

**The Irish Everywhere
Newsletter
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From The Editor's Desk
by Denise A. Wells
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Welcome subscribers, to the premiere issue of The Irish Everywhere Newsletter! I began this endeavor just a few short weeks ago and it seems to be blossoming across the world. I am pleased to welcome subscribers from Canada, the U.S., England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Sweden, Italy, New Zealand, Australia, Hawaii and even South Africa. While the subscriber base is only slightly over 600 subscribers, this is truly, for me, an exciting beginning! And I hope it will be for you, also.

The newsletter will cover Irish history, genealogy, research, library holdings, how-to's of research, clans, societies, local festivals, research books, and any other Irishness that will educate us about our families, ourselves, and how we are who we are today! In doing so, we are destined to have a great time! How could we not?

We will address Irish research and history worldwide. While you will not find what you are looking for in

each and every issue, the newsletter will be designed to give you more information about our Irish heritage. Our ancestors left their beautiful island, often not knowing if they would survive to reach some distant shore. We can little truly understand what they suffered to leave their dear Ireland, but we can get snapshots through history of what they endured for life, for freedom, for love. We will look at the different Irish communities around the world and how they came to be. What forced your ancestor to leave Ireland? Or did they leave willingly? What drew your ancestor to a foreign shore? Which foreign shore did they choose? Did they choose? What life did they leave behind in Ireland? And what life did they create in their courageous trek throughout the world?

I plan to bring you articles about different Irish communities. Various countries were host to our families and very different lives. But they all brought with them the love of Ireland, their customs, foods and religions. We will explore the population of Australia through the Irish convicts, the slave trade in the West Indies, the Irish brigades who fought in the U.S. Civil War, the Scots-Irish connection, the numerous Irish who lived in England, and the Irish who traveled to Canada, among the many topics available.

I hope you'll enjoy this journey through time and share with us your stories, successes and your knowledge. This will be a newsletter for you, and about you. Let me know what you want to read. I want the newsletter to be successful, but most of all, I want you to be successful in your research. That will be my success. Of course, newsletters are limited, and at first, I will attempt to bring you articles that answer some of the more common questions. From there we'll move onto more unusual and diverse questions.

Finally, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the many subscribers and authors who submitted articles for inclusion in this issue. If your article isn't in this first issue, don't be too disheartened. I'm amazed at the response I have had. New articles are arriving daily in my online mailbox, as well as the one outside my door. You should be able to look forward to many future issues of The Irish Everywhere. So, sit back, put your feet up and enjoy.

Feature Article - Irish Names, Given and Surnames
Reprint of Dwight A. Radford and Kyle J. Betit

One of the first things you need to know to begin your research is your ancestor's name. But are you sure you know their real name? What don't you know about Irish names? With the kind assistance of Mr. Kyle J. Betit, I am pleased to bring you a section from the book he co-authored with Mr. Dwight A. Radford, "A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Irish Ancestors."

IRISH NAMES

Given Names

To successfully trace your Irish ancestors, you will need to understand a certain complexity to Irish given names. Your ancestor may have used several given names during his or her life. There may have been more than one formal name, including a christening or confirmation name, and nicknames were often used. As a result, you need to be very careful about the assumptions you make based on given names. For Catholics the situation is further complicated because English, Gaelic, and Latin equivalents of given names may have been used in records.

When names are recorded in church records or in civil registrations of births, marriages, and deaths, nicknames may be used instead of formal given names. (For example, Kate for Catherine, Con for Cornelius, or Lackey for Lawrence.) Many nicknames are easy to spot, but others are not, such as Delia for Bridget or Sarah for Cecilia. While undertaking a search, East Galway Heritage Centre identified a

death in 1897 registered for Sarah Rhatican. The Heritage Centre noted in its report that Celia and Sarah are often used interchangeably. Indeed, this Sarah was registered as Cecilia when she married, and on registration of her children's births, she was using the name Cecilia or Celia. Two books we recommend that list nicknames are Ronan Coghlan's *Irish Christian Names* and, for Scots-Irish, Leslie Alan Dunkling's *Scottish Christian Names*.

Many of the Irish Catholic parish registers are recorded in Latin, so unless you have a basic understanding of Latin names, you might not recognize your ancestor's baptism or marriage. Some names are fairly easy to translate, such as Maria for Mary or Johannes/Joannes for John; others are not, such as Gulielmus or Guglielmus for William. Some Latin names can have more than one English translation, such as Jacobus, which stands for both Jacob and James.

It is helpful to have a list of Latin names and their English equivalents for reference when reading Latin text. One recommended source is the list in Charles T. Martin's *The Record Interpreter*.

In some instances names are used interchangeably, such as Eugene and Owen. The Latin or the Irish (Gaelic) name may explain why certain names are used interchangeably. For example, because the Irish (Gaelic) form of Jeremiah or Jerome is Diarmaid, Darby or Dermot is often used in place of Jeremiah or Jerome.

Surnames

Family names, like given names, have variations and peculiarities that can provide some surprising twists. Variations in both form and spelling are common problems. One of the most useful guides available regarding the complexity of Irish surnames is Robert E. Matheson's *Varieties and Synonyms of Surnames and Christian Names in Ireland*. Matheson's 1890 study was based on the family names found in the civil registration of that year. Local variations in spelling, the use of prefixes, and older forms of surnames are some of the helpful topics Matheson discusses. To illustrate this point, we would like to share the story of a fellow researcher (Judith Eccles Wight, AG) who was tracing Delia Holland. When Wight eventually located records of the family in Ireland, the woman's name was found as Bridget Houlihan. As a side note, Hawney, Mulholland, and Wholihan (the older, or Irish, form) are also variations of the Holland surname, and Bedelia and Fidelia are variants of Delia as well.

Particular letters were often substituted for other letters. Some of the more frequent substitutions are A and E (McAvoy and McEvoy); C, K, and G (Millican, Millikan and Milligan); C and K (Carney and Kearney); G and K (Gilhooley and Killooley); and P and W (Phelan and Whelan).

One of the most common variations you will find is the adding and dropping of O' and Mc before Irish family names. You may see the family listed as Connor and O'Connor in the same church register. Immigrants from Ireland often dropped or added the O' and Mc prefixes in their new countries. There's no hard and fast rule about this principle.

One of the most interesting phenomena with Irish names is that sometimes a different surname will be used from the one you are expecting. This happens often with names that are very common in a particular area. For example, we were researching the Briscoe family, which emigrated from Ireland to Australia and then to the United States. When we found them in Kiltoom parish, County Roscommon, the church records appeared to be of no help until we visited the area. We found out from the local people that the Donnelly surname is so common in the area that a branch took the name Briscoe. The local Briscoes all know that historically they're really Donnellys. As you can imagine, this required another search of the church records.

The bottom line is that you must be careful in researching Irish names both at home and abroad. Use available resource books (see below), your imagination, and maybe the assistance of a library or heritage centre in Ireland.

What about maiden names? Did Irish Catholic women tend to use their maiden names as their legal names after marriage, as many Italian and French Catholics did? The answer is not clear-cut. Irish women abroad generally used the custom of the culture in which they were living. Thus, in the United States and English-speaking Canada, Irish women went by their husbands' surnames. However, it was the custom among French Canadians in Quebec for women to retain their maiden names throughout life. In many places in Ireland itself, it was customary in casual conversation for married women to be referred to by their maiden names. However, official documents kept by the government usually record a woman by her married name. If you are looking at Catholic parish registers in Ireland, it is often difficult to tell whether a woman is being referred to by her maiden or married name when listed as a godparent or witness. For example, if you see the following three pairs listed as godparents in a baptismal register, are all three the same pair, or are you dealing with more than one Mary?

John and Mary Kelly
John Kelly and Mary Kelly
John Kelly and Mary Sullivan

SOURCES FOR IRISH GIVEN NAMES AND SURNAMES

- Coghlan, Ronan, Irish Christian Names: An A-Z of First Names. London: Cassell Ltd., 1979.
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MacLysaght, Edward. The Surnames of Ireland. 6th ed. Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 1985.
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O'Dwyer, Richard. Who Were My Ancestors? 4 vols. Astoria, Ill.: K.K. Stevens Publishing, 1976-1989.
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Irish Festivals - 2002
by Denise A. Wells

What a great opportunity to plan some quick trips during the summer. Here are a few of the upcoming different Irish festivals available. Please let me know of others in your area and I'll see that they are posted here. If you attend any of these festivals and take pictures, please feel free to send me some scanned snapshots to be included in the online version of the newsletter. Also, please feel free to submit a review of any festival you attend.

July 9-14 - Galway Film Fleadh - www.galwayfilmfleadh.com
July 13-14 - Colorado Irish Fest - www.coloradoirishfest.org/

July 14-19 - East Durham, NY (Greene Co.) Arts Week
 July 15-28 - The Galway 25th Arts Festival - www.galwayartsfestival.com/kindex.html
 July 17-20 - Hebridean Celtic Festival, Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland - www.doyle.com.au/irish_festivals.htm
 July 18-21 - Canada's Irish Festival - www.canadairishfest.com
 July 19-20 - The Plymouth Folk Festival - www.maritimemusicfestival.co.uk/
 July 19-21 - 20th Annual Cleveland's Irish Cultural Festival - www.clevelandirish.org
 July 20 - East Durham, NY (Greene Co.), Irish Traditional Music Festival – www.east-durham.org/fest.html
 July 27 - Irish Fest, Sioux Falls, SD - www.irish.org/
 July 27-28 - Celtic Celebration, 12th Annual Event, Reno, Nevada - www.renoceltic.org/
 Aug. 2-5 - O'Carolan Harp Festival & Summer School, Keadue, County Roscommon, Ireland - www.hart.net/Keadue/KeadueIndex.htm
 Aug. 3 - The Alaska Irish Music Festival, Galway Days on G Street, Anchorage, Alaska - www.akirishmusic.com
 Aug. 3-4 - Monterey Highland Games & Celtic Festival, Toro County Park, Del Rey Oaks, CA www.montereyshotgames.com/
 Aug. 9-18 - Kilkenny Arts Festival - www.kilkennyarts.ie
 Aug. 18-19 - International Celtic Festival, Hunter Mountain, NY - www.huntermtn.com/celtic.htm
 Aug. 23-25 - Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann - www.comhaltas.com
 Aug. 23-27 - Rose of Tralee International Festival - www.roseoftralee.ie
 Aug. 24 - East Durham (Greene Co.) NY - www.eastdurhamfeis.com/
 Aug. 24 - Great Lakes Irish Music Festival - www.greatlakesirish.com
 Aug 31-Sep. 2 - Newport Waterfront Irish Festival - www.newportfestivals.com/Irish_Festival
 Sept. 5-8 - Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival, Estes Park, Colorado - www.scotfest.com
 Sept. 6- 8 - The Pittsburgh Irish Festival - www.pghirishfest.org
 Sep. 26-29 - Galway Oyster Festival - www.galwayoysterfest.com
 Sep. 26-29 - 8th Annual Sebastopol Celtic Music Festival, Sebastopol, CA - www.monitor.net/celtic/
 Sep. 28-Oct. - Ballinasloe Horse Fair 2002, Ballinasloe, Galway, Ireland
 Oct. - Cherbourg-Octeville Festival of Irish & British Film - www.festivalcherbourg.com
 Oct. 5-7 - O'Carolan Harp & Cultural Festival - www.harp.net/Nobber/FESTIVAL.htm
 Oct. 12 - Phoenix Irish Fair, Hance Park, Phoenix, AZ - www.phoenixirishfestival.com/
 Oct. 16-21 - Baboro, Galway International Arts Festival for Children - www.baboro.ie/
 Oct. 25-28 - Guinness Cork Jazz Festival - www.corkjazzfestival.com
 Oct. 25-Nov. 10 - The Belfast Festival at Queens - www.belfastfestival.com
 Oct. 27-Nov. 3 - Wexford Festival Opera - www.wexfordopera.com
 Nov. 7-10 - Copenhagen Irish Festival - www.irishfestival.dk/

Irish Website of the Month
 Leitrim-Roscommon Genealogy Site
<http://www.leitrim-roscommon.com>

It is my pleasure to review the Leitrim-Roscommon Genealogy Site and present to Ed Finn my very first Irish Everywhere Award for Excellence. Congratulations Ed and staff! Bypassing all of the bells, whistles and graphics most sites contain, this page exemplifies what we, as volunteers and researchers, are committed to in assisting others... providing records for the researcher.

Ed Finn is the Administrator of this fine page, and has worked with other volunteers to produce an excellent site. Over 370,000 visitors can attest to the importance of this website.

The main page currently announces the completion of the 1901 County Leitrim census records online database. A Surname Database for Counties Leitrim and Roscommon, a townland database for the same counties, and a helpful map page for viewing townlands, civil parishes, baronies, poor law unions and catholic parishes for the same two are also housed here. Many other resources are located at this site for those with Leitrim or Roscommon ancestry. The most amazing aspect of this site is it possesses the ability to contain databases for other counties of Ireland, some of which are already online here. As Ed stated to me in a recent email, "The real gain comes to the researchers when they learn of the site and what we have available for them in the way of real searchable data."

Ed is attempting to bring to everyone an opportunity to contribute to others by volunteering to enter records from the Griffith's Valuation. You should contact Mr. Finn if you would like to work with him on this project.

The IreAtlas Townland Database created by John Broderick (aka SeanRuad) lives here also. This database is a "must" for everyone researching in Ireland and attempting to determine in which townland your ancestor resided, or where the townland is located. Many stories are told of grandparents saying the name of the townland where their parents or grandparents came from. When the researcher attempts to locate the townland phonetically, they often cannot find it. This database can solve that problem. Using even just part of the townland name, you will get a return of all townlands that contain those letters, along with the name of the county, barony, civil parish, and poor law union. Conversely, if you enter a barony, you will get a return of every townland in that barony.... which can be enormous. This website would be worth its weight in gold if all it contained was this one database!

Do yourself a favor and check out the Leitrim-Roscommon website. You never know what you may find there.

You can reach Ed Finn by writing to him at:

efinn@leitrim-roscommon.com

Irish Clans - The FOX Clan
by Mary-Jane Fox, Ph.D.

The Fox Clan

Within Ireland today, Foxes of Gaelic descent, or "Sionnach" Foxes ("sionnach" as the Irish word for fox), can be found throughout the island, including County Cavan, as well as around the globe. The Sionnach Foxes have a particularly long and sometimes dynamic history, some of which has only recently been the object of study, and some of which is yet to be discovered. These Foxes of Gaelic descent should be distinguished from other Foxes on the island, particularly those of English or Norman descent, the latter of which originate from the Cork and Limerick areas, and are referred to as "de Bhosc" Foxes.

The Sionnach Foxes were not always so widely distributed, and from about 900-1000 years ago they can be clearly identified as extensive landowners, centered in what is now the northwest border area of Counties Offaly and Westmeath. They were in fact often referred to in Irish chronicles and annals as "princes of Teathbha", or Teffia, which was a principality located east of the Shannon, and included much of the counties of Offaly, Westmeath, and Longford. These Foxes are understood to be descended from

Maine, the fourth son of the legendary Niall of the Nine Hostages. Maine was the first ruler of Teathbha and died in 440 AD. It is to this particular line of Foxes that the Foxes of Cavan primarily belong.

They are first mentioned as the Foxes (Sinnacha) in the Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland of the Four Masters in the year 1050 (yes, 1050), when they are identified as having plundered the monastic center of Clonmacnoise twice in three months! In the following decades individual Foxes are mentioned increasingly in various Irish annals, beginning with Tadhg an Sinnach Finn (Tadhg the Fair Fox), also at times referred to as An Sinnach Finn (The Fair Fox, with "An Sinnach" indicating he was "chief of his name") who is reported to have been killed in 1086. It is probably with him that a long chain of Fox resistance to English rule began, since it is a Fox chief who is partly credited with arranging the murder (decapitation!) of England's first Viceroy in Ireland, Hugh de Lacy, in 1186.

Notably, and centuries later, in 1641, the Fox clan chief Hubert Fox, who lived in present-day Clara in County Offaly, gained some notoriety himself by burning down half the town of Kilbeggan and being one of three conspirators to take Dublin Castle! A reward of 400 pounds and permanent pardon for anyone turning him in was offered, though the man never seemed to have been found. During the Cromwellian land confiscations, Hubert's lands and other Fox lands were also taken, and it is suggested that it was at this time that many Foxes moved to not only Connaught, but also Langford, Cavan, Westmeath, and even Armagh and Down. Of course confiscations due to "plantation" goals of the English crown earlier in that same century also undoubtedly caused many a Fox to move northwards.

Much more history of the Foxes has been compiled, and the Foxes are now an active clan with a website and plans for another gathering in 2005. To read more, you are invited to visit the site at: <http://www.geocities.com/foxclanirish/>

Contact and other information can also be found at that site as well. We end this article with the ancient Fox motto, a battle cry:

SIONNACH ABU!!!

~Irish Holdings in Libraries -
New England Historic Genealogy Society, Part I

Irish Research Sources at the New England Historic Genealogical Society
by: Marie E. Daly

Not all the records were destroyed

A false rumor has been circulating among genealogists for years - Finding Irish ancestors is impossible because all the records were burned in 1922. While there was a fire in the Public Record Office in 1922, many records were not stored there. For instance, Catholic church records were all locally held, and therefore survive. Although the pre-1901 censuses were destroyed, genealogists can use census substitutes, such as Griffith's Valuation. Irish genealogists have become so adept at maneuvering around the obstacles, that many have successfully traced their ancestors back to the late 1700s. Most of the brick walls actually occur in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when church records, estate records and deeds peter out. But since many Irish-Americans trace their forebears to mid-to-late nineteenth century immigrants, they would be often satisfied just to find the village or farm from where their ancestor fled the famine.

Find the exact origin of your immigrant ancestor

Many people call NEHGS and say that they are leaving for Ireland in two weeks, and want to find their ancestor's birthplace. They have only a little information, for example that his name was Charles McCarthy and he was from Cork. But Irish surnames and given names are very common, and discerning this ancestor from all the other Charles McCarthys in County Cork is a daunting task. So Irish-American genealogists must determine the exact origin, i.e., parish or townland, of their ancestor. For the most part, that search for the exact origin is carried out in New World records, not Irish records.

NEHGS has a large collection of materials to help in the process of identifying immigrants. A good place to begin your research is the 1900 or 1920 census, both of which are indexed by the soundex system. These census records provide the year of immigration and the citizenship status, and the 1920 census recorded the year of naturalization. In addition to the 1900 and 1920 censuses and soundexes, NEHGS has a large collection of other American census records, street directories, passenger arrival lists, newspapers such as The Boston Pilot, the Missing Friends series, banking records (such as the Immigrant Savings Bank of New York), and civil registrations (births, marriages and deaths) for all of the New England states.

Once you have determined the exact origin of your immigrant ancestor, you will be ready to "make the jump" to the other side of the Atlantic. But before you actually travel to Ireland, you can accomplish much research with Irish records here at the Society.

Why come to NEHGS to research Irish ancestors?

Although most people know about the wonderful collection of early New England records at NEHGS, the extensive collection of Irish records has been largely a well-kept secret. The types of information available for the Irish-American genealogist range from general guides and "how-to's," to indexed censuses and census substitutes, maps and atlases, local histories, church records, tombstone inscriptions, county historical journals, newspaper records, and directories. By performing much of your research here in the United States, you can use your time in Ireland more productively and more enjoyably, i.e., visiting your ancestors' birthplaces, seeing where they came from, and possibly meeting descendants of relatives left behind.

In addition, many people have used the heritage centers in Ireland with mixed success and satisfaction. By researching as much as you can on your own, you can increase your chances for a successful search. By furnishing good detailed information to the heritage centers, you can make their searches more focused, and the results more pertinent to your ancestor.

General Guides

Several general guides on Irish genealogy can help you begin your search through Irish records. These books will help organize your search, and relate the availability of specific records by county.

John Grenham, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: the Complete Guide* (Baltimore: GPC, 1992)

This paperback guide provides a general discussion of records in the first half of the book, and a listing by county of available records and their locations, in the second half. The book is particularly useful for its maps of Catholic parish boundaries. The Genealogical Publishing Co. is planning to republish this book in the near future.

James Ryan, *Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History* (Orem, UT: Ancestry, 1997). Organized by county, this book provides a good atlas of the parish and barony boundaries. In addition, the book gives a brief history and lists available records for each county.

Margaret Dickson Falley, *Irish and Scotch-Irish Research: A Guide to the Genealogical Records, Methods*

and Sources in Ireland, 2 vols. (Baltimore: GPC, 1981). At one time this comprehensive book was the bible of Irish genealogy, but it is now out of date. Nevertheless, it presents detailed descriptions of records and repositories, and may still be usefully consulted.

Locating the place-name in Ireland: maps and atlases

After consulting the general guides, the next step should be to identify the place-name of your ancestor's origin. NEHGS has several reference books which will help you identify place-names. Within the thirty-two counties which are familiar to most people, Ireland is divided into baronies, which are old administrative divisions arising out of medieval territories; poor law unions, which are nineteenth century administrative divisions; civil parishes, which approximate in size an American township; and townlands, which are the smallest unit and usually contain only a few hundred acres. Fortunate genealogists will have identified the townland or parish of origin.

A good place to start is the General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland: 1851 Census (Baltimore: GPC, 1992). This reference book will identify in what parish, poor law union and barony a townland lies, as well as providing the ordnance survey map number. This information is crucial in using census substitutes such as Griffith's Valuation, explained in more detail later.

Once the townland or parish, barony and poor law union have been identified, the next step is to locate these places on a map. A useful reference is Brian Mitchell's A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland (Baltimore, GPC, 1988), which displays the subdivisions by county. You should make note of the surrounding parishes for later reference. You may discover that there was no church in your ancestor's parish until the later nineteenth century, and that you will have to research the adjacent parishes for earlier dates.

NEHGS also has townland maps for most counties in Ireland, either on microfiche or in printed form; see Parish Maps of Ireland (depicting all townlands in the four Ulster Counties of Armagh, Donegal, Londonderry and Tyrone) (Apollo, PA, Closson Press, 1988). Also on microfiche are the townland maps for counties in Connaght and Munster provinces. On the sixth floor in the reference area, the research library has an excellent printed source, Ordnance Survey of Ireland: Indexes to the 1/2500 and 6-inch Scale Maps. This work includes a complete set of townland maps, with the corresponding ordnance survey maps numbers (discussed below). NEHGS has just received a complete microfiche set of ordnance survey maps with scales of 6- inches-to-1 mile. Each fiche has only one map on it, so the resolution is finer than that of other sets which have six maps on each fiche. With our microfiche printer's ability to enlarge, you can make close-up copies of your ancestor's townland. These maps show the location of details such as houses, trees, streams and narrow country lanes. The ordnance survey map number is provided in the Townland Index mentioned earlier. These are not the Valuation maps (available only in Dublin), which correspond with Griffith's Valuation coordinates, and show which house or farm an ancestor occupied. But these ordnance survey maps give you a good perspective of your ancestor's life back in the old country.

NEHGS also has a number of special Irish atlases which will give you excellent descriptions of specific areas. Published by the Clogher Historical Society in conjunction with the Irish Studies Department at Queens University Belfast, Landscapes of South Ulster, by Patrick Duffy, displays excellent and detailed parish maps for areas in the Catholic Diocese of Clogher. This diocese stretches from Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal on the west coast, through Counties Fermanagh, Tyrone and Monaghan to County Louth on the east coast. Not only does the atlas display the maps; it also assembles a collection of parish descriptions published over the last 400 years.

These are just a few of the many resources NEHGS has for identifying place-names in Ireland. Besides specific county and parish histories, there are numerous books devoted to place-names in Ireland. Among these are Place-Names of Northern Ireland, 6 vols. by Gregory Toner and Micheál B. Ó Mainnín

(Belfast: QUB, 1992-96); Irish Names of Places, 3 vols. by P. W. Joyce (Dublin:1920), and Toponomia Hiberniá, 4 vols. by Breandán Ó Cíobháin (Dublin: An Foras Duibhneach, 1978).

Local histories and descriptions

Once you have located the place-name in Ireland, you should research the history and description of the area as thoroughly as possible. Being knowledgeable about the locale will help you use the genealogical resources, such as census substitutes, more wisely and productively. For instance, townland names and boundaries may have changed over time, ancestors may lease land parcels straddling townland and parish boundaries or the Catholic parish name and boundaries may not correspond with the civil parish. A description listing the major estates and industries within a parish will help you make use of estate records, rental rolls and other local records. Descriptions of ecclesiastical structures and history will help identify church records and cemeteries.

Many researchers use A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, 2 vols. by Samuel Lewis, available on the sixth floor reference area, to learn about the history of particular parishes or towns in Ireland. In addition to John Grenham's Catholic parish maps in Tracing Your Irish Ancestors, Lewis' dictionary gives verbal descriptions of Catholic parishes. Lewis usually starts by providing population statistics from the 1831 census, topographical, archaeological and geological information, a brief history of the parish, a list of the major estates and their owners and a list and location of the churches of each denomination.

For genealogists with Ulster province roots, the Ordnance Survey Memoirs and related documents provide a detailed and fascinating glimpse of individual parishes in the 1830s. Published by the Ulster Historical Foundation, the Ordnance Survey Memoirs, vols. 1-48 (located on the fifth floor at NEHGS), give excellent local descriptions of the parishes in the counties of Down, Antrim, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Donegal and Tyrone. Not only do the books furnish even more detail than Lewis' dictionary, they sometimes delve into highly subjective descriptions of a parish's population.

Another series relating to the Ordnance Survey was published on mimeograph paper in the 1920s by Rev. Michael O'Flanagan. NEHGS has a three-volume set of Letters Containing Information Relative to the Antiquities of the County of Galway, Collected During the Progress of the Ordnance Survey (Bray, 1928). Volumes for other counties may be found in other libraries, including the Boston Public Library.

Townlands in Ulster.

Local History Studies by W. H. Crawford and R. H. Foy, (Belfast, 1998) provides an in-depth examination of particular townlands in Northern Ireland, and includes Griffith's Valuation and the corresponding Valuation Maps. This book is extremely valuable if you are lucky enough to have an ancestor from Forttown, Co. Antrim, Scolbow, Co. Antrim, Ballymagee, Co. Down, Cranfield, Co. Down, Drumskinney and Montiaghroe, Co. Fermanagh, Gallon, Co. Tyrone, Hollyhill, Co. Tyrone or Owenreagh, Co. Derry.

Irish Townlands.

Studies in Local History by Brian Ó Dálaigh, Denis A. Cronin and Paul Connell, (Dublin, Four Courts Press, 1998) is the companion book for the Irish Republic, and cover the townlands of Drumcavan, Co. Clare, Dysart, Co. Westmeath, Ballynahalsik and Sweet Rockmills, Co. Cork, Kilmacud, Co. Dublin, Cloonfush, Co. Galway, Eskerbaun, Co. Roscommon, Cloncurry, Co. Kildare, Lacken, Co. Wicklow, and Kildoney, Co. Donegal. Although this book thoroughly examines the localities, the corresponding Valuation Maps are not included.

In addition to these sources, NEHGS has many county and parish histories which give details about specific septs and families within their boundaries, and help to guide your research toward specific records.

Census and Census Substitutes

After determining the location of your ancestor's birthplace, the next step is to research genealogical sources available for that area. Ireland began collecting census data in 1821, and by 1851 had expanded the data collection to include all members of a family. Unfortunately most of these early records were destroyed. There are census fragments available for certain parishes in certain counties, most notably the southern parishes of County Derry in 1831, a few parishes in County Cavan in 1841, and four parishes in Kilworth Union, Co. Cork in 1851. The Society has copies and indexes for these census fragments available in book form, microtext and on CD. Although the Society does not have the 1901 census of Ireland, you can order the census from the LDS library in Salt Lake City. In addition, the Society has a number of indexes to the 1901 census, such as County Longford and its People: An Index to the 1901 Census for County Longford by David Leahy (Glenageary, 1990), and the 1901 Census Index, Volume 1, County Fermanagh, and Volume 2, County Tyrone, by Linda K. Meehan. The record most people use in researching their ancestors is Griffith's Primary Valuation of Ireland, which is a mid-nineteenth century, head-of-household census of land occupiers. The valuation includes not only land owners, but people who rented or leased land also. NEHGS has a complete set of the Valuation and the accompanying Householders Index on microfiche, as well as a complete surname index on CD. Since all of the indexes have some omissions, you can go directly to the parish valuation record and search all the townlands, if you know the parish of origin. You should always keep a wide focus when trolling through records. Even if your ancestor's name is Charles McCarthy, you should make note of other McCarthys within the parish, since they could be relatives. Others with the same surname within the same townland are very likely related. Some people exclude checking Griffith's Valuation because their ancestors emigrated before the Famine. Although the data for Griffith's seems to have been collected around 1848, the census takers may have started in some areas years before 1848. In fact, genealogists have come across many cases where their families were listed in Griffith's Valuation, even though they emigrated or died years before.

The next most comprehensive census substitutes available at NEHGS are the Tithe Applotment Books, available on microfilm. In the early decades of the nineteenth century, all land occupiers had to pay tithes to the Church of Ireland, regardless of their religion. The collectors kept records of land acreage and valuation, and the amount they collected from each head-of-household. Dating from about 1825 to 1840, the books document the generation from the time of Griffith's Valuation.

For researchers with Northern Irish roots, the Old Age Pension Claims Index, Part 1 may help fill the gap left by the destruction of the 1841 and 1851 censuses. With the passage of the Old Age Pension Act of 1908, persons age 70 or over had to show proof of age to collect a pension. Since the civil registration in Ireland began for most records after 1864, applicants for pensions had to use the 1841 and 1851 census for proof. The records provide the name and age of the applicant, their parents names, including in some cases the maiden name of the mother, and their address. In some cases the applicants gave the names of their brothers and sisters, and other records, to prove their age. Located in the fourth floor microtext department, the index consists of 9 microfiche of 39,000 records created between 1908 and 1922 and held in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. They cover only the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone.

Another source in the NEHGS microtext department, the fiche Index to the 1796 Spinning Wheel Tax of Ireland, may prove useful to some researchers. As part of a scheme to promote the production of linen, the number of spinning wheels in each household were reported. The lists of head-of-households by parish are more comprehensive for counties most heavily involved in the linen trade, such as Armagh or Mayo. The original lists are located in the Linen Hall Library in Belfast, but the surname indexes are available at NEHGS on microfiche.

Look for Part II of this article in the August issue of The Irish Everywhere Newsletter. **[NOTE: We are attempting to reach Marie Daly to obtain the rest of this article, so it may not appear until a later issue.]**

MARIE E. DALY is director of library user services at the New England Historic Genealogical Society and is the author of Inscriptions of Mount Auburn Catholic Cemetery, Watertown, Massachusetts. She co-founded The Irish Ancestral Research Association in 1983, and in 1998 appeared in the PBS-TV series "The Long Journey Home."

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Irish Research Success Stories
By Thomas Walsh
thomas@aldwick39.freereserve.co.uk

I was born in Dublin on the 8th of August 1932, six months after my father's death. Growing up in Dublin but not knowing anything about my father's side of the family, I left Ireland at the age of 21 to go to Australia. I got as far as London where I met a girl from Hackney. Two years later we were married and that's as far as I got from Ireland.

I then began to think of my background. I had my mother/father's marriage certificate, my father's death certificate and from that I began to do my research. Every avenue drew a blank. I had been to the Archives, the National Library of Ireland and the GRO in Dublin. Early last year I was back in the National Library and, being frustrated at getting no information, I spoke to the resident genealogist. From a chance remark she made, I found one of my father's sister's family. I obtained seven generations of their family and from other information they gave me I found my father's family who lived in Francis Street, Dublin. They were shoe/boot makers. More research to do but at least I got results I did not dare dream of.

Thomas Walsh

Ulster Ancestry
by Robert Williams

On the 18th of February 1847, in foul weather, the sailing ship "Helen Thompson" pulled away from Carrickarory Pier, in Moville, County Donegal, Ireland. Among the 398 souls crowded together on the deck were Lewis Williams, his wife Catherine, and four children: Catherine Eliza age 4; Mary Anne age 6; and William and Samuel, 10 and 12, respectively. For this small family the parting was particularly painful, for left standing alone on the quay were the couple's other two children, Francis and Jane.

Finances had dictated that all the family could not travel together to their much dreamed of new life in Canada. Francis and Jane were to follow as soon as money could be raised and sent home for the fare. By September of the same year, Lewis, Catherine and their young children lay dead in the bottom of a fever pit in the Ottawa Valley of Ontario. They had suffered the final indignity shared with so many of their

fellow travelers of being dumped, one on top of the other, in an endless procession of death carts from the fever sheds. For them the much dreamed of new life in Canada was not to be.

What has all this to do with Ulster Ancestry? Lewis Williams was my great great grandfather.

Down through the years Francis and his sister, Jane, were haunted by the unknown fate of their parents, brothers and sisters. No one thought it worthwhile to let them know they were orphans. For the rest of their lives they waited each day for a letter. No letter ever came. Both went eventually to their reward still feeling that awful sense of loss and abandonment. My grandfather and my father searched for descendants, but their task was futile. It was not until I discovered the worldwide web and the internet that I was finally able to learn of the fate of my own family, a fate that for 150 years had cast a shadow over succeeding generations.

Out of all this was born Ulster Ancestry, a research service which I set up with a view to helping people connect to their ancestral families here in Ireland. From my own experience I know how important finding one's ancestors can be and what it means to a family. Someone once said that if we do not respect our ancestors, then we cannot expect to be respected by generations as yet unborn.

Ulster Ancestry has grown to become the second largest family and ancestral research agency in Northern Ireland. Using the resources and archives held by The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, we offer a range of searches from a standard initial search to a large, full search of every available record which leaves no stone unturned in an effort to put the client in touch, not only with their ancestral family here in Ireland, but with present day descendants.

We have added a Genealogy Forum to our site which has message boards for each County and a live genealogy chat room where people can meet and discuss their various family interests. Ulster Ancestry would be glad to hear from anyone trying to trace their family roots in Northern Ireland. Our best attention is assured.

Our website can be found at www.ulsterancestry.com and I can be contacted at researchers@ulsterancestry.com

Robert Williams
www.ulsterancestry.com

In Memory of:
by Michael A. Chambers
Submitted by: Mary Ellen Chambers

A Son's Tribute to His Mother
Pensacola, Fla., August 16, 1899

To the Mining Journal

There has passed away in your mountain town an humble individual whose biography, if correctly recorded and written, would be both instructive and edifying--Ms. Anastasia Chambers, my own adorable, affectionate, self- sacrificing mother.

She was born on the west bank of the Blackwater river, in Waterford county, Ireland, midway between

Fennoy and Lismore, in the parish of Lismore and "Townland" of Ballynaron, of parents who, though reduced to poverty by England's tyrannous, infamous laws, were descended from the noblest of a noble race, for the blood of the O'Mahoney's, the Lanes and the Burns flowed in mother's veins.

She received her baptism in the little village church in Ballyduff, where 23 years later, she was united in holy wedlock to John Chambers of Ardmoor, Waterford county, a "rollicking, handsome, manly fellow" of her own age.

Mother's father, James Lynch, of Tallow, Waterford county, himself an Irish scholar and member of an honored and honorable family, led to the altar Ellen Lane, the mother of our subject.

Our mother was born in 1813 A.D. and married in 1836, which would place her age at the time of death at 86 years-3 years more than her father lived and 10 years less than was her mother's age when she died-only 11 years ago.

Of the ten children that constituted our family four were born in Ireland-all boys, and one is buried there, in old Maccollop graveyard, at the foot of Killworth mountain, on the shady side of the Blackwater river, just opposite the humble home of our good father, erected by his own hands. "Times were hard" in Ireland when our parents began life together. Times are always hard there, but by dint of hard work, self-denial, and great economy, they were able, in 1846, the year the famine began, to "pay their passage to America," then, as now, the Mecca of the oppressed of every land. In those days there were no ocean greyhounds and the average voyage was of about 3 months duration. Our parents, I believe, were something like two months in making the passage, and then, on account of cholera onboard, they were compelled to land at St. Johns, N.B., instead of Boston, the original point of destination.

Four members constituted our father's family at this time, I having been left in Ireland. A younger sister of our mother, with her husband, accompanied our parents on their venture to the New World.

Boston having been the original point of destination, where a few relatives and many family acquaintances had already settled, our parents, it seems, finally reached there in 1847. That is a memorable year in American history as well as in the history of Ireland. Gold was discovered in California. The Mexican war was begun and famine was devastating the whole of the Emerald Isle. Labor was plentiful in Massachusetts. The great Pacific cotton mills, at Lawrence, were being built, and there our father found his first work in the United States.

Our good mother regarded the marriage relation in the light every true woman should. She believed it to be her duty to help her husband in every way possible and honorable, and so, with her other household duties she assumed other cares-kept boarders, etc.

In writing this somewhat disconnected story I have omitted, perhaps, the most trying ordeals of mother's life. I refer to the war period. Imagine, if you can, dear reader, the anguish of that mother's heart when, hearing the cannon boom at Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Martsburg, Winchester, Hagerstown, Williamsport, Falling Waters, and at Gettysburg, knowing that her three sons for whom she would have died were it necessary, were somewhere among the numbers of those places, many of them destined never to return. Perhaps her own dear boys, whom she loved only a little less than she did her God, would fall among the slain. When such thoughts as these were not racking her mind the honor and the safety of her daughters at home were an ever-present anxiety to her. But to the honor of American manhood, South and North, not one soldier on either side ever molested or attempted in any way to disturb our family during the whole of that long, bitter and bloody struggle and our home was, as it were, between the lines most of the time.

For the benefit of my relatives who, perhaps, have not thought of these incidents, or who have not learned from our mother the story of her life, this imperfect, yet truthful biography is written.

And in the interest of a number of your fellow-citizens, dear editor, I ask you to publish it, but most particularly as an honor due to a Noble Mother, a Sincere Friend, a True Woman-Anastasia Chambers.

Her Son
[Michael Chambers]

His full name was Michael Angelo Chambers. He was born at Ballyduff, Parish of Lismore, County Waterford in 1841. Sometime after 1848, Michael, his older brother Thomas and younger brother John Benedict were brought over to the US after their parents had established a homeplace in Washington County, Maryland.

Michael fought in the American Civil War in the 13th Maryland Regiment for the Union Army. After the Civil War he educated himself and joined the United States Navy. After WW1, he retired in Florida. At his retirement, he was the oldest serving officer in the US Navy. He married twice. In the 1870s he married a woman with the surname Fitzgerald. Oral history has her a member of the Boston Fitzgerald's, the same line as Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, John Fitzgerald Kennedy's mother. She died young and left him with young daughters who were cared for by relatives in Boston. At 56, he married a much younger woman. They had 2 children, male and female. His daughter from this marriage, Unel just turned 100 yrs. old and is living in California.

To see the language and the flow of it, it is amazing to realize that this man was illiterate until 1865 and then educated himself. His youngest brother John Benedict did the same. John Benedict became a judge, store owner, and union advocate in Maryland. The "Judge" worked with Samuel Gompers and Terrance Powderly in the early days of the American union movement.

Neither man became wealthy or famous, but they show the spirit and determination of the post Famine emigrant Irish. It is a marvelous legacy they left my husband and all their numerous descendants.

Mary Ellen Chambers
Lakewood Ohio

Tips & Tricks 1: Scanners
by Dennis Murphy
dmurphy595@wildblue.com

My Journal - The Plagues of Egypt - Scanners

Though I have finished but 2 cubits of my planned 24 cubit ark, the rains continued here in Crawford County, Pennsylvania. Minor flooding has occurred but most swells have abated quickly and serious water damage has been avoided. On the other hand, the wind has managed to carve its first notch. Now the buzz is all about the locust attack due this summer. Nobody told me about that before I purchased the tender young trees that were just planted. Can you guess a locust's favorite meal?

Well the morning went well as I ambled over to my computer, coffee in hand, to finally scan those genealogy photos. To those of you with scanners, bear with me, to those of you without - you simply must get one. Of course, this leaves things wide open for all kinds of questions, like: Which one should I get? Can you recommend one? How many DPI should I get? To those and all associated questions I offer you The Murphy Rules of Order:

Rule 1: Buy what makes you happy and solvent.

The first decision to make after installing and calibrating your scanner is the dots-per-inch one. For whatever it's worth, here's what I do. I am the kind of guy that believes in mechanical advantage. If my scanner was designed to scan at 2400 dpi, then by golly, I'm going to take that baby out and open her up on the High Tech Skyway. So my first scan goes off full throttle and I save the image in TIF format. Personally, I feel that TIFF has a slight lead over JPG in sharpness and overall ability to further manipulate the image. But just to hedge my bets, I do another 2400 dpi scan of the same image and, this time, I save the file as a JPG image. Depending on the size of your original graphic, these will be very large files at 2400 dpi. I save the files as something like *gramma01.tif* and *gramma01.jpg* respectively. These files then go into my Archive Files, which are stored on CD-ROM. All subsequent manipulations and derivations will come from these master files. I save the files at the highest resolution possible for several reasons, not the least of which is that you never know what tomorrow's technology will bring. The later versions are numbered sequentially and saved as much smaller files.

A brief word here on my master or Archive Files. In many cases, the family genealogist becomes the one trusted soul who is allowed to briefly hold those old family photos that have been cherished and tucked away for years. Ironically, it is often those same photos, so lovingly protected by old Aunt Minnie, that are subsequently thrown away in later generations. So it is quite possible that your initial scan may someday be the only remaining evidence that such a photograph even existed. It is therefore the family historian's duty to record, publish and back-up this important aspect of your genealogy. And the best way to "publish and back-up" your work is to see that every member of your family gets a CD Family Album of all your family photos. If you make 100 copies, just maybe, 100 years from now one might still exist.

Another issue you will face is practical file size. The JPG format has a built in compression scheme so they tend to be smaller than TIF files. It is also the Internet standard and tends to email well. If you want the same image to print well, keep the resolution about 300 dpi to 600 dpi. If you're planning to upload them onto a website, take the resolution way down to about 50 dpi or 72 dpi. Personally, I like the TIF format when I am seeking a good print as I feel it holds better detail. The images may tend to print more slowly and, depending on your system, they bog things down a bit, but you will be happier with the results. In short, decide first how and where the photo will be used, then set the resolution accordingly.

Your new scanner likely came with some sort of photographic software and, with a little luck, you got a good one. Just as no one genealogy program does all we would expect, not all graphic packages were created equal either. This is why I still maintain three of each type of program on my computer. Perhaps the best photo program and certainly the one I use the most, is Adobe Photoshop. I was lucky enough to get the Lite version included with my scanner. I learned to like it so much, I bought the big version – after breaking my piggy bank. Still, I wish it had some of the features found in Paint Shop Pro and/or Picture Publisher, my other resident programs. I even have Corel Draw floating around on CD somewhere but I put that one to bed after realizing that I faced a steep learning curve just to create text for a website. It's probably one heck of a program but be prepared to scratch your head till your hair falls out.

Now here's my tip for the day. Most of the programs that are packaged with your new scanner are watered down versions of something usually better. Even the scanner program itself will often offer things like "auto contrast" or "equalize" or "color correction." Avoid the temptation and simply scan your image as is for your archival file. Then buy or get yourself a good graphic program and do all your "retouching" in the better program. You will find better flexibility and get better photos.

My buddy, Jack, just sent me an email claiming that his system went haywire and Bill Gates was talking to him. He had just scanned an 8x11 photo using his new scanner and was getting all sorts of intimidating messages like "No more memory, no more, please" and even "If you continue, your system will self-destruct" Well I sent Jack the following reply:

Here I might heartily suggest that you get the books that came with your scanner and look them over a bit. One of them should have a basic short course on scanning. One thing you most definitely need to learn how to do is to set the DPI up or down or anything you would like, even if you don't know why you should do this at first. You will be changing the DPI setting a lot. In case you did not know, DPI = dots per inch and is basically the resolution setting, at which, you are about to scan. The higher the setting, the more detail you will have in the image, but the larger the file size will be as well. There is a lot more to this, so read the book.

Next you will need to know the difference between COLOR, GRAYSCALE and LINE ART. There is Master's Degree work in perfecting the Color settings, probably an Associate Degree with Grayscale while Line Art is, well, just Line Art. Line Art either works or it doesn't and is generally reserved for maps, cartoons and things like that. It works best with clean, clear and crisp images. I have scanned some very good copies of naturalization papers using Line Art with excellent results. However, if you have an old or faded document, you will find Grayscale produces a better rendering of the original. If you can get away with Line Art for documents, use it, as the files will be much smaller.

Now I suspect the 8x11 image (a very large photo) was scanned at a very high DPI, resulting in a very large file that sent his memory on an acid trip. To avoid such problems, you need to upgrade your memory, scan at a lower resolution, or learn to use the Image Size menu in your software. Always ask yourself how the image is going to be used and set the DPI accordingly. But always remember the laws of physics, mechanical advantage and logic. An 800x600 monitor is not going to accurately display a 2400 dpi image.

Now I must go outside and plant more trees so the locust will have something to eat when the plague hits.

Tips & Tricks 2:
by Donna Walcovy

Computers, the Net, and the Irish

For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere it is now summer, and there are a few precautions you should take to keep your computer "cool" this summer. Have you ever been in an office with many computers? It's cold, isn't it? That's for a reason; these little beasts use a lot of power that generates heat.

Your PC is equipped with an internal fan to keep air circulating around your processor to keep it cool. In these warm summer months be sure your computer is not shut away in a cabinet with no air circulation. I keep my PC on a shelf with plenty of room in the back and the front. It is easier to connect and disconnect my various computer add-ons. In the summer months I place a fan next to my computer for extra cooling. I also let the fan run about a half hour after I shut off my computer, to make sure everything cools down.

Excessive heat can cause your hard drive to crash, an expensive replacement will be needed and you'll have to deal with the heart-rending devastation of losing all of your family research and records if you haven't made a back-up. A small investment in a fan can save you money in repairs and keep you on your quest for your Irish ancestors. Don't forget to back-up!

Conferences by Donna Walcovy

The New England Historical and Genealogical Society and The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA), will sponsor a two-day conference on Irish Genealogy. The conference will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in Braintree, MA on September 27 & 28, 2002. It is just 10 miles south of Boston. Some of the top experts in the field of Irish Genealogical Research will be presenting lectures:

Kyle J. Betit, a professional genealogist specializing in Irish Research. He is the co-author of A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Irish Ancestors, (2001)

Maureen Dezell, author of Irish America: Coming into Clover and a reporter for the Boston Globe.

Janis P. Duffy, a reference archivist at the Massachusetts State Archives and frequent lecturer on Irish Passenger Lists for the Port of Boston.

John McCabe, a professional genealogist based in County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Linda Merle has run the RootsWeb Scotch-Irish Internet list for five years.

Michael P. Quinlin, founder and president of the Boston Irish Tourism Association and author of A Guide to New England Irish, now in it's third edition.

Christian G. Samito has edited two books on the Boston Irish Ninth in the Civil War.

NEHGS <http://www.newenglandancestors.org>

TIARA <http://www.tiara.ie/>

For complete details about the conference:

<http://www.newenglandancestors.org/events/events/Default.asp?id=118>

Let me know if you'll be there, I will!

Donna E. Walcovy

(I'm seeking Donna's new email address if anyone can help.)

editor@irish-everywhere.com

Letters to the Editor

If you enjoy this newsletter, please feel free to let me know. And, if you didn't enjoy it, you can tell me that also. I'm always looking for ideas and creative ways to assist others.

Please feel free to share your thoughts with me about what you find here, or what you'd like to find here in the newsletter. I'd love to hear from you.

editor@irish-everywhere.com

Thank You To

Have you received assistance from someone who made a significant difference in your Irish research? Someone who has gone above and beyond to help you find your illusive Irish ancestor? This is a great place to let the world know how wonderful they are.

Want To Join The Newsletter Staff?
by Denise A. Wells

I am on the prowl for volunteers to assist me with the production of The Irish Everywhere Newsletter. If your fingers have ever itched to edit or write for an exciting newsletter, this would be a great opportunity. Or, if you are an experienced writer or editor wanting to make a difference in the genealogical community, this could be your venue. Please feel free to contact me so we can discuss what you would like to do.
editor@irish-everywhere.com

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