Genealogy Gifts

The Gift of Family
Julie Rizzello (seated 3rd from left) meets her Greaney relatives in Galway
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Now that the November elections have come and gone, it is time to get down to business. There are a couple of major holidays to celebrate, but there are also several events coming up for TIARA.

The banquet was a great success. The speaker was fantastic as was the atmosphere and meal. Congratulations to VPs Margaret Sullivan and Greg Atkinson for a job well done. We attempted a silent auction as a fund-raiser and that too was a success. Through the generous bids of our attendees, we raised over $300 for TIARA. The online auction is coming, so everyone will get a chance to bid on some unique items. Stay tuned for details.

March 2013 will once again be a joint meeting with NEHGS. We are looking at making this an all day event. In April 2013, TIARA will participate in NERGC 2013 to be held this year in Manchester NH. There will be several speakers with a TIARA connection: Janis Duffy, Susan Steele, and Margaret Sullivan. The conference should be of great interest to our members. Early bird registration ends on February 28, 2013. Register online at www.nergc.org or by mail. As registration chair for the conference, I encourage anyone attending to volunteer some time to the conference. TIARA has a volunteer commitment to the conference.

We’ll also be getting ready for the Mass Memories Show coming up in November 2013. TIARA is working with the Irish Cultural Centre of New England, The Irish Consulate and The Eire Society to present this event with UMass Boston.

We are exploring new ways to make TIARA’s Library resources available to you. Anyone interested in Armagh research, for example, should contact me at (cont. on page 13)
“With A Little Help From My Friends”
Susan Steele # 1025

The Beatles song is an apt title for my research story. In keeping with this issue’s theme…friends - some old and some new, gave me the gift of research.

I recently returned from the TIARA trip to Ireland with proof of my O’Neill ancestors’ birthplace in Tipperary. For many years I didn’t even have a county in Ireland for this family. It was help from friends and strangers that helped me break through the proverbial “brick wall.”

I have written previously of the many rewards I reaped while working on the Foresters Project. One of these benefits was lunchtime conversations with the volunteers. We shared the ups and downs of our genealogy searches and often received helpful hints. In preparation for a 2010 trip to Albany, New York (the US home of the O’Neills) I consulted Forester volunteer Liz Barnett who is an experienced Albany researcher. She also is an expert on finding information on Ancestry. She knows the ins and outs of the Ancestry card catalogue as well as many other resources. Liz sent me off to Albany with pages of new material on the O’Neills and their descendants. TIARA member, Tom Toohey, also supplied additional helpful hints about Albany repositories. More about Tom’s help later.

I visited several Albany repositories and cemeteries. I found the headstone with clues about family members and collected other bits and pieces of information but nothing led to that elusive place of birth. I wrote a short story about Margaret O’Neill for the TIARA newsletter issue on “Ancestors at Work.” Other than that, I had put the family aside.

In preparation for TIARA’s October 2012 trip to Dublin, I decided to give the O’Neills another try. I had very few birth, marriage or death records for the family in Albany. Vital records in Albany don’t begin until 1870. The O’Neills’ church, St. Joseph, had closed and I hadn’t tracked down those records. I followed a suggestion of Tom Toohey’s and emailed Sr. Nola Brunner, archivist for the Albany Diocese. This led to an email contact for volunteers at Sacred Heart Church. Albany doesn’t have a diocese archive. Records are held at individual churches. Sacred Heart had absorbed St. Joseph parish and the volunteers were willing to do my lookups. A gift from strangers this time - over several weeks the volunteers sent me a list of a dozen baptisms and marriages. The sponsor information was very helpful in establishing family relationships but I was no closer to that elusive place of birth.

During a Forester volunteer session at UMass Boston, I expressed my frustration. TIARA volunteer, Pat Deal, went home and found my O’Neill county in Ireland! Pat remembered my Margaret O’Neill story in the TIARA newsletter. A story reference to the 1880 census gave her enough information to identify the family. Pat browsed the Internet and found an 1875 state census I had missed. One column asked for "County of Birth." Most of the listings on the page were "Albany" but next to the O’Neills it said Tipperary!

So now I had my county and I had something more - a new sister for family head, John O’Neill. Margaret Martley, husband Patrick and children were listed as boarders with the O’Neills. Margaret was the right age to be a sister of John so I looked for additional information. I found it on a public family tree on Ancestry. Someone doing research on the Martleys had Margaret and her family. She was indeed Margaret O’Neill Martley. Actually, she was Margaret O’Neill Driscoll Martley. There was information on her two marriages. Margaret was the widow of Denis Driscoll when she remarried. This explained the child Eugene Driscoll listed with the O’Neills and Martleys in the 1875 census. Margaret’s marriages and the births of her first three children took place in Thurles. I was closing in on the home place!

Several births and one marriage appeared on the familysearch.org Indexes to Ireland Civil Registration 1845 - 1958. That confirmed the Ancestry family tree information. I sent off an email to the person who had posted the tree asking how he knew about Thurles. He replied with intriguing information about letters writ-
ten by O'Neills and Martleys sent back and forth between the US and Ireland. He promised to track down the letters and send me copies. Unfortunately, I have not heard anything more from him. I did take down other information from his family tree including confirmation of another O'Neill brother in Albany. I had seen James O'Neill listed as a baptism sponsor and living at his brother John's address in the city directory. The Ancestry family tree owner had also listed parents names for the O'Neill siblings - Michael O'Neill and Margaret Cummins. He noted that brother James O'Neill had a middle initial C. and stated that this stood for his mother's maiden name. I would try to verify this.

I had copied down volume and page numbers from the familysearch site in preparation for my research time at the General Register Office in Dublin. With Thurles in mind, I checked the National Library of Ireland website for church records available there and jotted down possible parishes for the appropriate time period. I used the askaboutireland.ie website to look at Thurles Griffith's Valuation listings for O'Neills, Martleys, Driscolls and Cummins. Several adjacent townlands with groupings of O'Neills and Martleys popped up. Some of those places had surnames of people who had been sponsors at O'Neill baptisms in Albany - even more intriguing!

When I signed on for the TIARA trip, my main focus was the "Back to Our Past" conference so I had only scheduled two days for research. The preparation I was able to do at home helped me make efficient use of my time in Dublin. I headed off to the GRO first and found births for three children. The Townland was confirmed - Stradavoher, a place just south of Thurles. A marriage registration gave Margaret's father's name, Michael Neil and his occupation, weaver. I also noted that Margaret's second husband, Patrick Martley was a blacksmith. Subsequent trips to the National Library and the Valuation Office provided information about other family members and the place where they lived. These were my first "town people." Other ancestors had been farmers or workers on big estates.

I was curious about the occupations of blacksmith and weaver during the late 1700s and early 1800s. I didn't have time for much reading in Ireland so I began this research at home. Boston College has a good collection of Ireland county resources on the 5th floor of the O'Neill Library. Browsing the DA990 section of the stacks turned up several books with sections on weaving and forges in Tipperary but the best resource was another "friend" discovered on the Internet. Using Google I stumbled on a Family Tree Forum article written in 2009 that discussed blacksmiths in Tipperary and also mentioned my Martleys and O'Neills in Thurles and in Albany. Not knowing if the author's email was still current, I sent off a short note. I got a long reply the next day from my new third cousin!

Janet is a serious researcher who runs two family history groups in England and has a fount of information including a verification of the Cummins maiden name. She also has copies of those letters mentioned by the Ancestry family tree contact. Janet is an O'Neill cousin who has sent off a note to the Martley family asking if she can share the letters with me.

Meantime she has sent a few excerpts that hint at political reasons for the O'Neill and Martley departures from Ireland. Tipperary was a center for dissension with the blacksmith shop being a gathering place for planning and the manufacturing place for pikes carried to uprisings! I'm looking forward to the arrival of the letters.

In the meantime, Janet, along with TIARA friends, Albany church volunteers and my Ancestry contact have already provided invaluable genealogical gifts. I couldn't have made my breakthroughs without "a little help from my friends!"

**The Gift of Genealogy**

Dorothy MacNeill DuPont #3433

No heirlooms, no old photographs, silver flatware, or tea sets were given to us as keepsakes of our family. Instead, we had stories. Dad was a storyteller, blessed with the ability to paint pictures in our minds and introduce us to the people who came before us. His
mother didn’t talk much about the old days in Ireland. Dad had to catch her while she was busy doing dishes, then ask the right questions, questions that would touch her memories, then listen carefully to the answers. His brothers often asked him, “How do you know all this stuff about Ma? She never talked about herself.”

Dad would smile and say, “You have to be patient and listen with your heart. Of course, it helps if her hands are in dishwater and she can’t walk away from you.”

Growing up with a storyteller, we learned the details of life in Ireland for my grandmother. She raised a few sheep, learned to spin and weave, cooked mutton stew, baked bread on stone next to an outdoor fire. We knew how it felt to make candles and soap and sell her wares on market day in Castlewellan. We crossed the great Atlantic with her and went through the processing of Ellis Island. We watched her learn to cook on a stove for the first time in Newton Lower Falls.

All in all, when I sat down to write the stories, they numbered over forty-five separate tales. When I researched the details I found them to be remarkably accurate. The clues in those stories gave me enough information to find the land she lived on in Ireland, family she was indentured to, where she lived, how she made her living, how she raised nine children of her own and two foster children.

I am charged with writing my grandmother’s story so these vignettes will not be lost. “String these stories together in chronological order, so they will understand who she was,” my father said. “Let them know what it was like for her. Tell them how brave she was.”

This is the gift our family handed down to us and the one I will hand down to our children’s children. My telling of the tale will be in the form of an historical novel, encompassing five generations of struggle and triumphs. Somehow I am hoping the thread will be picked up and woven to a tapestry that will include the next generations.

The Item That Sparked My Interest in Genealogy
Mary Choppa #1791

A collection of items spurred my interest in genealogy. My double-aunt Mal (Madaline WARD CHOPPA—my mother’s sister who married my father’s brother) gave my mother a metal box which contained several keepsakes. My grandfather’s St. Patrick’s Day green shamrock necktie was carefully placed in the box, as was a prayer book and some old photos.

Prison Notes

The piece that has always held my interest was a pocket-size notebook that belonged to my great-grandfather Michael Patrick WARD. He was a Deputy Sheriff for Mahoning County, Ohio, during the 1920s. I never met him, but my mother remembered him as a rough and tumble, grumpy kind of guy. The notebook was probably written more as a memory-aid for himself than anything else. There are notes about prisoners’ property, fines, and escapes. He also listed Christmas gifts he had given to his grandchildren.
Christmas list 1925

The one entry that has always stuck with me was from September 4, 1927. He simply wrote, “My Wife Mary Died.”

Haunted by Her Eyes
Jean Orr Turner #3565

Both my maternal grandparents died before I was born. I always wondered about them. Unfortunately, neither as a child nor as an adult do I remember much discussion about either of them.

In June 1998, when my mother was on her deathbed, she talked for the first time about her mother. She told me that when she was about six, her mother was taken away and she never saw her again. Unfortunately, tragedy struck her family again when, in 1925, her father died at the age of 32. My mother and her three brothers went to live with their paternal aunt, her husband, and their five children.

Sometime after my mother’s death, my dad asked me to dispose of my mother’s belongings. After 60 years of marriage to my mother, the task was just too painful for my father to handle. While complying with my father’s request, I found pictures of my grandfather. Even though I had never seen him, I knew immediately who he was because my mother and my uncles strongly resembled him. Then I found a picture of a woman that I had never seen.

When I asked my dad about the picture, he told me that the lady in the picture was my maternal grandmother. Every time I looked at the woman in the picture I was drawn to her sad, haunting, pleading eyes; I knew that I had to find out more about her. Where did she go? Why didn’t she come home to her four young children? That picture of my grandmother and her sad eyes initiated my passion for genealogy- I had to discover my grandmother’s story.

From correspondence and other documents I found in my mother’s effects, I learned that my grandmother died in 1937, at the Southeast Louisiana Hospital, which is approximately 120 miles from where she and her family resided. I wanted to know why she had been sent there. I sent for her hospital records and waited impatiently to receive them. I knew from other documents that I had obtained that
my grandmother was 20 years old when she married my grandfather and that by the time she was 27 she had four children, ages 6, 4, 2, and a newborn baby boy.

From her hospital records, I learned that she had been diagnosed with post-partum depression and had been committed to the hospital. In 1937, at the age of 45, she died of an infection while she was still institutionalized. For the entire 18 years that she spent in that hospital, she never saw her husband, her children, or any of her relatives or friends. I can’t imagine my grandmother’s pain caused by being ripped away from her husband and young children or the agony she suffered during her 18 years of confinement in the hospital. I am still haunted by her eyes each time I look at the picture, but with the knowledge I now have about her life, I understand why my grandmother was so sad.

I wasn’t planning to go on the TIARA trip this past October. Janis Duffy and Marie Ahearn were the very capable group leaders and I thought I might save a little money this year. But as genealogy gifts come unexpectedly, I changed my mind.

Sometime earlier this year, I had written to the County Waterford Archives in Dungarven. The archivist, Joanne Rothwell, had answered my query about a John SULLIVAN who might have worked on the Lismore Estate. He was my great-great-great grandfather. I had obtained his occupation as “gardener” from a marriage certificate for his son (also John SULLIVAN) who had married a Mary CONNELLY in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales, in 1850. I was told by the experts that “gardener” was very specific and did not mean laborer or farmer so he must have worked on estates in the area. Joanne Rothwell informed me that there was a reference to a John SULLIVAN working on the Lismore estate in the 1820s. She also said that they were in the process of indexing the Lismore Estate records and I would be welcome to take a look at the originals. Maybe I would take the trip this year for my own research.

I booked an appointment with the archives and I booked my travel reservations with Brian Moore.

When the Ireland Reaching Out message boards came out, I posted an entry on my Waterford families (WARD, CONNELLY, SULLIVAN). After some initial correspondence, nothing developed. Then Joanne Rothwell posted a response to that query! It turns out that the County Waterford Archives were also compiling an emigration database based on the Lismore Estate Records. They had an 1851 entry for a Mary SULLIVAN asking for money to go to her husband in Wales. Was this my Mary SULLIVAN? Why was she in Ireland and not in Wales? Would they have traveled back and forth? I thought that this was impossible. Hopefully they would let me have two days in the archives.
Fast forward to the trip. I had already decided not to rent a car to drive to Dungarven due to some vision issues. The trains and buses would suffice. I had also talked with Eileen O'Duill about possibly having her husband, Sean, take me on a tour of the Waterford townlands I had compiled as possible ancestral home sites. We confirmed that Sean would be my “spirit guide” for the journey to the Lismore/Cappoquin area. As it turned out, Sean was unable to do this, so Eileen gallantly volunteered to take his place.

There was great scenery and wonderful conversation on the drive from Dublin to Waterford. The weather was a little wild though, with lashing winds and rain. First stop was Lismore. The Castle wasn’t open, but we stopped for lunch at one of the local pubs. Eileen checked with the locals and we got our itinerary together. We went to Church Lane where I had located a John SULLIVAN on Griffith’s Valuation. Then we headed to the townland of Glenasaggart, where an Ellen WARD had lived, according to Griffith’s. The weather became a little more intense and the roads got a little narrower. I apologized to Eileen for making her drive in such conditions. She said we were fine as long as there was no grass growing in the middle of the road. What do you think happened when we made the next turn? Grass was growing in the middle of that road. Eileen laughed off my concerns and said it was well kept, so not to worry.

When we got to what we thought was Glenasaggart, Eileen convinced me to knock on the door of a very nice house. A young woman answered, holding her 18 month old daughter. I apologized for bothering her and asked if we were anywhere near Glenasaggart. “You’re standing in it!” was her reply. She invited us in for tea. When she found out that I was looking for the area where my WARD ancestors came from, she said that I needed to talk to her brother-in-law. The area was named Glenasaggart, (Glen of the Priests) because a Mass Rock was located near the stream that ran behind the property. There was also a famine grave nearby, but hard to get to in rainy conditions. She called her brother-in-law, but he was working and he said he would call us back.

Eileen and I continued on our townland tour, back to Lismore to check with the local priest, and then on to Cappoquin. It was there, while consulting with Eileen’s husband Sean about townland names in Irish that we heard from P.J. McGrath. He wanted us to meet him so he could show us something regarding the WARDS. He had been researching the property of his ancestors (MCGRATHS). P.J. had been working from Griffith’s to see where the families listed there had gone. Ellen Ward was listed in Griffith’s and was on the property before and for a time after the McGraths bought the property (according to the Cancellation Books). P.J. could find nothing about the WARDS. The WARDS seem to have disappeared. Since my family had emigrated to Wales and then America, this is another clue that these are my WARDS.

We ended up following him back to the house of his sister-in-law. Around the corner was the older family home. On that property was one corner of the cottage that had been home to Ellen WARD. P.J. pointed out the old boreen that ran in front of the house, which would have been used to travel to Lismore.

This was much more of an emotional experience than I had expected. I never thought this was even possible. To be honest, right now, I cannot prove without a doubt that these were my WARDS - not yet, that is. I realize that I might have been looking for them in the wrong place. I had assumed that the WARDS/CONNELLYS/SULLIVANS were from Lismore. I was not looking for them in both locations. In 2001, I had found a marriage
record for Elizabeth CONNELLY and William WARD from the Cappoquin Catholic parish registers. But after that, I never went back through those records looking for other WARD entries. I was only looking for William WARD entries, not any WARD entries. I had focused my research a little too finely. The archivist confirmed what P.J. had said, that the folks in that area might have used either Lismore or Cappoquin for their church needs. I clearly need to open my mind and go back over those parish registers with a fine-tooth comb.

I was still grinning when we returned to Dungarven for dinner at a pier-side restaurant. The tide was so high, and the water so rough, that the boats were rocking at eye level in the harbor. The B&B (The Bayside) located just outside the city was lovely. After a good night's rest, Eileen dropped me at the archives the next morning. It was amazing to work with the original Tenant Application Books, which recorded the requests for assistance made by the tenants, including funds to send sons to America or England. Sometimes it was a request for a new roof, a repair to a cottage door, or simple charity. The tenant's name, residence, and the resolution of the request were listed in the books. I located the request made by Mary SULLIVAN and looked forward and back for any other possible entries for the other surnames.

Then it was time to see the work information for John SULLIVAN. There was a record of him working at Lismore Castle for 4 years in the 1820s. With my newly reopened mind, I used the second day to review some microfilm. No startling discoveries, but I only got through one roll. More to do!

If all that good fortune wasn't enough, after returning from my last day at the archives, my hosts at the B&B (Pat and Sheila Norris) asked if I would like to attend a local benefit concert, featuring the Lismore Choir. What a perfect way to end my visit.

Eileen refused to let me take the bus/train back to Dublin. Once again, she generously offered to come and get me after bringing two others from the TIARA group to Kilkenny. We stopped in Kilkenny on the way back, toured the castle, and, remarkably, ran into the two from the TIARA group, Lorraine Roberts and Barbara Valente. After a relaxing visit over a cup of tea at the Kilkenny Shops, we returned to Dublin.

Not only did I find some interesting things about my ancestors, I also made new friends in Waterford and opened my mind to new possibilities. Thanks to Eileen O'Duill for her friendship and expertise in guiding me and for pushing me to overcome my shyness. Now for next year...
1641 was the “year of atrocity” erupting between native Irish and settlers of the English plantations, primarily in the counties of Ulster. Professor John Morrill, University of Cambridge, has eloquently described the year as “... the fulcrum of Irish history, the point between English power resisted ... [and] English power imposed...” This article examines the subsequent emergence of the Irish Confederation (from 1642 to 1649) which was formed by a many sided coalition. The broader story involves the Scottish Covenanters, the War of the Three Kingdoms, the Reign of Charles I ( and his execution), and the Parliamentary Wars in England. (The curious can Google away!) We will focus on events in Ireland. The reader should again consult Nicholas Canny’s Making Ireland English and The Age of Atrocity discussed in the last newsletter.

1641 is important for five reasons. First, it triggered the creation of the Confederation Government which would be the last time Irish Catholics convened an independent government until 1919. Second, it demonstrated that disparate factions in Ireland could work together in an independent government. Third, it saw the early use of anti-Catholic propaganda in demonizing the native population. Fourth, it set the stage for Cromwell’s invasion in 1649. Finally, it gave rise to a formal reparation process that now provides an early genealogical resource for surname and location-research in the mid-17th century.

Fall of 1641 saw two trends emerge: appropriation by Irish chiefs of non-Irish strongholds or domiciles without the use of extensive force and attacks by Irish peasantry on English planters. On October 22, Sir Phelim O’Neill and some confederates captured a number of key towns and fortifications in Ulster. They were motivated by continued expansion of English plantations and growing mistreatment of native Irish. The Flight of the Earls (1607) had caused huge portions of Northern Ireland to escheat (revert to) the Crown and the land was being given out to the King’s favorites. The revolt by Irish chiefs spread quickly to Munster and Leinster and triggered a parallel response among the peasantry who feared religious repression. The result was severe civil unrest.

Nicholas Canny suggests, based on a disposition of Thomas Tuckes, that the killing of several hundred insurgents following the battle at Lisnagarvey (now Lisburn) in Antrim, triggered Irish reprisals. Afterwards, the insurgents ousted English settlers from their homes, stripped them naked, and drove them out of the area. The English retaliated, with the assistance of troops, and the clashes escalated to bloodshed and slaughter. A notorious event occurred in November in Portadown when the Irish drove 100-300 English men, women and children onto the Bann Bridge, forced them to strip, and, attacking from both sides, drove them into the river where they died of hypothermia. (See the woodcut illustration on page 11.) Another event in nearby Kilmore Parish saw a group of English burned to death in a cottage in which they were held.

Then, in February 1642, a massacre of between 30 and 65 families occurred at Shrurle on the border between Mayo and Galway. The families had surrendered to Lord Mayo who had allowed them safe passage to the port of Galway to return to England. However, when they were handed over to Edmond Bourke on the border of west Galway, he executed them. These atrocities were seen as a Papist plot to incite the murder of all Protestants in Ireland and were used to fuel Protestant hatred of Irish Catholics. In 1642, the favor was returned when a Scottish Covenantanter force killed between 100-3000 Catholic members of the MacDonald clan on Rathlin Island by driving them off the cliffs. The subsequent arrival of Owen Roe O’Neill from the Continent curtailed Irish lawlessness when he imposed a military code of conduct, enforced by several hangings.

The Irish actions were exploited by English pamphleteers who published inflammatory broadsides about Irish atrocities. They incited fear by illustrating the murder of children and the evisceration of pregnant women. Printing technology, which had begun in 1614, allowed mass production of these screeds illustrated
with woodcuts. Over 200,000 pamphlets were printed in England. They were followed by an inflammatory book entitled *The Irish Rebellion* by John Temple. No good rebuttal was written and this book was still being republished in the 19th century. (*The Irish Rebellion* is available as a PDF on Google Books.)

By 1642 the Irish nobility and Old English landholders, alarmed by the insurgent activity, banded together to support the Crown and formed the beginning of the Confederacy. Their response was due to the complex political divisions of the times. Charles I was in an extreme power struggle with the English Parliament which was divided between royalists and Puritan dissenters. The latter suspected the King’s loyalty because he had married a Catholic. Moreover, the King was also dealing with Scottish Covenanters (Presbyterians), who had defeated him in the Bishops War, and Irish Catholics, who were resisting the Plantation scheme. The Long Parliament in England indicated that the Old English would be held accountable for the insurgent actions and the rebels were showing increasing organization. These political forces led Irish residents, of any persuasion, to form a government composed of Irish nobles, Old English and New English, which formally expressed their support for the King.

One of the best works on this period is *Confederate Ireland 1642-1649* by Micheál Ó Siochrú. Referring back to Hugh O’Neill’s 1590 manifesto, the author cites the motto of the confederates – “Irishmen of one mind for God, King and Country” – as an early sign of a constitutional nationalism. The expression of patria was reflected by the leadership who forbade Coalition members from identifying themselves by any prior affiliation and emphasized place of birth (Ireland) as the norm for membership. By 1642 the Confederation began to come together nationally but only after recovering from a failed preemptive strike by the Ulster nobility on Dublin, the popular uprising, and the abuse of the administrative vacuum by local lords to settle old grudges.

Between 1462 and 1469 the Confederation asserted controls over the waging of local wars, imposed administration and judicial structures, established a national assembly, imposed taxation and began diplomatic relations with foreign courts. These actions were taken by a shaky coalition of three groups which Ó Siochrú identifies as the peace faction, the clerical faction and the moderates. These blocks were often composed of individuals with disparate viewpoints, such as Old Irish Catholics and New English, brought together by similar concerns. Given their differences, their accomplishments were remarkable.

The peace faction sought a limited settlement that would guarantee their estates, give them political office, and allow religious tolerance for the private practice of religion. The clerical party represented the opposite side of the political spectrum and became dominant after 1644. They wanted full restoration of the Roman Catholic Church, an independent parliament, and countrywide suffrage. Between these poles, but less obvious, the moderate group, including Nicholas Plunkett and Patrick Darcey, were very influential in steering the course of the Confederation by carefully backing one or the other of the two major sides.

The balance was altered in 1645 with the arrival of the Papal Nuncio Cardinal Rinuccini. He landed in County Kerry with large quantities of arms and a substantial war chest which he distributed as he deemed fit. He quickly became an influential player but he was strongly in favor of using force, restoring the Catholic
Church across Ireland, and not negotiating with Royalists. In effect, the Cardinal gained temporary power but was unable to gain the support of the majority of the Irish bishops. In 1646, during a treaty negotiation, he threatened to excommunicate the “peace party.” At the same time, the Confederates felt that they could win militarily and abandoned efforts to negotiate with the Royalists. By 1647, the Confederation effectively controlled all of Ireland except for the areas around Dublin, Cork and in Ulster.

Then in 1648, the Cardinal excommunicated Council members who approved a weaker treaty with Ormond and got the Assembly to vote it down. By then however his influence was waning.

Throughout this period, James Butler, the Marquis of Ormonde and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, deliberately aggravated the religious differences among the confederate factions. This caused the treaty crisis in August 1646 and was responsible for the Irish withholding military support for Charles the First. Despite being a Royalist, Ormond also compounded the factionalism by surrendering Dublin to the parliamentary army in July 1647. This was disastrous for the royalist cause and delayed any Irish peace treaty for another two years. As Ó Siochru says “... the ensuing political process... degenerated into a sordid scramble for land...with Ormond’s allies in the peace faction emerging as the main Catholic beneficiaries.”

The Confederation continued to be weakened by factional disputes and took a serious blow in 1648 at the Battle of Dungan’s Hill where the Confederate’s Leinster forces, supported by Scottish Highlanders, engaged a Roundhead army and lost 3000 men. Only the late arrival of Owen Roe O’Neill’s army drove off the Roundhead forces. Three months later the Munster Confederate army was defeated at Knocknanuss near Mallow in Cork. As a result of these losses, and in order to forestall a Parliamentarian invasion, the confederates hastily negotiated a treaty with the Royalists, formed a coalition and dissolved the Confederation.

Nevertheless, many Irish Catholics, particularly Owen Roe O’Neill, continued to reject a treaty with the Royalists and a brief civil war erupted between O’Neill and the Royalist coalition. O’Neill even tried to negotiate a separate treaty with the English Parliament but was unsuccessful. This disunity encouraged Parliament to organize a full-scale invasion of Ireland led by Cromwell and his New Model Army. As these events unfolded Cardinal Rinnucini left Galway for Rome in February, 1649. Six months later, on August 15, 1649, Oliver Cromwell landed in Dublin.

**Depositions of Settlers Abused in 1641.**

Starting in October 2007, a major project digitized and transcribed nearly 3,400 depositions from 1642 located in the Trinity College Library. The work was directed by Professor Jane H. Ohlmeyer, Trinity College Dublin, Professor Thomas Bartlett, University of Aberdeen and Dr Micheál Ó Siochru, TCD. The transcriptions are edited by Professor Aidan Clarke. The depositions can be found at [www.tcd.ie/history/1641](http://www.tcd.ie/history/1641) and can be searched by surname and county. For the Irish genealogist the files have limited utility since the petitioners were not Irish. On the other hand researchers with Anglo-Irish ancestors (and there are many) may find useful nuggets in the material. In any event, it is informative to read first-hand accounts from settlers in a new land in fear of their lives and property.

The depositions are statements from Scottish and English Protestants about their experiences in the 1641 rebellion. These statements were taken by officials of a government commission in the years directly following the 1641 outbreak and they run to nearly 19,000 pages. They record losses of goods and chattels, military activity, and the alleged crimes of the Irish rebels, including assault, imprisonment, the stripping of clothes, and murder. This body of material provides insight into the
causes and events surrounding the 1641 rebellion and illustrates the social, economic, cultural, religious, and political history of seventeenth-century Ireland, England and Scotland.

The native Irish initially targeted English settlers hoping that the Scots would remain neutral, but the Protestant community united in the face of attacks from the Catholics. Many Scots fled from Ulster and a large number of these refugees returned to Scotland through ports accessible from the north of Ireland. The Kirk raised funds in presbyteries throughout Scotland, and the names of refugees claiming aid can be found in church records all over the country. Within a few short months, an army of over 10,000 Scottish covenanters had landed in Ulster and remained there throughout the 1640s.

A Commission for Distressed Subjects, charged with collecting statements from refugees, was set up in December 1641. It consisted of eight Church of Ireland clergymen and was headed by Henry Jones, dean of Kilmore. In March 1642 a sub-commissioner, Archdeacon Philip Bisse, was appointed to collect depositions in Munster with authority to empanel local commissioners to assist him. All of the depositions collected in the 1640s were taken by the Dublin Commission and its Munster offshoot. Material from the 1650s was collected by a group of more than seventy commissioners spread throughout Ireland. A mixture of army officers and local officials, their responsibility was to assist newly established high courts of justice by gathering evidence against individuals accused of acts of murder or massacre.

This material is still being analyzed and integrated into the history of the period. Given the 400 years of intervening commentary, a balanced analysis may never be successfully achieved. Readers interested in a detailed understanding of the historiography of the depositions would be well served by reading Nicholas Canny’s lengthy discussion of “The Irish Insurrection of 1641” in his Making Ireland British, 1580-1650.

Comments/suggestions to: dathi2010@gmail.com
Next: Cromwell.

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**TIARA Library Update**

A big Thank You to those who have recently donated books to the TIARA library:

- Carol Montrose for *Genealogical Use of Catholic Records in North America* by Doyle and Hotaling
- Elaine O’Malley for *Irish & Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research* (2 Volume set), by Margaret D. Falley
- Connie Reik for *Boston Catholics* by Thomas O’Connor
- Moira Bailey Smith for *Golden Jubilee of the Society of Jesus in Boston Mass 1847-1897* St. Mary’s Parish
- Charles P. Sullivan for *The War for Ireland 1913-1923* by Peter Cottrell (one of several he donated)
- Margaret Sullivan for *The Troubles* by Tim Pat Coogan
- Wheaton Wilbar for *The Irish Times Book of the Century 1900 -1999* by Fintan O’Toole

**Presidents Message (continued)**

[president@tiara.ie](mailto:president@tiara.ie) or by sending a note to the TIARA office. We’re looking at doing an Armagh county event on January 12th or January 19th to share our research either in person or by phone or by skype/facetime. Watch for more opportunities. We’re also exploring the options for webinars, especially during the winter months.

We’ll be going back to Dublin in October and we’re looking at a Belfast trip as well. We’re also developing details on a trip to the new Famine Museum at Quinnipiac University. The NYC trip will probably take place in 2014. Do you have ideas for TIARA activities? Would you like to volunteer in some capacity? We need your help, so please contact us if you can spare your time and talent. Email [president@tiara.ie](mailto:president@tiara.ie) or send a note to the office.
Tale of Two Brothers
Jane Moloney #3494

My brother, sisters and I first heard about Lady’s Well, Athenry, Galway from my grandmother, Anna Ryan Higgins. She would often tell the story of her mother, Ellen Clasby, born at Lady’s Well, Athenry, Galway, who came alone to the United States as a teenager in the early 1850s. Even after Anna Teresa Ryan Higgins, my maternal grandmother, died on December 15, 1965 at the age of 88, the oral history stayed with us.

Several years later my Uncle Frank Higgins and family went on a vacation to Ireland. While there he insisted upon going to Athenry to follow up on the story of Lady’s Well. He was directed down a road and was told that Lady’s Well and the O’Connell farm would be there. Once there, as the story goes, my uncle knocked on the door and said “I think we are cousins.” Sure enough, the O’Connell family still had pictures of family members including my great grandmother Ellen Clasby Ryan that had been sent back to Ireland.

Subsequently, my parents, Elizabeth Higgins Moloney and Francis Moloney visited Ireland and made a very special visit to Lady’s Well and the O’Connell family. Mary O’Connell was my mother’s fourth cousin. Soon after, my brother and his family also visited. I made the trip in 1981 and had a memorable visit with the entire family. My sister Ellen and husband went to Lady’s Well in 2007 and met Mary’s husband, James O’Connell.

In the spring of 2010, two things occurred to encourage me to do ancestral research on my family. My older sister, Ann Moloney O’Shea, died suddenly. In addition, one of my nephews asked me if I had any pictures and/or documents on the Moloney family. I came to the realization that my brother Kevin, my sister Ellen and I were the only ones left of the older Moloney generation and once we were gone, all the family stories and information would be lost.

By October of 2011, I had documented both sides of the family, Moloney/Curry on my father’s side and Higgins/Ryan/Clasby on my mother’s side. I didn’t just want the information on the direct line, I wanted to learn about the extended family members, too. I had also joined TIARA!

In early 2012, TIARA announced a research trip to Dublin. It came at a perfect time. I had discovered that I had gaps in my research on my Clasby ancestors as well as lacking current information on the Clasby cousins and their descendants in Ireland. To fill in the gaps I needed to reconnect with my cousins.

So last spring I wrote a letter to James O’Connell, husband to the late Mary O’Connell, my fourth cousin. He still lives on the farm in Athenry, Galway. I included a list of questions that he and his children could answer. Several weeks later I received an email from Peter Duffy, James’ nephew, who lives in Dublin. He told me that his uncle had forwarded the letter to him because he, Peter, had become the genealogist for both families.

Peter and I then began emailing back and forth updating family information. In addition, he sent me documents from his research at the National Library of Ireland: the Tithe Applotment for Athenry of 1827, and the Galway Rental Records of the Athenry Estate of 1843. My cousin, Amy Higgins Tull, had already given me the 1821 Census of Ireland for Athenry, Galway. It showed that the two Clasby brothers, John and Patrick, lived with their families in the townland, Briton’s Gate, Athenry. We each had a copy of the Griffith’s Valuation showing a Patrick and a Thomas Clasby. Both families had ancestors with those names. More information was needed.

Next, I put the documents in the correct order according to year of event. In 1821 the two brothers, John and Patrick and their families were living in the townland of Briton’s Gate. By 1827, they were both paying taxes on land in the townland of Kingsland South. By 1843, John’s son, Stephen, and Patrick’s son, Thomas, were renting land in Kingsland South.

Stephen, my great-great-grandfather, married Bridget Hession. They raised a family of five: Delia, Mary, Ellen, John and Anna, in Athen-
ry. Stephen would take Delia, Mary, John and Anna to the United States and settle in Sharon, Massachusetts. This is documented by the U.S. Federal Census of 1850. His daughter, Ellen would come alone to the United States later. Stephen’s wife Bridget Hession Clasby would be the last of the family members to immigrate. Stephen and Bridget would have another child, Sarah. Ellen, Bridget and Sarah are listed on the Massachusetts Census of 1855.

Thomas, the great-great grandfather of Peter, would marry on January 29, 1846. He and his wife Bridget Halpin would have two children Peter and Bridget. The family would remain in Athenry.

My research still had gaps. I did not have any documentation for my great-great-great-grandparents or birth and marriage documentation of my great-great-grandparents before they came to the United States. Also lacking was documentation of the Clasby cousins living at Kingsland South beyond 1843.

Now I knew that I needed to do research in Ireland. I am grateful to Marie Ahearn, one of our leaders, who gave me invaluable advice in narrowing my field of search, suggestions where to find possible information on the web before I left, and ideas for organizing and preparing my information ahead of time. We were going to the General Register Office, the Valuation Office, the National Library of Ireland and the National Archives. I could possibly find information at each place.

Once in Dublin, I reconnected with my Clasby cousins. Sarah Duffy, my fourth cousin once removed and Peter Duffy her son and my fifth cousin met and had a lovely evening with Peter’s wife, Maura and their two children. The last time I had seen Peter he was a young boy. It was great to get together, talk about old times, and go through family pictures. Here we were Peter and I sitting next to each other! Each of us had a Clasby as a great-great-great-grandfather. Mine was John Clasby, born in 1771 and Peter’s was Patrick Clasby who was John’s younger brother, born in 1781. I realized that I needed to remain in touch with them from now on.

On my first day of research, I went to the National Library of Ireland. I wanted to see if I could find any information on church records for the Clasby and Moloney families. I had no luck on the Clasby side.

I did find many Moloneys but not the right Moloneys. I was discouraged and I hoped to have better luck elsewhere.

My next goal was to see if I could find any death records for my family at the General Register Office. Before I left home, I had found one death record for a Bridget Clasby on the Civil Registration Index for births, marriages, and deaths in Ireland on the website www.familysearch.org. I filled out the form knowing my chances were low that this Bridget Clasby was my great-great-great-grandmother. The Registrar’s District was different from the name of the town. She was 93 at her death, which meant that she was born in 1772. On the 1821 Census, it looked as though her birth year was 1777. I paid my euros and submitted that form along with possible names for the Moloney side of the family. Now it was time to wait. When my name was called and the copies of the death records were given to me, I was overjoyed! The death record for Bridget Clasby, wife of John Clasby was the correct one! I knew it when I first saw that the death had occurred in the town of Athenry and then I looked to see if she had died at Lady’s Well. There was no mistake. This was my great-great-great-grandmother, Bridget Clasby! I was thrilled! I finally had a connection and documentation of Bridget, a farmer’s wife and widow. She had died 48 days after the civil registration had gone into effect on January 1, 1865. Now I knew that my great-great-great-grandfather had died earlier and that her grandson, Michael Gilligan was present at her death. I needed to follow up on two new pieces of information.

Then it was off to the Valuation Office. Here I wanted to look at the Cancellation Books for Kingsland South, Athenry to see if I could trace the immediate lessors of the land and renters from the original Griffith’s Valuation to the present. To my surprise, I was handed many large books dating back to the 1840s
and I could browse through them! Patrick and Thomas Clasby both rented sections of Kingsland South. The Trustees of the Alliance were the lessors but a line was drawn through the name and Walter Lambert became the lessor in 1869. This was a new piece of information. In the next book, information had not changed. In the third book William Clasby, Thomas’ brother, was renting the land instead of Thomas and someone else had rented the land that Patrick had previously rented. The year at the end of the ledger line was 1890. This probably meant that both Patrick and Thomas had died. In the fourth book, William had slightly increased the size of the farm. At the end of the ledger line in red was B.S 1901. In the fifth book, nothing had changed. It was in the sixth book that there was a major development. William Clasby’s name had been crossed out and his nephew Peter’s was there instead which meant that William had died. A stamp with the initials L.P.A. was in place of the immediate lessor’s name. L.P.A. meant that the land had been purchased under the Land Purchase Acts. Peter had bought an additional 6 acres for a total of 38 acres. The Clasbys finally owned their own land. In the next book, Peter Clasby has been replaced by Richard Morrissey husband to Margaret Clasby and then again by James O’Connell, husband to Mary Morrissey O’Connell. The last book I browsed also mentioned James, the current owner. Thus, the land was taken over by the man in each new generation and not the direct descendant. I was able to make my own photocopies of the pages.

The next day I went back to the National Library of Ireland. Here I was able to open and read a document from the Encumbered Estate Court involving Lord Oranmore & Browne, the Marquis of Sligo who owed money to the Trustees of the Alliance. This was filed on May 16, 1855. There was no mention of Kingsland South or Athenry but each at one time had owned the land in Athenry.

At the National Archives, I was able to find two documents. [One, on microfilm, was for the sale of encumbered estates of Ireland on May 25, 1852. The property was owned by Lord Oranmore & Browne, the Marquis of Sligo. This one was in the town and county of Galway.] On the document was the announcement of the sale, the list of the individual properties or lots, a map of the townland, Kingsland South, and the list of renters which included Thomas and Patrick Clasby. This was another way to confirm that the two men rented land on Kingsland South.

I was also able to read the document titled Rental of the Estate of the Trustees of the Alliance dated May 1, 1860. Sure enough, the names Patrick and Thomas show up under Kingsland South as well as the amount of yearly rent that was due and paid. This information also confirmed the facts that were in the cancellation books. I brought home copies of each document.

The last document that I wanted to obtain while I was in Dublin was a historical map showing the town of Athenry and the townland of Kingsland South in the 19th century. I was able to purchase this map from OSI-Ordinance Survey of Ireland. In the 1840s, the government of Ireland made a survey of all of Ireland for the purposes of taxation. The original maps remain at the Valuation Office and I was able to take pictures of them. The map I purchased had only the area I wanted. It shows Briton’s Gate (that has disappeared on today’s maps) which was where the two brothers lived in 1821 as well as Kingsland South and even Lady’s Well. I had come full circle!

When our research time in Dublin ended, I took the train to Galway City, Galway. I wanted to revisit the city as well as Athenry, which is fifteen minutes away. It was lovely to see the town again and walk to Kingsland as it is now called. I made a special stop at Lady’s Well. The farm is still there and I could hear the cows mooing. My cousin, Mary, Sarah Duffy’s sister, died in 1992 and since her husband James had just undergone heart surgery, I could not visit him. This did not dampen my spirits, however, because I have wonderful memories of my visit with the whole O’Connell family the last time I visited Ireland.

I now know why members of TIARA make return trips to Ireland to continue their research. There is always something to follow up on and additional records to find.
TIARA, Dublin and Galway
Julie Rizzello #3222

This was my first trip with TIARA and I want to thank Janis Duffy and Marie Ahearn, our fearless leaders, for making it such a great experience. The group was a pleasure to be with and I'm looking forward to making another trip. Learning the ropes of doing research in Dublin was made much easier with their unfailing help.

In Dublin, I did find confirmation of the birth record of my grandfather Patrick Carr at the General Register Office and his baptismal record in the parish registers at the National Library. At the Valuation Office I was able to follow the history of the farm in Fohenagh, County Galway where my grandmother Bridget Agnes Greaney was born. It has been in the Greaney family for over 150 years.

After researching in Dublin I took the train to Ballinasloe in County Galway to meet my cousin Gerard. I had not met Gerard before but we had been corresponding via email for almost a year.

I was met at the train by my cousin, Gerard’s sister Etna, and her two boys Cormac and Oisin ages 5 and 2 respectively. Cormac got to wave the green flag for the trainman so the train could continue on its way to Galway and off we went to Fohenagh.

Gerard and his wife Mary were the best host and hostess I could have wanted. My time in Fohenagh was spent seeing the family farm and searching local records. While looking at old school records, I found an entry for Patrick Carr age 10 in 1875. We also were able to see the original parish records for baptisms, marriages and deaths which enabled us to fill in missing links in the Greaney family tree. A genealogist's dream come true!

I was driven around the countryside to see the old National School building where my grandparents probably went to school. I visited the cemetery where my great grandparents John and Mary Greaney were buried. I attended Mass in the local church – and even saw my first hurling match.

Gerard and Mary had plans to take me to dinner in Ballinasloe to the Hayden Hotel. When I walked in, there were quite a few Greaneys to greet me. What a surprise! I’ve spent a lot of time tracing my family tree trying to find my ancestors and it has been rewarding to learn about my past. However, the joy of seeing all those smiling faces tops everything. There is something to be said for finding "living" relatives who will share their stories and memories with you. It was magical.

It was through the very first pilot program of Ireland Reaching Out (www.irelandxo.com) that I met Gerard. I don’t remember how I first heard of Ireland Reaching Out but I went to their website and posted the information about my grandmother and grandfather and that was all it took. Someone recognized the name Greaney and contacted Gerard, who happened to be one of the volunteers working on the program, and he contacted me.

I urge you to take advantage of IRO. They are expanding as we speak and doing a great job in helping the Diaspora find their Irish roots. I am forever grateful to them for my new family connections.
During a brainstorming session of display ideas for this year’s Back to Our Past Exhibition in Dublin, the American Cousins Project was formed. In July, a request went out to members for photos and biographical information on ancestors who were born in Ireland and immigrated to the United States.

For several weeks following the request, photos and bios arrived via e-mail and snail mail. The final product consists of five binders containing information on over 100 of our ancestors: one binder each for the provinces of Ulster, Connaught, Leinster and two for Munster.

The photographs include family groups, wedding pictures, and individuals of all ages. The pictures, ranging from the mid 19th century to the 21st century, are a window into the lives of these immigrants and their families. Many of the ancestors are fashionably dressed for their portraits; some immigrants are wearing work clothes. A number of photos are formal portraits and others are candid shots.

Members sent the biographical information in different ways. While most members sent the information in the outline that was suggested, some sent wonderful family stories that were too good not to share. As a result, pictures and stories from The American Cousins Project will begin appearing in the TIARA newsletter.

Over the next few months the photos and biographies, as well as directions for new submissions of photos, will be put on the TIARA website. Contact me at mahe@netzero.net.

TIARA member Jack Hannigan submitted the pictures and information on the O’Briens of Monaboula, Glen of Aherlow, Tipperary

William Francis O’Brien married Bridget Burke on Feb. 3, 1845 in County. Tipperary. Witnesses were Kennedy, O’Brien, and John Burke.

Three of their six children remained in Ireland and three immigrated to the United States.

Dennis O’Brien(1847-1944), pictured on the left, was baptized at Galbally, Dec. 30, 1847. The sponsors were Brien Eugene, and Johanna Donohoe. On the right is William Francis O’Brien (1852-1924) who was baptized at Galbally, May 6, 1852. The sponsors were Edmond, Henebry, and Catherine Holloway.

John O’Brien 1846 - 1924, the eldest son of William & Bridget (Burke) O’Brien inherited the O’Brien farm in Monaboula and remained in Ireland. His two brothers, Dennis & William, immigrated to Hingham, MA. Dennis arrived at the port of Boston Oct. 15, 1868. Their younger sister Ellen (1861 – 1915) eventually joined them in the United States.

William O’Brien married Catherine Stanton Nov. 26, 1876 in Hingham MA. They lived on Elm Street and William worked as a pipe-layer, laborer, and flagman for the NY, NH, & H Railroad. William and his wife Catherine are buried at St. Paul’s Cemetery, Hingham MA.

Around 1887 the widow, Bridget (Burke) O’Brien joined her sons William and Dennis
and her unmarried twin daughter Ellen O’Brien in Hingham, MA. Bridget was born in Ireland around 1824, the daughter of John Burke and Nellie Black and died in Hingham in 1904. She is buried at St. Paul’s Cemetery.

Dennis O’Brien supported his family as a laborer on the municipal highway department. He married Mary McCormack (1852–1891), daughter of Thomas McCormarck and Mary Jordan. She was baptized at Murroe, March 9, 1852, sponsors were Daniel Jordan and Elizabeth Shinnors. She is also buried at St. Paul’s.

This year, Canon James Costello of Bruff, Co. Limerick, a great grandson of William & Bridget (Burke) O’Brien met three generations of his American O’Brien cousins for the first time at a reunion in Abington, MA.
Upcoming TIARA Meetings

Saturday, December 8, 1:30 pm Cary Memorial Library, Lexington, MA. TIARA will join the Middlesex Chapter of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists. Their speaker is Dick Eastman, "Genealogy Apps for Mobile Devices."

Friday, January 11, 7:30 pm at BC Fulton Hall Room 511 at 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Marta Crilly, Assistant Archivist at the City of Boston Archives. “The holdings of the City of Boston Archives- highlighting records of particular interest to Irish-American research”

Saturday, March 23 will be the joint conference of TIARA and New England Historical Genealogical Society, held at NEHGS at 99 Newbury Street, Boston. Details to follow

Upcoming Conferences

RootsTech 2013-Family History and Technology Conference
Salt Lake City, Utah
21-23 March 2013
www.roots.tech

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
Manchester, NH
17-21 April 2013
www.nergc.org/Conference-Home-Page.html

NGS 2013 Family History Conference, “Building New Bridges”
The LVH-Las Vegas Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, NV
8-11 May 2013
www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference “Journey Through Generations”
Fort Wayne, Indiana
21-24 August 2013
www.fgs.org

TIARA Donors

TIARA gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions made during this fiscal year by the following members:

Greg Atkinson
Ann S. Casey
Marie Daly
Cheryl Hodge Spenser
Karen Kilty
Barbara Randall
Catherine Ryan
Susan Steele

Nuggets

Irish Lives Remembered Genealogy eMagazine is a free digital monthly genealogy magazine. The first issue was published in June 2012. Current and back issues can be accessed at www.irishlivesremembered.com/magazines.html

The National Archives of Ireland has recently added digital images of the Tithe Applotment Books to their website. These books were compiled between 1823 and 1837 and exist for almost every civil parish. The books list the occupiers (head of household only) of agricultural land over one acre in each townland and the amount of tithe assessed. The database can be searched by surname, forename, county, parish and townland. There is also a browse feature that lets users manually scan the digital images at the townland level. There is a facility to report errors in transcriptions. Some parishes are listed in the wrong county and notification of these errors is requested. The Tithe Applotment Books are online at: www.titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie

Next Issue

Have you researched a relative that surprised you in some way? Did you discover a hero, a black sheep, or something else you couldn’t have guessed? Submit your interesting ancestor story or an article about any of your research to the TIARA Newsletter. Submissions for the Spring 2013 Issue are requested by February 4th.
### QUERIES from Back to Our Past Conference

As part of TIARA’s exhibit at the Back to Our Past Conference in October, we offered our Irish cousins the opportunity to send a query regarding their ancestors that came to the USA. Sort of a modern day “Missing Friends”....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Birthdate</th>
<th>Townland</th>
<th>Parish /District</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Immig Place and Date</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Contact email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Goggin 1911</td>
<td>Glengarriff</td>
<td>Coomerkane</td>
<td>Cork</td>
<td>USA, 1929</td>
<td>Mrs. Kate Murray (aunt) paid his passage on Cedric</td>
<td>Debra Goggin, Glengarriff, Cork, CO. Cork, IRE</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Debs2070@yahoo.co.uk">Debs2070@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>William Egan 1860</td>
<td>Kinnity</td>
<td>Clareen</td>
<td>Offaly</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Catherine Egan, Lowertown Mor, Blue Ball, Tullamore, CO. Offaly, IRE</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Cegan999@gmail.com">Cegan999@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>?</td>
<td>Ballywilliam</td>
<td>Offaly</td>
<td>USA/Abt. 1926</td>
<td>Possibly immigr to Canada</td>
<td>Catherine Egan, Lowertown Mor, Blue Ball, Tullamore, CO. Offaly, IRE</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Cegan999@gmail.com">Cegan999@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary (Molly) O’Brien 1886</td>
<td>Knockrour</td>
<td>Tallow</td>
<td>Waterford</td>
<td>NY or NJ Abt. 1907</td>
<td>f. John m. Kate Greene, step m. Mary Geary</td>
<td>Donal O’Brien Knockrour, Tallow, CO. Waterford, IRE</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Donalobrien73@gmail.com">Donalobrien73@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Anne O’Connor 24 June 1861</td>
<td>Beagha</td>
<td>Greaghlane</td>
<td>Monaghan</td>
<td>BostonMA</td>
<td>Married COMER</td>
<td>Mary Gaynor, Carmel House, Slane Rd, Navan, CO Meath</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mtgaynor@yahoo.com">mtgaynor@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen O’Connor 3 July 1866</td>
<td>Beagha</td>
<td>Greaghlane</td>
<td>Monaghan</td>
<td>BostonMA</td>
<td>Married KENNEDY</td>
<td>Mary Gaynor, Carmel House, Slane Rd, Navan, CO Meath</td>
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<td>BostonMA</td>
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TIARA at the 
Back To Our Past Conference
Pat Deal, # 3076

Last winter when plans were underway for the annual TIARA research trip to Dublin, Marie Ahearn mentioned that the timing would coincide with the Irish genealogy conference, Back To Our Past, and tickets to attend would be included as part of the trip. As the time of the trip approached, we learned that TIARA would be an active participant in this three-day conference and the scope of that opportunity became clearer. It was not until arriving home though that I thought through the impact of our involvement as a way of showcasing and testing TIARA members in a broader setting. Our conference activity took the following forms:

- During the summer, a call went out to TIARA members to send pictures and brief information on relatives who immigrated to the United States from Ireland. Marie Ahearn received over 100 submissions that she compiled into indexed binders titled, ‘American Cousins’. These binders were brought to Ireland as part of the booth display.

- TIARA sponsored an exhibit booth with a large American flag as a backdrop. It drew many conference participants interested in researching their relatives who had immigrated to America. The booth was staffed by our members who provided genealogical consultations. On-line access was available for researching questions. A handout listing web sites for further US research proved very popular.

- Two of our members were speakers. Janis Duffy spoke about the TIARA organization and in a second session on “Researching the Irish in Boston Record Repositories.” Susan Steele’s talk on the Foresters Project included an overview of the information available in the records and how to access the records. These professional caliber presentations were well received.

- The TIARA trip participants had the opportunity to attend the presentations by many leading Irish genealogists. These included representatives of the various Irish repositories, including Northern Ireland (PRONI), as well as speakers from the various web sites and publications related to Irish genealogy.

- Our green TIARA badges were highly visible throughout the conference and provided a positive ‘branding’ for the organization as we visited exhibits and interacted with the many other participants.

Thank you to Mary Choppa, Marie Ahearn, Janis Duffy, Susan Steele and other leaders for envisioning the role that TIARA could take in this conference and for your hard work in preparing for and executing our participation over the three days. Thanks also to Don Ahearn, Geri Cox, Pat Deal, Danielle Doran, Michael Melanson, Julie Rizzello, Lorraine Roberts, Maureen Rossi, Kathy Sullivan, Barbara Valente and Mary Alice Wildasin for volunteering time at the TIARA booth to help the many conference attendees who stopped by.

Our Dublin member and contact Eileen O’Duill was a huge help in receiving conference materials sent to her, assisting with booth set up and consulting and providing transportation on three days to our speakers or early booth workers. Eileen and Sean took most of the materials to store at their home for the next appearance at the conference.

I was very proud of how TIARA as an organization performed during these three days. If our goal was to gain credibility for TIARA and its members within the greater Irish genealogy community, I believe we accomplished that.
Autumn Activities

TIARA at the Back to Our Past Conference in Ireland -- October 2012

James Redfearn spoke at the TIARA banquet on his book: The Rising at Roxbury Crossing

TIARA banquet at Wayside Inn - November 2012
The Irish Ancestral Research Association, Inc.
2120 Commonwealth Ave.
Auburndale, MA 02466

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