

# THE IRISH GENEALOGICAL QUARTERLY

Published by the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin

Volume Twenty Two Number Two (Meitheamh) June 2013 Table of Contents President's Message......Gary Shea News From The Web.......Mary Kay Kuhfittig Tithe Appiotment Book of Ireland ......Michele Patin IGSW Roundtable Presentation - April 1. 2013 Tips From The MCGS Biennial Workshop..... ...... Mary Kay Kuhfittig Tinkers No More: The Irish Travelers, Past and Present..... .....Jose' Lanters **IGSW** Meeting Presentation – May 5, 2013 Milwaukee Irish Fest August 15, 16, 17, 18, 2013 Clan Gallagher Reunion.....Jane M. Maher Upcoming Programs ......Sue Dolinar The IGSW Quarterly Index - For 2012 - Vol. 21, Nos 1-4.....

#### IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN INC.

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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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**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
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## President's Message - A Reminder and Some Housekeeping

When I present to genealogy groups on our crown jewel (to borrow past president Tom Cannon's wording), the Irish Emigration Library, I find I must talk about our organization - for the history of the library begins with the IGSW. Included is what I call our services. The following list, taken directly from my pitch, serves as a reminder of what we offer:

➤ Irish Fest Genealogy Tent

Projects

Monthly Programs

➤ Library

Firsh Genealogical Quarterly

➤ Web site

Surname Annual

\* \* \*

Generally monthly programs are on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. There are eleven per year. The Round Tables and the holiday party meetings are held at the Irish Cultural & Heritage Center, the rest at the Shorewood Library. As with everything there are exceptions: if the first Monday is a holiday, then the second Monday; if the Shorewood Library is booked or bumps us, then the ICHC; field trips may start earlier; etc. Notice and publicity for the programs appears in the *Quarterly*, in the handout provided at the meeting, through the mass e-mailing, often in the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* Weekend CUE section, and for the final word, on our web site, www.IGSWonline.com.

Our next Round Table meeting is in October. Please if you have any topic ideas let one of the Board members know.

The Irish Emigration Library at the ICHC is open to the public on Wednesdays from 2-6 p.m. and by appointment (call library director Jane Maher at 414-258-9690 to arrange a visit).

Lastly, you may have noticed a physical change in the *Quarterly*. In the interests of getting better postage rates and avoiding "staple protrusion" which can impede or damage the very high-speed mail processing equipment now in use, our publication in now stapled in the fold rather than on the spine.

Gary Shea

#### **NEWS FROM THE WEB**

by Mary Kay Kuhfittig

#### **IGSWONLINE.COM**

Our website, <u>www.igswonline.com</u>, has a link to the 100 best genealogical sites, as posted by *Genealogy In Time* magazine.

## THREATS TO CLOSE SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX (SSDI)

Now is the time to access the SSDI and request application forms. President Obama's budget proposal would allow the Commissioner of Social Security to deny access to the SSDI and the application forms.

The SSDI may now be searched on familysearch.org and ancestry.com. Ancestry.com has already excluded recent deaths. The applications (SS-5) give more information, including parents' names.

#### **BOOKS ON IRISH HISTORY**

<a href="http:historyofirelandebooks.blogspot.com">http:historyofirelandebooks.blogspot.com</a> gives a very long list of Irish history books which may be read online or downloaded to a reading device. They range from the eleventh to the twentieth century. There are about 4,000 books on Irish, Irish-American, Irish-Australian and Irish-Canadian Genealogy. The site is free.

#### CHRONICLING AMERICA

Improvements have been made in Chronicling America, The National Digital Newspaper Program's digitization of historic American newspapers. More than six million pages are now available, A new release of 130 papers has been added. Chronicling America now has papers published between 1836 to 1922 in 32 states. One improvement is the ability to just click on a newspaper page to enlarge it.

#### IRISH GRAVESTONE INCRIPTIONS

The Kabristan Archives features tombstones found in Ireland as well as for Jamaica, Sri Lanka, and India. The site is <a href="http://kabristan.org.uk">http://kabristan.org.uk</a> To access the records for Ireland click on "The Kabristan Indexes."

#### THE MORPETH ROLL

George Howard, better know as Lord Morpeth, was a popular man. In 1841 when he left his office of Chief Secretary of Ireland, he received the world's longest farewell card. A giant paper scroll signed with name and address by hundreds of thousands of Irish men from all levels of society showed the esteem in which he was held. 652 sheets of paper were stuck together, making a continuous roll of 1,378 feet. The roll was wound around a large wooden bobbin and encased in a mahogany box.

Lord Morpeth returned to his family home, Castle Howard in Yorkshire, where he stowed away the box where it remained for 168 years until sent in 2009 to the National University of Ireland at Maynooth. Conservators there unrolled it very carefully and it just now has been transcribed.

Researchers regard the Roll as a kind of pre-famine census substitute.

After all these years The Morpeth Roll will be seen again, exhibited across Ireland in 2013-14. An illustrated companion book will be published, which will contain essays on the significance of the Roll. But you don't have to travel to Ireland to see it; it may be seen on Ancestry.com. It won't be found if you use "Morpeth Roll" as the search title; instead, use "Ireland, Lord Viscount Morpeth's Testimonial Roll, 1841."

## **NEXT OF KIN CLAIMS FOR ROYAL NAVY PENSIONS 1830-1860**

Next of kin claims for unpaid Royal Navy pensions 1830-1860 are now available to search and download online. These are applications for upaid wages or pensions of deceased officers of the Royal Navy and Marines, or their widows, and civilian employees of the Royal Navy and Dockyards. Records may include name, rank, date of death, name and address of the next of kin. This is series ADM 45 at the British National Archives. It's free to search for the records, but a fee is required to download them. The site is at: <a href="http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/831.htm">http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/831.htm</a>

#### **NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH**

New Horizons Genealogy specializes in New England and New York Colonial American Genealogy. They feature cemetery, census, church, military, vital and adoption records. These include the *Arnold Collection of Rhode Island Vital Records*, the *Barbour Collection of Connecticul Vital Records*, and much more. The site is located at www.newhorizonsgenealogicalservies.com>

#### IRISH GENEALOGY TOOLKIT

<a href="mailto:www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com">www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com</a> offers comprehensive advice for both beginners and advanced researchers. There is in-depth information on Irish records, including lesser known sources and how to access them. The site also offers information on daily life and social customs, crafts, Christmas traditions and many other interesting topics. It even has some Irish recipes.

#### **OLD MAP OF IRELAND**

An 1838 map of Ireland, produced as a result of the Ordnance Survey, is online at <ireland1838.com> It is divided into sections so that clicking on one section will enlarge it. After enlarging, scroll around to find a spot, then click again. It takes some playing around to get the hang of it. The map shows civil parishes, towns, mills, and churches, as well as roads, lakes, and rivers.

#### IRISH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY

The Society has come up with a new site at < www.irishancetors.ie > They have added some free records including the early Irish Marriages Index, the 1871 Census for Drumcondra & Loughbrackan, Co. Meath, the Irish in Spanish Archives and the Elphin Diocesan Census of 1749. Access these from the home page by clicking on "Resources," on the menu bar, then click "Unique Resources." The Society expects to be adding much more in the coming months.

## CHANGES AT www.irishgenealogy.ie

<irishgenealogy.ie> has been expanded and revamped, to make it easier and quicker to find genealogical records. Now one search will bring up a variety of sources, including the following:

- Church records
- 1901/1911 Census records
- Tithe Applotments
- Soldier's Wills
- Griffith's Valuations

- Ireland Australia Transportation database
- Military Archives
- Ellis Island
- National Photographic Archive from the National Library of Ireland

### **GRIFFITH'S REEVALUTION RECORDS**

You may have searched Griffith's Valuation (available at <a href="www.askaboutireland.com">www.askaboutireland.com</a>), but did you know there are follow-up revision books? These track the changes in names/owners over subsequent years. Changes were written in different colored inks. The Family HIstory Center microfilmed them, but the colors don't show on the microfilm. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has now placed the revision books for the 6 counties of Northern Ireland online. They cover the years 1864 to 1933. Records for the Republic remain at the Valuation Office in Dublin.

#### MASS BURIALS FOUND AT KILKENNY WORKHOUSE

Ireland's Poor Law Act of 1832 added 132 workhouses to the landscape. The Kilkenny Workhouse was one of the largest, built to house 1,300 inmates. Life was grim in the workhouse, but the impact of the potato famine was overwhelming. In 2006 archeological excavation at the workhouse revealed 63 mass burials, holding the skeletal remains of 970 victims. They represent deaths over a 43-month period in the mid 1800s. This was a violation of the normal practice of burying the Catholic dead in consecrated ground.

By July 1847 the Kilkenny Workhouse housed 2,340 inmates. by 1851, the number was 4,357. With overcrowding came disease such as typhus, cholera and tuberculosis. The authorities tried to ease the situation by adding sheds to the grounds and renting places in the city. In 1847 already weakened inmates succumbed in great numbers to typhus. The local cemeteries had banned the burying of paupers, so the Workhouse commissioners turned to mass burials within the workhouse walls, despite local opposition. It is thought that each of the 63 mass burials represented a week's worth of the dead.

## **50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JFK VISIT**

An emigrant flame memorial at New Ross, County Wexford will be established this summer. This will be designed by the same people who launched the 2012 London Olympic Torch. On May 29 a flame will be lit from the Eternal Flame at the John Kennedy gravesite at Arlington Cemetery, and transported to New Ross, with stops in Boston and Liverpool, retracing the journey made by JFK's great-grandfather in 1848. Some members of the Kennedy family plan to be present, as well as Taoiseach Enda Kenny. The memorial is intended to honor all Irish emigrants.

#### **MOCAVO'S GENEALOGY KARMA**

Mocavo is now providing a site similar to the former Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness. The aim is to connect researchers to volunteers in all parts of the country.

If you're looking for information on someone who lived far away, go to <a href="https://www.mocavo.com/karma">www.mocavo.com/karma</a>

Click on "I need to request help," select a county, select a title, and present a short explanation of what you're looking for. Tag your request and indicate that you want to be notified if you get a reply.

You can also indicate that you want to be a volunteer.

You have the option of voting positively or negatively for each question and answer. The ones with the most positive votes move to the top of the list.

## IRISH QUOTE

"Ireland, thou friend of my country in my country's most friendless days, much injured, much enduring land, accept this poor tribute from one who esteems thy worth, and mourns thy desolation"

George Washington, speaking of Ireland's support for America during the revolution.

#### It's Time to Do Your Taxes!

# Exploring the Tithe Applotment Books of Ireland A roundtable discussion moderated by Michele Patin

The Tithe Applotment Books are one of two important census substitutes for all of Ireland. Since census returns before 1901 do not survive for Ireland except in fragments, genealogists work with these substitute records to reconstruct family groups and establish relationships. Like the other all-Ireland census substitute — Griffith's Valuation — "the Tithe" is a set of tax records, which makes them less-than-ideal for family history research. But useful nonetheless. So, let's dive in!

We'll begin with definitions, followed by a quick historical survey. In this discussion, we'll use shorthand, and refer to the Tithe Applotment Books as the "TAB," and "GV" for Griffith's Valuation. Then we'll turn to the records, and how to use them to seek ancestors. The principal TAB records are the applotment "Composition Books" recording the titheable land valuation for each parish and identifying its occupier.

#### Definitions: Applotment? Composition? Tithe?

An applotment is an apportionment of valuation. The applotment calculates the quantity of land held by a given occupier, and assesses its quality to compute the tax or composition due annually. And what is the tithe exactly? Simply put, it's a tax, but to understand it better, let's recap some Irish history. (My account will be both long-winded and one-sided. I wish to neither bore nor offend ... so I apologize in advance!)

#### History of the Tithe

The word has roots in an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "one-tenth", denoting an annual contribution made to support the church. The tithe has a deep Judeo-Christian history, and the tradition of tithing is described in the Old Testament, with parallels in classical Greece and Rome in the religious offering of First Fruits. Tithes had been a fact of life in England for centuries; the tithe was introduced in Ireland in the 12th Century after the Norman conquest of Ireland under Henry II.

For most of its history, the tithe was presented annually as a payment in kind — in the form of agricultural product, such as a pig, a firkin of butter, a bushel of barley — each in accordance with their means and the year's yield. This was true in Britain and Ireland for centuries. Whether the tithe was a free will offering or a compulsory tax we'll leave for later. But something changed in Britain and Ireland which forever altered the character of the tithe and led to the creation of the document we know as the TAB.

The Church of England was separated from the Roman Catholic Church in 1534 by King Henry VIII in the first Act of Supremacy. In Ireland, the Crown of Ireland Act of 1542 recognized Henry, his heirs and successors, as Kings of Ireland, thereby relinquishing the former title of Lord of Ireland which had been subject to the papacy. The Act of Uniformity (1558) and the second Act of Supremacy (1559) under Elizabeth made the Church of England the established church of state, made church attendance compulsory, and united the head of church and state in one personage, the monarch.

In the decades that followed, disputes over liturgy and doctrine within the Church of England led to the Puritan, Presbyterian, Quaker, Methodist, Baptist and other movements which sought to extend the reformation of the church. These English dissenters and nonconformists, along with Roman Catholics, were politically marginalized and excluded from many spheres of public life in the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries. Unsurprisingly, however, they were not excluded from lending material support to the church and clergy, in the form of tithes collected at the parish level. And there's the rub.

Beginning in the 1690s, Roman Catholics and Protestant non-conformists were subject to a series of punitive laws designed to exclude them from political power. The Test Acts required sworn declarations

against the doctrine of transubstantiation in order to prevent Papists from holding public office, occupying civil jobs or serving in the military. The Penal Laws intended to coerce Catholics and dissenters to accept the Anglican faith. Its tools included disenfranchisement, exclusion from professions, disallowing ownership of firearms, limiting education, constraining property-owning, lease-taking and inheritance.

Picture the situation, then, in Ireland in most of the 18th and into the 19th Century: Catholics form a large majority — in excess of 80% — but may not exercise their religion freely. They, and adherents of other non-conformist faiths, suffer under a laws exquisitely contrived to oppress them. Atop these indignities, the the Anglican church has imposed on the landscape a separate parish system with clergy and edifices that cannot possibly be supported by the tiny minority of established church members, but must derive their income from the entire populace in Ireland. *This income was the tithe*. While the tithe was understood to be a religious duty to support the work of the church, whose church? The tithe as spiritual obligation was taken seriously by Roman Catholics too, who struggled to maintain their own church and pastoral clergy. Thus the tithe to the established church became a compulsory *second tax burden*, levied against most of the population, and a bureaucracy was necessitated to collect it. The tithe was righteously detested by Catholics and non-conformists, obliged to subsidize an institution they had nothing to do with.

As practiced in Post-Reformation Britain and Ireland, the tithe was based on the notion of annual increase, and divided into "greater tithes" and "lesser tithes." Tithes were due on everything that yields or produces annually — e.g. grain, livestock, forest products — but not wild animals, minerals and the like. Greater tithes were levied on wheat, hay and wood; lesser tithes were levied on everything else.

A rector of the Anglican church drew his living from both the greater tithes and the lesser tithes. Where a parish had a vicar, he was supported by the lesser tithes only, the greater tithes being "impropriated." After the dissolution of the monasteries during the English Reformation, tithes that formerly went to the religious houses became Crown property, and were in turn impropriated into lay benefices. (A benefice being any ecclesiastical office whose incumbent, clerical or lay, performs spiritual duties and is supported by the revenues attached to that office.) So tithes could actually be owned by a third party. It will not surprise you to learn that, spiritual intentions and benevolent acts notwithstanding, these impropriate tithe owners were often the landed gentry owning large farms occupied by tithe-paying Catholic lessors.

Yet even among established church-goers there was controversy. Popular opinion held that the Anglican clergy in Ireland had grown wealthy off their livings, all the more since many were largely absent from their parishes. A fair number of gentlemen raised their voices against the system, and we find some surprising prominent names mingled in with the rural poor who defaulted in paying (see below).

If you wish to learn the value of the tithes collected for the Anglican Church in Ireland near the end of the TAB period, you need look no further than Lewis' *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, published in 1837. In addition to geographical details about places large and small, this work includes entries on established churches and their incomes. For example, for the parish of Aghadoe in County Kerry, it summarizes:

"The living is a rectory, in the diocese of Ardfert and Aghadoe, forming the corps of the archdeaconry of Aghadoe, in the patronage of the Bishop, and partly impropriate in the Earl of Donoughmore and H. Herbert, Esq., of Muckross. The tithes, including those of 'the five plough-lands of Killarney,' amount to £552. 4.7 ½, of which £447. 4. 7½ is payable to the archdeacon, and of the remainder, £55 is payable to the lessee of Lord Donoughmore, and £50 to H. Herbert, Esq., as abbot of Innisfallen. A glebe of 10 ¾ acres, and one-third of the tithes of the 'Church Quarter' in the parish of Kilgarvan, with tithes in Tuosist amounting to £15. 6. 11 ½. late currency, belong also to the archdeacon...."

The Tithe Composition Act of 1823 significantly altered collection of the tithe. What was formerly payable in kind was now to be made in cash. Payments in kind were cumbersome anyway, and the system of collecting the tithe was prone to favoritism and deception. The 1823 Act allowed large tithe-payers to negotiate the composition to arrive a better match between the income of a parish and the needs of its

clergy for subsistence. This Act also provided for the "Tithe Applotment," to map out an equitable value for the amount payable by each occupier. The information was collected and tithes calculated for each parish by two tithe commissioners, one appointed by local landowners, and the other by the pertinent Anglican diocese. The tax calculation was to be based on the average price of wheat and oats for the seven years prior to the Act. The Tithe Applotment was compiled 1823-1837, with about 55% of parishes completed by 1830. The 1823 legislation was intended to make collecting tithes simpler and more fair. In practice, it was just as oppressive as ever, for the fundamental premise was unchanged, and now poor farmers had to liquidate stock or sell their output to generate cash for payments.

Speaking of cash, note that the period prior to the compilation of the TAB was a boom time in much of Ireland, because of strong demand for agricultural output during the Napoleonic Wars. Afterward, however, there was a steep downturn, and the 1820s witnessed an economic slump. In addition, there were regional famines in 1821 and 1832, and major crop failures in the late 1820s. Agricultural surplus — never mind cash — would not be had easily by the average small-holder in Ireland in the 1820s-1830s.

At this time of economic downturn and localized famines in the 1820s a microcredit scheme was devised to extend small loans to the industrious poor. The "Irish Reproductive Loan Fund" was administered by local associations who recorded the loans and repayments. An article by Mary Kay Kuhfittig in *The Irish Genealogical Quarterly*, June 2011, "Irish Loan Fund Records" offers a good introduction and examples. While these loans have nothing to do with the TAB proper, the Irish Loan records cover some of the same period, 1824 to 1846. Records exist for parts of counties Cork, Clare, Limerick and Tipperary in Munster, and Galway, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo in Connacht. You can find some of the Irish Reproductive Loan minute books, loan ledgers and other accounts, digitized in 2003, on the <a href="https://www.movinghere.org.uk">www.movinghere.org.uk</a> website. Use the search function and enter "Irish reproductive loans" to see the results and choose the record set desired to view and download digital images in PDF form.

During this difficult period many Irish chose to emigrate. Passage was principally to British North America at first, but later opened to the U.S. In 1827, the Passenger Act regulating vessels carrying passengers across the Atlantic was repealed, and the eased restrictions led to lower fares (though poorer conditions shipboard.) A slightly stricter Passenger Act was enacted a year later and remained in force until 1835, but the dam had been opened, and fares continued to drop making passage affordable for even the poor. Between 1828 and 1837 nearly 400,000 people left Ireland bound for North America.

Meanwhile.... Catholic emancipation finally arrived with the "Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829. It repealed the Test Acts and those penal laws which remained in force. After Catholic Emancipation, farmers began organizing to resist collection of the tithe by a combination of subterfuge and civil disobedience, urged on by popular pamphlets and impassioned sermons delivered by Roman Catholic priests. Anglican clergy saw a calamitous drop in income, and appealed to the government for relief.

This led to another set of genealogically important documents: the Tithe Defaulters Lists. Under the Clergy Relief Fund Act of 1831, clergy who could demonstrate arrears for the year 1831 could make a claim for relief. The names of tithe defaulters were to be collected, and orders issued to confiscate goods to create the Relief Fund. Clergy drew up lists of individuals who failed to pay in 1831, and signed affadavits documenting their attempts at recovery. The schedules were compiled and conveyed to Dublin Castle in the summer of 1832. 127 schedules survive, comprised of 1,061 pages and 29,027 names. The surviving Tithe Defaulters lists are held by the National Archives under Official Papers Miscellaneous Assorted (OPMA) series. Each schedule lists the defaulter's name, address, and arrears due; some lists supply extraordinary additional details about the defaulter's occupation and specific landholding.

Stephen McCormac chanced upon this collection while conducting family history research and he has done more than anyone to bring these records to the light of day. (You can read his personal account of his discovery at <a href="https://www.findmypast.com">www.findmypast.com</a> and <a href="https://www.origins.net">www.origins.net</a>, along with summaries of the source material). McCormac has compiled a CD (see below) and has published about the defaulters. In his article, "The

Tithe War; reports by Church of Ireland clergymen to Dublin Castle", in *History Ireland*, Vol. 13, Issue 4 (Jul/Aug 2005) (online at <a href="https://www.historyireland.com">www.historyireland.com</a>), he comments about some surprising defaulters:

"The lists of tithe defaulters show that the vast majority were ordinary folk.... But they also show that these ordinary folk were in good company, for among those also named are the earl of Clonmel; Earl Glengal; Lord Ashbrooke of London; Lord Clifsten of Ringwood, Co. Kilkenny; Lord Ferrard of Collon, Co. Louth; Lord Ormonde of Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny; the marquess of Ormonde; Lord George Quinn of Teenaheen, Co. Tipperary; Sir J.C. Coghill, Ballyduffe, Co. Kilkenny; Sir Coghill Coghill, Milltown, Co. Kilkenny; Sir Nicholas Colthurst, Shanadoun, Co. Cork; Sir A. Hunt, Longford Pass, Co. Tipperary; Sir Nicholas Loftus, Bagnellstown, Co. Kilkenny; and Sir John Newpark of Newpark, Co. Waterford.

That is not all. There were also figures from the legal world....

Five justices of the peace, five bailiffs, twelve attorneys and one solicitor are also listed as tithe defaulters. Seventy-three defaulters are listed as 'gentleman', while a further 119 are entitled 'esquire'. The military are also included—one general, two colonels, nine captains, two majors and two sergeants. Four 'yeomen' are named. None of these, one would suppose, would be remiss in paying their lawful debts, especially to the established church. So why did they not pay?"

Why indeed! These men were neither poor nor Catholic. Tithes, lawful or no, were widely opposed, and some of these same gentlemen were also appearing at anti-tithe meetings. McCormac goes on to relate "the level of opposition to and the degree of vehemence against the paying of tithes," citing as example an account from an affidavit from the parish of Kilmurry Co. Tipperary:

" 'meetings have been holding almost every week in and about the parish, violent resolutions formed, threats issued at any person paying and a complete system of terror now exists in the country which makes it impossible to get a shilling of tythes, by any means which a clergyman could now possibly employ...'

Attempts at enforcement of seizures in lieu of defaulters' payments led to violent clashes in the period from 1831-1836, known as the Tithe War. Rural Ireland witnessed bloody confrontations between farmers on the one hand, and the tithe proctors, process servers, Anglican clergy and constables who were the actors in a burdensome, unjust and dysfunctional tax collection system.

The escalation of violence led to the Tithe Commutation Act of 1838. In this bill, the government 1) recognized (and made a loan to the church for) a total of £1,000,000 in arrears, but reduced the amount by 25%; and 2) converted the tithe to a fixed rent charge in future. In effect, the tithe became payable by landlords, who simply passed along the cost as a rent increase. But it made the system less confrontational and removed much of the animus between the Catholic peasant and the Anglican parson.

Some decades later, and long after the Irish Famine, the Irish Church Act of 1869 separated the Church of Ireland from the Church of England, making it an autonomous, self-governing body of the Anglican communion. And it repealed the law requiring tithes be paid to the Church of Ireland.

Well, that was that. Tithing ceased to be a formal tax with the force of law, and went back to a matter of conscience. The later tax record, Griffith's Valuation of the mid-19th century, was conducted as part of an entirely different tax system, the "poor rate," supporting the poor and destitute in each Poor Law Union.

But, oh, what a great lot of paper was generated by the tithe! And much of it survives. How can we use it for genealogy? The TAB dates to a time when church records are sparse and vital records non-existent. The 1820s are a frontier for many Irish family historians. Will the TAB bridge the gap? Maybe. The TAB is a challenge to work with, but it has recently become more accessible, and can be browsed and searched exhaustively. Most of the TAB is available in microfilm, CD, and now, online — and for free. (Applause)

#### Accessible versions of the Tithe Applotment Books: Microfilm versions of the TAB

The LDS filmed the Tithe Applotment Books for the Republic of Ireland in 1959. You can find the films in the card catalog under author ("Ireland, Land Commission") or subject ("Ireland, Land and property" with the title "Applotment books, abt. 1824-1840." 140 microfilm reels are arranged in alphabetical order, by civil parish name, with several parishes on each roll (beginning with film number 256560).

#### Two publications of the TAB on CD

- "International Land Records: Tithe Applotment Books, 1823 -1838" Family Tree Maker #262,; counties Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down Fermanagh and Tyrone. (Irish Emigration Library CD #A-55)
- "Co. Longford residents prior to the Famine: a transcription and complete index of the Tithe Applotment Books of Co. Longford (1823-1835)" Dome Shadow Press (Irish Emigration Library CD #B-46)

#### Accessing the TAB online

The TAB for Northern Ireland is held at PRONI (see: <a href="www.proni.gov.uk">www.proni.gov.uk</a>) but is not accessible online. However, the TAB of the six counties of Northern Ireland originally published as FamilyTree Maker CD #262 (see above) is available online (by subscription) at ancestry.com. This same index includes all the counties of the republic as well. The index gives only a transcribed entry of occupier name and townland.

There is even better news for the TAB in the Republic, however. In late 2010, the LDS announced that the Genealogical Society of Utah was beginning an indexing project for the Tithe Applotment Books in partnership with the National Archives of Ireland, which holds the original TAB documents for the Republic. Indexing continued throughout 2011 and 2012, and the TAB came online in November 2012 (See *The Irish Genealogical Quarterly,* December 2012, "News from the Web" by Mary Kay Kuhfittig).

The fully digitized (images) and indexed version of the TAB for the 26 counties of the Republic of Ireland is accessible for free, at both familysearch.org and the NAI website. The familysearch.org TAB page is at:

https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1804886

The National Archives TAB page is at:

http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/home.jsp

Searching and browsing at the two locations is quite different, however, and it is worth looking for an ancestor at both points of entry. We will explore the browse/search functions — and caveats — below.

But before we do, note that the ancestry.com index to the TAB mentioned above is sourced as "Heritage World and the Genealogical Publishing Company. Ireland, Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-1837. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008" and is completely independent of the familysearch/NAI index. For that reason, ancestry.com returns different results, and although there is no access to a digital image, it is a useful cross-index of the newly indexed TAB material now online through the LDS and NAI.

#### Browsing the TAB online

At both familysearch.org and NA1 web sites, you may browse the TAB by location. The key information to have is county and then civil parish (not Roman Catholic parish). Remember, the civil parish is generally identical with the Church of Ireland parish (and now you know why!). To find the correct civil parish to browse within in the TAB, consult Brian Mitchell's A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland or the Alphabetical Index to Townlands. If you also have a townland name, all the better (but more about that below).

Browsing via familysearch.org vs. the NAI webpage are very different. The familysearch.org browsing experience is similar to other LDS digitized record sets: find the parish, then open the pertinent film and turn page by page. This is helpful for finding records in context. At the NAI website, browsing by county first, then parish, and finally townland will take you to a single page on which that townland falls — you cannot see the page before or after, only the list for the townland you clicked on.

#### Searching in the TAB online

Browsing is essential to familiarize yourself with the lay of the land and get a grasp of the locale where an ancestor resided. But what you really want is to pinpoint the man by name (and it usually is a man, or else a widow). The search function at both family search org and the NAI web sites allows you to do this.

At familysearch.org, use the "Search Collection" page to enter a first and/or last name. This will return many results, so you can limit your search upfront by clicking on "residence" and entering the county. (The LDS search function does not seem to narrow by parish, although it apparently recognizes a parish name as belonging to a specific county.) Or you can narrow results on the back end, by using the results filter: click on "Other place," select "UK & Ireland" (the only option), again select "Ireland" (the only option), and finally "[your county]" to constrain the results. The familysearch.org search function allows the usual amount of fuzziness when entering name spellings; you can also limit searches to an exact match.

At NAI, you can Search with more parameters, limiting by surname, forename, county, parish, townland. In other words, here you can "browse" a townland by searching for it; or you could search for individuals of a specific name in any townland of a specific parish. This allows a bit more freedom and creativity when searching however, here there is no loose spelling function. Instead, use wildcards e.g. O\*Brien for Obrien, O'Brien, O Brien, etc. For example, my search of "Mcauliffe" brought up only that spelling, while "M\*auliffe" brought up both McAuliffe and Mccauliffe. All personal and placenames are transcribed as written with no spelling correction. Legibility is an issue, as is the question of O' and Mc/Mac prefixes.

So it is worth exploring at both familysearch.org and the NAI web site, each of which offers a different window into the TAB. Now, for the larger question: what will you find? For this we must survey what was recorded in the TAB, and how can it be used genealogically.

#### The Tithe Applotment Books 1823-1837

All the applotment books at a minimum contain the following information:

- · Townland name
- Occupier's names
- Amount of land held and/or amount to be paid in tithes

Many books records include additional details, such as:

- · Landowner's name
- · Names of tithe owners (if not due direct to the clergy)
- · A characterization of the economic productivity of the land
- · Portions of vicarial tithe vs. impropriate tithe, etc.
- "observations" a catch-all category of notations of use

The quality and quantity of information in the TAB obviously varies widely. And again, it is not source originally intended to be of any genealogical worth, but there are clues that may help you find an ancestor. Most Irish family historians are familiar with Griffith's Valuation and have profited from research in this document set. For a good overview of GV, see the recent articles by Kristine Mooney in *The Irish Genealogical Quarterly*, December 2012: "Griffith's Valuation Revisited" and the October 2012 Roundtable handout "Griffith's Survey Bits & Pieces." Some of the principals used in interpreting Griffith's

Valuation are generally applicable to the TAB, but the differences are significant, and will influence how you search or browse and how you interpret what you find (or don't find). Let's survey the main variances.

#### Differences between the Tithe Applotment and Griffith's Valuation: Legibility and standardization

The first and very noticeable difference is the format used, which certainly affects the indexing of names and places, and may affect the reliability of the information when comparing the two sources. The TAB is largely in manuscript form and varies widely in legibility, format and condition; the published version of Griffith's Primary Valuation is for the most part typeset and printed, and follows a standardized format with well-documented instructions for the valuators. Figures 1 and 2 show TAB pages on a preprinted form — which forms often encourage more detailed information. The Co. Kildare example shows land quality characterized as "Arable," "Pasture", "Moor" and tithes detailed as vicarial vs. impropriate. The Co. Carlow example shows a preprinted form with land quality categorized and observations noted. Here, note that for occupier Thomas Nowlan (#34), it is observed that he "lives in Ballon." Not far below, we see three John Neiles, distinguished with observations "house farm," "Cookes estate" and "mason." (There are also three Patt Rourkes and two Joseph Smiths!) In comparison, see Figure 3, a page from a TAB for a parish in Co. Cork which conveys minimal information, and Figure 4, also a freehand ledger of the TAB for a parish in Co. Kerry, but with somewhat more data recorded.

#### Dates of the TAB and GV compared

Another critical difference is timing. The TAB was compiled 1823-1837; GV was conducted 1848 and 1867. The important thing to note is that the TAB was done *before* the famine; Griffith's Valuation was compiled *during and after* the famine. If you know when your ancestor emigrated, you must first determine if the TAB is relevant — did they leave before the applotment? Carefully note the specific year of completion of the record for the parish you are searching (not always obvious). Also be aware that there may be a lag between the field data collection and the recording of the TAB and especially GV — as much as several years, long enough for a person to die, move or emigrate. This necessarily colors how you make sense of your findings in the TAB.

The timing of the TAB and GV compilations should always be considered against the backdrop of the parallel political and economic events and emigration at this time:

- · 1815: Waterloo, post-Napoleonic depression begins
- 1823-1837: Tithe Applotment Books
- 1827: Eased legal restrictions on emigration begin
- 1829: Catholic Emancipation
- · 1831: Tithe Defaulters Lists
- 1831-1836: Tithe War
- · 1845-1852: An Gorta Mór (Irish Famine)
- · 1848-1867: Griffith's Valuation

Clearly, there is a lot of Irish history between these two sets of records, even though they are broadly similar. This will influence your search strategies, and should also trigger an examination of other records.

For example: Did your emigrant leave in a hurry to escape a crime? Perhaps they were in default or took part in the Tithe War; if so, look in defaulters lists, or in the collection "Irish Prison registers 1790-1924" at findmypast.com (fee/subscription). Or seek their crime in the state papers held by the National Archives of Ireland known as "Outrage Papers 1832-1852," reports to the Chief Secretary on crimes and disturbances around the country. The NAI in Dublin also has "State of the Country Papers 1790-1831" dealing with law and order throughout the country and include reports and letters from military officers and magistrates.

Or, did your family leave for economic reasons, due to depression and famine in the 1820s? Perhaps before they left they took out an "Irish Reproductive Loan" (see discussion above.)

#### Completeness and integrity of the TAB and its indexes

Another critical difference between the TAB and the more familiar GV is completeness. GV listed all occupiers who were not itinerants or squatters, and valued farms and houses, including real property in towns. GV probably has coverage in excess of 90%. The TAB, on the other hand, records a tax levied on agricultural land only, held in fee, or held by lease or other tenancy. Urban dwellers and clergy were exempt. The TAB is estimated to represent perhaps only about 40% of heads of households. Certain kinds of occupiers were specifically excluded by design, by the definition of the tithe. The TAB ignored:

- small cottiers (those holding 1 acre or less, or bound farm laborers or herders with no land);
- persons holding land under conacre (land sublet on seasonal terms of lease, e.g. for a single crop, in exchange for labor thereon);
- · rural farm servants; and
- · wage-earners and specialists like weavers, blacksmiths, etc. not owning or leasing land.

How many Americans are descended from Irishmen who fell into one of the above categories? Plenty. Myself included: I have ancestors who appear repeatedly in registers of baptism and marriage, recorded as residing in a specific townland throughout the 1820s and 1830s, who never turn up in the TAB.

In addition to occupiers not listed because they fell into one of the above categories, there may be other gaps in the TAB. I stumbled upon one in Co. Tipperary. I was interested in the tithe for the townland of Garryduff, parish of Ballintemple. Browsing at the NAI website, the list of parishes for Tipperary shows no Ballintemple; and searching for the townland itself brings up others by that name but in different parishes. The LDS shows Ballintemple parish at the end of film # 256569, so it exists. I've never ordered that film, but found a possible answer on another researcher's website (Connors genealogy). On the web page were transcribed five names in three townlands, forming apparently the *entire record* of that parish:

"Research Notes: The Ballintemple CP Tithe Applotments were transcribed from the LDS film #0256569 by Pat Connors....

NOTE: This was all that was found for this civil parish, looks like only a partial list."

(source: http://www.connorsgenealogy.com/tipp/BallintempleTithes.htm)

Disappointing to say the least. Another oddity is possible misallocation of parishes. If you browse the online TAB for the county of Offaly, you will not find it. That is to be expected, since Offaly did not exist in the 1820s; until 1898 it was King's County. The same would be true for Queen's County, not formally renamed Laois until 1922. But on closer look, you will see *both* Laois and Queen's in the list of browsable counties. If you click on County Laois, you will be disappointed to find just one parish: Ballynakill. Except there is no Ballynakill in Laois — the records clearly pertain to the parish of that name in King's County.

The TAB online at the National Archives of Ireland includes the 26 counties in the Republic. But the browseable list includes Armagh, Down and Fermanagh — part of Northern Ireland. Two parishes appear for Down: Drumgooland and Maghera and the parish of Drumgooland seems to have a full set of townlands. Serendipity! On closer inspection, is it really Co. Down, though? The list includes Cootehill, which is in Co. Cavan, parish of Drumgoon. Other townlands under Drumgooland, Co. Down belong to Drumgoon, Co. Cavan, too. Still other townlands do belong to County Down, though. And if you browse for Cootehille in County Cavan, you will not find it. It looks like the index needs some sorting out.

And there are duplications in coverage in the NAI online index as well. Some of these are evident in the Co. Down listing just mentioned. I found another while looking in the parish of Kilcatherine, Co. Cork. I sought a townland which I know is spelled many ways, and found it in the index *under two separate* spellings: "Crompane" and "Crumpane." More puzzling still, the pages for this townland appear different: one is in a crowded, slanted handwriting (this version is the one shown in Figure 3); and the other is in a

legible, neat set of registers. Yet the content appears identical. As it turns out, the entire parish is in two sets. Was one copied from the other? Are they books kept separately by two tithe commissioners? In this case, I had pulled the corresponding LDS film years ago but found only one set of records (unfortunately, I transcribed what I needed, and did not make a printout, so can't say which version was filmed by LDS.) Perhaps most disconcerting, because the online version of the TAB at the NAI website has two sets of records for this parish, one less legible than the other, the individual occupiers and townland names are indexed differently and sometimes twice, depending on how the handwriting was read.

Some inconsistencies and gaps in the TAB do seem real. But many are simply flaws in the new indexing. Some errors noted in the indexes are in process of repair; both the NAI and familysearch.org web pages have notices posted about transcription errors and known issues, and provide ways to report more. Indexing was a monumental task, and corrections will certainly improve the usability going forward.

#### Placenames and their spellings in TAB

Which brings us to one final difference. GV is arranged by townland within a parish, and by the time of GV, townland names had become standardized. The TAB is likewise arranged by denomination within each parish, however not all of these placename are townlands; and some townlands may be spelled in an archaic or vernacular way. The TA preserves many smaller placenames that are no longer in use. These "subdenominations" are important for pinpointing an ancestor's home, but can be difficult to find.

Figure 4 is an example from the civil parish of Killarney in Co. Kerry. It shows the official townland of Knockaninane, east and west, and names occupiers within it in "part called Reanloho," "part called Glounonea," "part called Lackanagrougrey," and "part called Raheen." The subdenomination Glounonea is very real, and is attested in church records of Kilcummin RC parish (adjoins Knockaninane). Note also that each of the subdenominations has a group of occupiers who share a valuation as indicated by brackets. This is an example of *rundale*, an old system of tenure whereby acreage of variable or marginal quality was divided into parcels, and each tenant held a proportion of every grade of land — good and bad — yet no one tenant retained permanent possession of any separate part. Such land tenure often implies cooperative kin relationships between the holders, of potential significance for genealogy.

Subdenominations like these are usually in Irish and designate such places as a crossroads, a bleaching ground, a booley, an ancient battlefield. If you find an ancestor in the TA in such a subdenomination it can be interesting to learn more about the location of his plot. This place may appear in the "Manuscript Index to the Original Six Inch to the Mile Ordnance Survey Maps" — an index to the first edition of the Ordnance Survey six inch maps, which the Irish Emigration Library has in microfilm. (FILM 35 IR 39-SIX). Another source that may have clues to a location and meaning is the "Onomasticon goedilicum" (1910) by Edmund Hogan, also at the Irish Emigration Library (and online at http://publish.ucc.ie/doi/locus). Even better, many Irish local histories mention these old placenames. Our library has a good number of these.

Lastly, let's briefly discuss the defaulters lists and how to access them, as a useful adjunct to the TAB.

#### The Tithe Defaulters Lists of 1831

Not all the lists of defaulters survive. The ones that do come from 12 counties, as follows:

- County Kilkenny: 10,263 names
- · County Tipperary: 9,346 names
- · County Wexford: 2,773 names (incl. 54 names in Clonegal/Moyacomb, Cavan and Wicklow)
- · County Cork: 2,115 names
- County Waterford: 1,838 names
- County Louth: 965 names
- · County Limerick: 851 names
- Assorted Counties: Laois-360 names, Meath-36, Carlow-437, Offaly-23, Kerry-20

Enough survives to show that non-payment was widespread, and in some counties resistance was especially strong. Choosing simply at random in Co. Cork, here is a comparison. The Tithe Defaulters (1831) reported for the townland of "Gurtnalickey" in the parish of Clondrohid, Co. Cork are:

- · Michael Herlihy
- · Daniel Buckley
- · Catherine Buckley
- · John Buckley
- · Daniel Buckley
- Cornelius Murphy
- Pat Keleher
- · Michael Keleher
- John Goggin

By comparison, the TAB (1834, applotment completed three years later) for the same townland of "Gurthnalecky" shows the following names (rearranged to mirror the order above):

- · Michael Herlihy
- Daniel Buckley
- John Buckley
- Dan Buckley
- · Cornelius Murphy
- · Patrick Kelleher
- · John Goggen
- John Mahony

This townland's occupiers were a non-compliant lot. Such comparisons can be repeated many times over.

#### Accessing the Tithe Defaulters Lists

The lists of defaulters are accessible in several places. They can be searched online (fee/subscription) at:

- · www.origins.net (www.irishorigins.com)
- www.findmypast.com

A transcription of the Tithe Defaulters lists is available on CD:

 The 1831 Tithe Defaulters compiled and edited by Stephen McCormac (Eneclann) (Irish Emigration Library CD #B-26)

Transcribed Tithe Defaulters lists are also available on 15 microfiche from Data Tree Publishing, Australia (online at <a href="http://home.alphalink.com.au/~datatree/index.htm">http://home.alphalink.com.au/~datatree/index.htm</a>). (The Irish Emigration Library owns several.)

#### Does the TAB bring you closer to your 18th century ancestry?

This brief survey has hinted at ways the TAB can be searched and findings interpreted, but my remarks have talked around the real question: can one find ancestors in the TAB? Poised as it is in the 1820s, the TAB records many occupiers who were born in the 1700s. That is a real prize for most family historians! For those with Catholic ancestors, the treasure glimmers most brightly: these are heads of families whose own marriages and whose children's baptisms might not have been recorded — because they happened before church records begin in many instances. The TAB is so tempting... and yet.

Most who seek an ancestor in the TAB have a name (perhaps only a surname) and a county, maybe a parish, and rarely a townland. Even in the best of circumstances, with an exact first and last name and

specific townland, a glance around reveals that the man you seek may be in the company of several men with identical names. How can one disambiguate, using the example cited above, John Neile of Myshall who had a "house/farm," from John Neile who lived or worked on "Cookes estate," from John Neile who was a "mason?" Are the three John Neiles related? Father/son/nephew? Three cousins? Coincidence?

Using another example for Knockaninane, are the six men "Daniel Hayes, John Murphy, Denis Connor, John Sullivan, James Cahill and John Fleming" who farmed together rundale fashion in the "part called Glounonea" related? Brothers-in-law? Partners? Is John Fleming of Glounonea the same man who works the Knockaninane demesne? Is he an overseer? Is he a middleman, and do the others sublet from him?

These are difficult questions to answer, yet some are discoverable. Local resources could tell us about specific families and land tenure arrangements. For example, the Kenmare estate manuscripts or local histories of Kilcummin and Killarney could shed light on the people of Knockaninane in the 1800s above.

Likewise, a man listed in the TAB when he was in his thirties could appear in his fifties in GV, and then his death might be recorded in a civil death registration after 1864. Tracing forward could help you establish an identity with more certainty, connecting three records of the same man at different times of life. Does the death record, for example, show the same townland as the TAB; is the informant a son, etc.?

But more daunting is the question: is your ancestor in the TAB at all? Is, for example, your John Neile, said to come from Myshall one of the three actually listed there in the TAB? Or was there yet another man of the name who was a landless laborer, he who came to America? Those of us who find ourselves on this side of the pond are largely descended from people who left Ireland because they sought freedom and opportunity and especially because they were landless. Does that fact actually answer the question? Because, by definition, the landless cottier and laborer paid no tithe and does not appear in the TAB. And perhaps that is itself enough: negative evidence suggests specific scenarios, too.

#### The bottom line

In summary, the TAB is an important resource which cannot, and should not, be overlooked. But to gain the most from this resource requires imaginative searching and sideways thinking, using the results you find to form conjectures and explore other records at your disposal to create a frame of reference for interpretation and gather corroborative evidence.

No one would make a tax record like the TAB their first-choice resource for genealogical research. No one but an Irishman, that is. Irish family history requires agile reasoning and creative use of a limited arsenal of sources — and fortunately, we Irish genealogists are just the ones to embrace this challenge.

#### For further reference

For more information about the TAB, and the tithe defaulters, consult any of the good Irish genealogical overviews by John Grenham, Jameś Ryan, or Kyle Betit & Dwight Radford. Good introductory comments about the TAB can also be found on the National Archives of Ireland and PRONI websites, familysearch.org's research WIKI, and findmypast.com and irishorigins.com.

Last, and never least, see especially the article, "The Sacred Tenth: the Tithe Composition Applotment Books" by the late James R. Reilly, CGRS, in *The Irish at Home and Abroad*, Vol. 3, 1995-1996 pp. 4-9.

Have you worked with the TAB? Did you find an ancestor there, or get clues for searching further?

Did you encounter problems in the online indexes and discover workarounds?

Share your knowledge with other IGSW members. Email your TAB story to member Michele Patin at <a href="mailto:michele@gid.com">michele@gid.com</a> or by post to IGSW at P.O. Box 13766, Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766.

Figure 1: TAB on preprinted form with land quality characterized, and tithes detailed (Co. Kildare)

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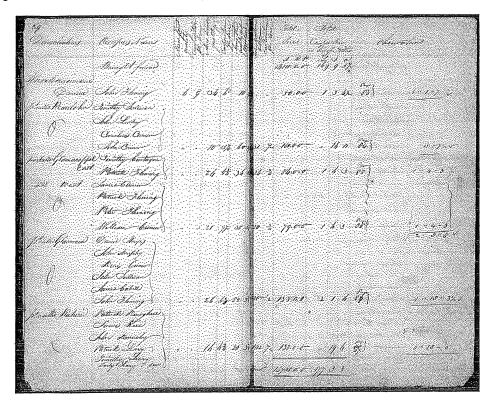
Figure 2: TAB on preprinted form with land quality classified and observations made (Co. Carlow)

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Figure 3: TAB on simple ruled pages with minimal information (Co. Cork)

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Figure 4: Subdenominations and archaic placenames; also rundale land tenure suggested (Co. Kerry)



## TIPS FROM THE MCGS BIENNIAL WORKSHOP

by Mary Kay Kuhfittig

Renowned genealogist, Loretto (Lou) Sczucs, developed a love of family history years before there were digitized records accessible at home by computer. She used to take her four young daughters with her to records centers, and have them scroll though endless microfilm reels in return for a promised treat. This led to all four daughters growing up to be genealogists. Lou and one of the daughters, Juliana Szucs Smith, presented all day programs at the MCGS's workshop, held April 20 at Serb Hall.

## **GENEALOGY TIPS**

The two ladies alternately shared good tips for finding the information you want on Ancestry.com.

- 1. Ancestry has records in the billions, and is constantly adding more. Think about filtering the information when doing a search. Narrow your focus.
- 2. This was new to me----if you have put any information in the search that does not appear in the record, the record will not show up, even if Ancestry has it. Be sure to clear the search form before going to another search. Usually, an unfocused global search will bring all the census records to the fore, and you will have to scroll a long way to find what you are looking for. The search tab on the menu bar at the top of the home page allows selection of a particular focus.
- 3. Check the card catalog often, since Ancestry is constantly adding records. You can find it by clicking "search" on the menu bar, and it will appear at the bottom of the choices. Once at the card catalog, there are filtering choices at the left. It's a good idea to enter the name of a state, so you will get all records pertaining just to that state. Entering the state name in the title box, and a county name in the keyword box will further focus the search. These searches will turn up local histories, sometimes known as "mug books" online. Your ancestor may have contributed a biographical sketch. These books will not come up in a global search.
- 4. Another focused search will bring you to city directories. You may find your ancestor in the over a billion names covered. Also, directories allow you to find churches closest to your ancestor, as well as cemeteries, schools, street guides, etc.
- 5. The Szucs ladies emphasized immediately recording the citation for records found.
- 6. The state sites will provide a link to be able to purchase the originals of the records indexed.

- 7. Wildcards are often helpful in searching. The asterisk (\*), indicating a wild card, may be placed anywhere in a name, as long as the name has three regualar characters. Remember, names are often found misspelled or mistranscribed.
- 8. Occasionally in a search, you may want to leave out the surname, filling out other information, such as date range and place.
- 9. Always search for the extended family. Look for neighbors. Look for people who lived near the family in a previous census in another place.
- 10. Browse, slow down.

#### THE LEARNING CENTER

Ancestry is trying to update the learning center. Explore it by using its tab on the menu bar. Free webinars offering full classes are available.

Ancestry is active on social networks, including Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Pinterest, and Tumblir. YouTube has 5 minute finds which offer tips and advice.

## ADDING FAMILY TREES TO ANCESTRY

There are three options when placing a tree online: publishing, privacy, and super privacy. With published trees, you may allow your contact information to be given. Alternately, you may allow your tree to be published, but anyone wanting to contact you must go through Ancestry's private messaging service, so others cannot contact you directly. You then have the option to contact them. Finally, there is a super private setting, which allows no contact. This may be useful while you are still working on a tree.

If you have FamilyTreeMaker 2012, an option called Treesync will link to your Ancestry tree, so adding or making corrections on either will show up on the other.

You may add pictures and short biographical sketches through mycanvas.ancestry.com

#### THE CENSUS

Ancestry has an every name index for censuses from 1790 to 1940. They have worked with NARA to improve the images.

Lou Szucs stressed the usefulness of starting timelines for each ancestor. Organizing, analyzing and looking for inconsistencies are key. The Census is a good place to start a timeline. Later you may want to layer the timeline with historical events.

Sometimes we don't look around enough. Writing things down helps you think and analyze. Print blank census forms, and fill them out. Analyze each column. Holding the cursor over the column title as well as all items in the column will highlight and enlarge it. Look for the people who lived near.

#### **CENSUS TIPS**

The U.S. federal censuses for the years 1900-1930 include a date of immigration for immigrants. Use that date to narrow your search for your ancestor's passenger arrival record in the <u>Immigration Collection</u>.

Pinpoint your ancestor's location from the census on a map, and then look for churches, cemeteries, and other places where your ancestor may have left records.

Be sure to locate your ancestor's adult siblings in census records. It was common for extended family to live in the same household or near other family members. You may find a parent, grandparent, or other family members living either with them or nearby.

If you're having a difficult time locating your ancestor, try searching using only given names and other details like birth year, residence, family members, place of birth, etc.

Occasionally, census takers only recorded initials in place of the given name. Using only a first initial will bring up these records.

Census takers didn't always have the best penmanship, so if you're having a hard time locating your ancestor, write out the name and try replacing some of the letters with letters that look similar.

#### HAVE YOU LOOKED AT ALL CENSUS RECORDS?

Don't forget that Ancestry has also indexed many state censuses. Furthermore, look at the special censuses, commonly known as non-population schedules, such as:

1850-1880 Schedule of Agriculture, Industry and Manufacturing

1850-1880 Mortality schedules of the census (found under death records)

1890 Veteran's schedules

1880 defective, dependant and delinquent schedules
1888-1895 Us Special Census on Deaf Family Marriages & Hearing Relatives
1830-1920 New York Inmates in Almshouses & Poorhouses.

#### **COMING TO AMERICA**

Arrival in America was a pivotal moment for your ancestors. Ancestry has most of the National Archives passenger records. The Steerage Act of 1819 required ship captains to submit a list of passengers, giving name, age, gender, occupation and nationality. Much more information was added after 1891.

Families didn't always travel together.

Don't assume ancestors were married. Look for females by their maiden name.

Look for friends who may have travelled with them.

Look at conditions. What time of year was it? How long did the trip take?

How many deaths ocurred? Births and deaths were noted, sometimes with the entry for the parents; otherwise at the end of the manifest.

What was the ethnic background of the passengers?

Check the newspapers around the time of arrival.

If your ancestor appeared in the censuses of 1900, 1910, 1920, or 1930, a column will note the year of immigration. Some state censuses may also list this.

Naturalization records may give information.

Vital records may include how many years in the U.S.

Look for applications for a U.S. passport (1795-1925)

The New York Emigrant Savings Bank records (1850-1883) may help.

Under "Narrow by Category" at the bottom there is a tab for "ship pictures and descriptions."

#### **OVERLOOKED RECORDS**

The final handout listed five pages of sometimes overlooked records, too many to list here. A few of them are:

Coroner's

Almshouse

Body transit

Cemetery

City Directories

Civil War Prisoner of War Records

County Histories (mug books)

Court records

Cyndi's List

www.deathindexes.com

Deceased Physicians (at Ancestry.com)

Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Homes

Emigrant Savings Bank (at Ancestry.com)

Ethnic publications. Cities often had an Irish newspaper.

Findagrave.com

Gemealogical Society Records

Google

Guardianship Records

Insurance Records.

www.interment.net/us/index.htm

Library catalogs

Maritime and military records

Newspapers

Pension, especially military

Persi

Probate

Religious Records

SSDI and Applications

Statewide Death Indexes

Tombstones--photograph

Veterans Cemeteries database--check for spouses

WPA death indexes

A persistant theme through the Szucs' presentation was remember to look for the story----every record tells a story. Timelines will help.

A large crowd attended the workship, which was well-organized, with half-hour breaks between talks for participants to enjoy the vendor's tables.

Other speakers and topics covered were Caron Primas Brennan on Fold 3 and Social Networking, Russell P. Horton on Finding Those Who Served, and a Milwaukee Public Library presentation on the Zeidler Humanities Room by Jennifer Heidel.

Did you know that for the English YES and NO there is no exact Irish equivalent? That explains what, for the visitor, appears an annoying and peculiarly Irish habit, that of returning a roundabout answer to a simple question. E.g. 'Was that you I saw yesterday on the way to work with a shovel over your shoulder and a cigarette in your mouth?' Answer 'It was me (not me) you saw yesterday on my way to work with a shovel over my shoulder and a cigarette in my mouth':

Above is from the book, IRELAND AN ENCYCLOPEDIA FOR THE BEWILDERED by K.S. Daly

At our April 1, 2013 IGSW Meeting at the Shorewood Library an interesting presentation was given by Dr. Jose' Lanters. We had all heard of the Tinkers or Travellers as they are now know but we had much to learn about this interesting group of Irish people. Following is Dr. Lanter's summery of her presentation.

'Tinkers No More: The Irish Travellers, Past and Present'

José Lanters, Professor of English, UWM

Author of The 'Tinkers' in Irish Literature: Unsettled Subjects and the Construction of

Difference (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2008)

http://www.isbs.com/partnumber.asp?cid=&pnid=326716

The Travellers are a small but distinctive cultural and ethnic minority in Ireland who were also known as 'tinkers' until the middle of the twentieth century, when that term became increasingly pejorative. 'Traveller' is now the internationally recognized neutral term for people who traditionally made their living in a nomadic or semi-nomadic way. For centuries that nomadic, marginalized minority provided settled, predominantly agricultural Ireland with valuable services like tin smithing, seasonal farm labor, horse trading, and musical entertainment. Irish Travellers are not Gypsies or Roma, but of Irish extraction, with surnames like Ward, Collins, McDonagh, and Joyce. This illustrated presentation gave an overview of the cultural distinctiveness of the Travellers which, in addition to the travelling way of life, includes their own language called Cant or Gammon; a distinctive oral tradition; and unique cultural practices around marriage, the extended family, and death. The talk also explained the changes in the Travellers' living and working conditions since the 1970s, and their current existence in roadside caravans, halting sites, and – as 'settled Travellers' – in homes among the general population. It documented the way in which individual Travellers have begun to represent themselves in autobiographical narratives, often in response to the 'tinker' stereotype that has persisted in sedentary society and its cultural expressions. The conclusion focused on recent efforts by both travelling and settled people to create better understanding between both communities, through information and publicity campaigns, outreach by various organizations and persons in positions of leadership, and improved education.

A summary of the presentation given by Gary Shea on March 4,2013 during the IGSW Meeting at the Shorewood Library will be published in the September, 2013 IGSW QUARTERLY.

## MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST AUGUST 15, 16, 17, 18, 2013

1981 - 2013 This will be Irish Fest's  $33^{rd}$  year at the

Henry W. Maier Festival Park.

1983-2013 Genealogy at Irish Fest celebrates 31 years

in 2013.

Visit the Genealogy Tent in "Ballyfest" to purchase a Certificate of Irish Heritage from Kay Woods, a representative of Fexco in County Kerry.

Consult with Jane Halloran Ryan a professional genealogist from County Clare who is coming from Ireland with the Brian Boru Group.

As a Volunteer or Visitor you are most welcome whether a novice or experienced researcher and every thing in between,

You will find the Cultural Village "Ballyfest" in the same location as last year (South end of the grounds) but changes in the setup of the Village are necessary and in the planning stage.

#### **CLAN REUNION**

The honored Clan at Irish Fest this year is Clan Gallagher. There will be a special reunion tent and many events planned for the weekend. Please contact Jean Bills to register and for more information - e-mail - jeankbills@aol.com

- From: Irish Family Names
- Arms, Origins and Locations
- Brian DeBreffny

#### **GALLAGHER**



THE Ó Gallchobhair sept, from which Gallagher families are descended, held a territory in the southeast of Co. Donegal in the baronies of Tirhugh and Raphoe with a sept centre at Ballynaglack near Stranorlar. Although Gallagher and

O'Gallagher rank among the twenty commonest surnames in Ireland, the distribution is still markedly concentrated close to the original territory of the sept. At the beginning of this century two-fifths of all the Gallaghers in Ireland were still to be found in Co. Donegal. Despite 20th century population movements this pattern is still noticeable, with a predominance of the name outside the capital, in Co. Donegal and the neighbouring Derry, Tyrone and Sligo.

## Monday, July 1, 2013 - 7p.m.

Shorewood Public Library - 3920 N Murray Ave - Shorewood, WI

## Researching your Family with Family Search

Join Jane Orne, Director of the Family History Center in Hales Corners, as she discusses the new Family Search programs available on their online site.

## Monday, August 5, 2013

We will be taking the month of August off.

We hope we will see you at Irish Fest, August 16 - 18.

**ERIN GO BRAGH!** 

## Monday, September 9, 2013

Shorewood Public Library – 3920 N Murray Ave – Shorewood

Russell Horton, Archivist for the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum

will present a talk on the Irish in the Civil War.

He was recently appointed to the Editorial Board of Archives Issues.

## Monday, October 7, 2013

ICHC - 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI

"A Night of the Round Tables"

Come meet with us as we discuss our successes and failures and work together to help solve some of the genealogist's conundrums.

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

IGSW Programs are free and open to the public.

# The IGSW Quarterly Title Index for 2012 Vol 21, Nos 1-4

Title	Author	Nos. Page
A Dream of 48 Years	John J. Dowling, submitted by Tim Dowling	No. 1, Page 4-6
Certificate of Irish Heritage "Field of Blood, Field of the Forgotten"	Jean Bills	No. 4, Pages 4-5
A History of Milwaukee County's Potters Field Presentation by Dr. Michael McBride	Kristine Mooney	No. 2, Pages 14-15
Genealogy Tent at Irish Fest	Genealogy Volunteers	No. 3, Pages 3 - 9
Griffith's Survey Bits & Pieces - Round Table Oct. 1, 2012	Kristine Mooney, Ph.D.	No. 4, Page 13
Griffith's Valuation Revisted	Kristine Mooney, Ph.D.	No. 4, Pages 6-12
Help Wanted	Gary Shea	No. 4, Page 3
IGSW Round Tables April 2, 2012 1940 Census Beginners Genealogy	Michele Patin Gary Shea	No. 2, Pages 10-13
In Memory	Staff	No. 4, Page 5
Membership Reminder	Patrick Tyrrell	No. 1, Page 13
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year	IGSW	No. 4, Page 24
Milwaukee Irish Fest August 16-19, 2012	Jane M. Maher	No. 2, Page 13
More About the New FamilySearch Website	Patricia Keeney Geyh	No. 2, Page 7-9
News From the Web	Mary Kay Kuhfittig	No. 3, Pages 12-18
News From the Web	Mary Kay Kuhfittig	No. 1, Pages 7-13
News From the Web	Mary Kay Kuhfittig	No. 2, Page 3-6
News From the Web	Mary Kay Kuhfittig	No. 4, Pages 15-19
Night of the Round Tables	Michele Patin	No. 1, Page 16
On St. Patrick's Day	Staff	No. 1, Page 3

# IGSW QUARTERLY TITLE INDEX 2012, Page 2

	~		Nos.
	Γitle	Author	Page
C	Our IEL	Jane M. Maher	No. 4, Page 12
F	President's Message	Gary Shea	No. 1, Page 2
F	President's Message	Gary Shea	No. 2, Page 2
F	President's Message	Gary Shea	No. 3, Page 2
F	President's Message	Gary Shea	No. 4, Page 2
F	Recent Additions to the Irish Emigration Library	Mary Kay Kuhfittig	No. 3, Pages 32-34
F	Reflections on Irish Fest 2012 and the Genealogy Tent	Michele Patin	No. 3, Pages 10-11
F	Researching Ancestors in Religious Life	Sister Sylvia Ann Sheldon	No. 1, Page 14-15
	Review of January 2012 Program "Is There a Banshee in Your Family"	Staff	No. 1, Page 15
F	Robert Langford Stack	Tim Dowling	No. 3, Pages 35-36
٦	he IGSW Quarterly Title Index for 2011, Vol 20, Nos 1-4	Susan Laubenheimer	No. 1, Page 18-19
7	he Titanic Trail	Bill O'Driscoll	No. 3, Pages 19-26
٦	hinking Outside the Box - Round Table Oct. 1, 2012	Michele Patin	No. 4, Pages 20-22
٦	homas Francis Meagher	Michele Patin	No. 4, Page 14
ι	Jpcoming Programs	Sue Dolinar	No. 3, Page 37
ι	Jpcoming Programs	Sue Dolinar	No. 1, Page 17
ι	Jpcoming Programs	Sue Dolinar	No. 2, Page 16
ι	Jpcoming Programs	Sue Dolinar	No. 4, Page 23
V	Veb Sites for Irish Genealogical/Family History Research	Dick Ammann	No. 3, Pages 27-31



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