have been stored in a warm place.

How do I save a plant with late blight? Plants showing symptoms of late blight cannot be saved and should be disposed of immediately to limit spread of *P. infestans* to other plants. For home gardeners, the preferred method of disposal is to pull affected plants (roots and all), and place them in plastic bags. The bags should be left in the sun for a few days to make sure that plants, as well as any *P. infestans*, are totally killed. Bagged plants then can be put out for trash pickup. Diseased plants or plant parts (e.g., tomato fruits or potato tubers) should NOT be composted. Healthy-looking fruits from late-blight-affected tomato plants are safe to eat. In addition, these fruits can be canned, but require special treatment to ensure that they will preserve properly. Contact your county UW-Extension office for details. Once tomato fruits or potato tubers begin to show symptoms of late blight, they should NOT be eaten, nor should they be canned or otherwise preserved.



On tomato leaves (left), late blight leads to brown-black, water-soaked, oily areas that may have a white-gray fuzzy look. On tomato fruits (right), late blight leads to large, often sunken, golden- to chocolate-brown, firm spots with distinct rings.

How do I avoid problems with late blight in the future? In the spring, dispose of any volunteer tomato and potato plants (as well as weeds such as nightshade) as described above. All of these plants are potential sources of *P. infestans*. For the same reason, DO NOT use tubers from a previous year's potato crop as seed potatoes. Instead purchase certified seed potatoes from a reputable supplier each year. Also, consider planting tomato varieties with late blight resistance. Such varieties include 'Better Boy', 'Golden Sweet', 'Green Zebra', 'Juliet', 'Legend', 'Magic Mountain', 'Matt's Wild Cherry', 'Pruden's Purple', 'Regal Plum', 'Roma', 'Slava', 'Stupice', 'Sun Sugar', 'Wapsipinicon', and 'Wisconsin 55'. The performance of these varieties may vary depending on the variant of *P. infestans* that is present in a particular growing season, and depending on the weather conditions. However, 'Magic Mountain' and 'Regal Plum' have shown excellent resistance to many variants of the late blight organism under a wide range of environmental conditions.

Fungicides also can be used to reduce the impact of late blight. However, fungicide applications must be made prior to the onset of disease or they will be ineffective. Fungicide applications are not needed during periods of hot, dry weather as *P. infestans* is not likely to be active under these conditions. Fungicides are most likely to be useful during periods of cool, wet weather. However, if weather conditions are excessively cool and wet, even properly-timed fungicide applications may not provide adequate late blight control. If you decide to use fungicides, select a product that is labeled for use on tomatoes (or potatoes) and that contains chlorothalonil or copper as the active ingredient. Certain but not all copper-containing products can be used for organic vegetable production. Be sure to follow all label instructions to ensure that the product that you select is used in the safest, most effective means possible.

For more information on late blight: See UW-Extension bulletin A3422, or contact your county Extension agent.

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Thanks to Krisin Krokowski, Barb Larson, Patti Nagel and Ann Wied for reviewing this document.

A complete inventory of University of Wisconsin Garden Facts is available at the University of Wisconsin-Extension Horticulture website: whort.uwex.edu.

Upcoming Programs

Monday, June 7, 2010 • 7 p.m.

Shorewood Village Center Meeting Room, Lower Level of the Shorewood Public Library

Dating Family Photographs

Presented by Valerie Davis

This will be an interesting evening! Ms. Davis is a textile historian with multiple degrees and a background in genealogy and oral history. She currently works with the photography collection at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Ms. Davis will first give a presentation using slides to illustrate eras of photography and clothing styles. Then we will all dive in and examine "mystery" photographs in hopes of narrowing their date range.

Monday, July 12, 2010 • 6 p.m.

A Field Trip. Note second Monday and early start time.

The Milwaukee County Historical Society: Revisited

It's been a full year since we visited the Milwaukee County Historical Society (MCHS) under renovation. Work is now nearly complete, and the research library has reopened. See some of the treasures unearthed! Once again, we will visit a downtown Irish pub to socialize after the visit.

Visit www.milwaukeehistory.net for more about MCHS and especially its "Unlocking the Vault" 75th anniversary celebration.

Monday, August 2, 2010 at 6 p.m.

Another field trip while we have warm weather.

Come with us to the Town of Erin. Visit St Patrick's Cemetery with Irish graves back to the 1800s. Also see one of the few remaining churches that was built in the form of a cross. Then, a visit to the Tally Ho Tavern next to the cemetery would be welcome for a little socialization and maybe a glass of Guinness.

Watch for our September Meeting back at the Shorewood Library

Monday, September 13, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Historical Milwaukee, Inc.

Will present an evening discussing the Irish in Milwaukee history.

The Shorewood Village Center is located at 3920 N. Murray Ave., in the lower level of the Shorewood Public Library, one block south of Capitol Drive. The Irish Cultural and Heritage Center is located at 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. in downtown Milwaukee just west of Marquette University in the historic Tory Hill neighborhood.

IGSW Programs are free and open to the public.

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



IGSW

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of Wisconsin*

P.O. Box 13766

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