On the left-hand side of the picture, I think the 4 men next to the guy with Sgt.’s stripes to are the Collinses but I have no proof. I am pretty sure the one with the mustache is Henry. I think Henry is in the front row. I only assume that he and Thomas are with the 2 younger boys Patrick, 21 and William, 16.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By Kathleen Roscoe
Member #893 (Massachusetts)

This month a new slate of officers was elected at our June meeting. TIARA will once again be piloted by Mary Choppa as our President. TIARA will continue to grow and prosper under the direction of our new board. If you are able to volunteer, even if only for an hour or two – please do. Working with TIARA members has returned to me so many more blessings than anything I have put into it. I hope you will have the same experience.

My term as President will end at the end of this month. I want to take a moment to thank everyone who has been so supportive of our efforts over the last two years. We truly appreciated it. Your encouragement and the wonderful friendships that I have received from TIARA members will stay with me always.

If you can take a moment to encourage people to make connections with not only their past, but their present – the rewards will be great. To see the excitement when someone connects with their living relatives to share and learn about their past is awesome.

I am very proud of the work that is done by all of our members. You are wonderful and your officers are always happy to brag about that!

To Tom Toohey, Jay Lucas, Steven Brown and Charlie Jack – you are the best! Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

I can never thank enough all of our Past Presidents. Their thoughtful advice and continuing dedication to TIARA is an inspiration.

To Susan Steele and her Foresters Team – amazing dedication and effort. Your work has impressed many. TIARA has completed the mission of saving the records, getting them out to the world and preserving them for the future. I for one will be forever grateful for what you have done and what I have received. I also thank the Genealogical Society of Utah for joining us in preserving and getting these records out to the public.

Thank you TIARA.
GENEALOGY TREASURE IN CIVIL WAR RECORDS
Submitted by Tom Toohey, Member #2075

Over 200,000 Irish-Americans served in the American Civil War. Yet until fairly recently I never considered the possibility that a relative of mine could be in that number. When a cousin told me a story about a Civil War ancestor I was surprised and excited and immediately began searching for him. After reviewing my family tree it became apparent that the two most likely men to be veterans were my great grandfather John Murray and his brother Edward.

At the time I had no idea how to access Civil War records. Fortunately, about a month later, I attended a lecture by Dennis Ahern who taught me how to acquire them. Later I learned more from Walter Hickey at NARA and from archivists at the New York State Archives. Over the course of the next year I found that both John and Edward served in the war. I was able to get their records and I now know more about them than any other members of their generation.

Getting Started
My Murrays lived in Albany, New York in the 1860's so I began my search by contacting the New York State Archives. Their archivists encouraged me to check out the online index of New York State Civil War veterans. Librarians at the state library referred me to three sources; an encyclopedic index of New Yorkers who served in the war, the remnants of the 1890 federal census that recorded Civil War pensioners and the New York State Census of 1865.

Since I could search the online index from my kitchen I began by checking it out and yes there were John and Edward Murrays in the index. There were, in fact, 139 John Murrays and 20 Edward Murrays! The index also listed the company in which they served. I had to find the names of their military units. Without this knowledge I had no hope of finding if they were in the war.

After some consideration I decided to concentrate on my great grandfather first. A few months later I made a trip to the New York State Library and looked up the widows and orphans schedule of the 1890 Federal census. Luckily it included a listing of my great grandmother Emili Murray. It said that she was the widow of private John Murray formerly of the 8th Heavy Artillery of the New York State Militia. It also stated that John had been a prisoner of war at the notorious POW camp at Belle Island near Richmond, Virginia. I now knew three new important things: 1. Yes – My cousin was right - We had a Civil War ancestor. 2. He was a member of the NY 8th Artillery. 3. During his service he was captured by the Confederates and held as a POW.

Military Service Records
At that time I didn’t know that the New York Archives had copies of NY military records so I returned to Massachusetts and followed the instructions from Dennis Ahern to find them. I went to NARA in Waltham and asked for a copy of NATF Form 86. I filled it out and sent it to NARA in Washington D.C. requesting John’s Military records.

Several weeks later, an envelope arrived in the mail containing photocopies of the seven 3X8” cards that were great grandfather’s military record. The first card stated that he had enlisted in 23rd NY Volunteers in August of 1864 and had transferred to the 8th Artillery on December 31, 1864. Like most records of the time there was very little day-to-day information on these cards. John was listed as “Present” from January to April of 1865 but on one card his commanding officer listed him as “Unstated.” That must have been when he was a captive of the rebels. Belle Island prison was over-run by Union forces in April of 65 and he was freed. He received an honorable discharge at Munson’s Hill, VA on June 5,1865.

Pension Records
Military Service Records are interesting but for genealogy purposes Civil War pension records are more important. In the 1880’s it became apparent that many veterans were becoming unable to care for themselves. The widows and orphans of others were destitute. Congress authorized a system of pension payments for veterans and their families. The requirements to be approved for a pension were quite complicated and required the assemblage of a great deal of paperwork. Many of these documents are of great interest to genealogists. Every file is different and like Foresters records there may be something of great interest and then again only duplicates of records already collected from other sources. Luckily I found documents related to my family that exist nowhere else.

I began searching for John’s pension file by traveling again to NARA in Waltham. They have an index of Civil War pension applications. It is not easy to access, but with Walter Hickey’s help I was able to determine that John did not apply for a pension but his widow Emili did.

The index had application and certificate numbers. I knew that with these numbers I could
acquire Emili’s pension records. Walter gave me a NATF Form 85. I filed it out and submitted it to NARA in Washington. Several weeks later I received a package in the mail that contained 17 pages of pension documents.

This package was genealogical gold. Aside from the usual application documents there were vital records including John and Emili’s death certificates. Church records included their marriage certificate and children’s baptismal records. John’s military discharge papers were there as were affidavits about Emili’s financial and social condition. I also learned a dozen names of the friends and relatives who witnessed her signatures.

There are also several inferential relationships that can be made from this file. For instance, in one document Emili states that she knew John before the war. In 1860 John and his family lived in a two-family with Richard Kelly and his family. Was my Emili (nee Kelly) a relative of these Kellys? During the time that Emili was receiving her pension she moved several times. The families she lived with have led me to infer other relationships.

When I consider that before getting these records I didn’t even know John or Emili’s death dates, this pension file was a great boon to me. Nineteenth Century New York State records are difficult and expensive to access. New York is a closed record state. Each request for a vital record must be submitted in writing with a fee of $22.00. Lucky applicants get a response in a month or two. Church records are not any easier to obtain. St. John’s of Albany asks for a “donation” of $35.00 per request. In one day I increased my knowledge of John Murray’s family 100%.

Edward Murray
Encouraged and energized by my recent genealogical finds I again went back to Waltham and began to search for Edward’s records. This time I searched in a kind of reverse order from the procedure described above. I knew that Edward’s wife’s name was Elizabeth and suspected that she out lived him. When I searched for Elizabeth Murray in the pension index I came up with an Elizabeth who was married to an Edward that matched my Edward.

Military Records
My great great uncle Edward served in the 25th NY State National Guard from May 31, 1862 until September 8, 1862. In the early years of the war there were many short-term enlistments. The only remarkable thing in his military record is a notation that he received an injury to his right knee and suffered from “disease of the heart.”

Pension Records
Since Edward was applying for a disability pension he had to undergo an extensive physical. There are several references in this exam to the heart condition mentioned in his military record. I now know more about him than I care to know. Just the same this physical gives me insight into his life in the 1890’s.

Edward was awarded his pension on October 1, 1891. Even though he had his pension he continued to work as a fireman. He didn’t get to enjoy it long as he died of a heart attack on September 7, 1894 while on his way to a fire. Because he died in this manner there were several detailed newspaper accounts of his death that illuminated his life further.

After Edward’s death Elizabeth also applied for a pension and it was granted. Elizabeth was 20 years older than Edward and unable to work by the 1890’s. She lived off this pension until her death in 1899.

I learned many other things from these records including that Elizabeth had been married previously to James Kane. By tracing that marriage I found out that her maiden name was Clogfer and she was from Wexford. After subsequent investigations in the US and Ireland, I traced her back to Bannow townland in Wexford. Edward and Elizabeth had no surviving children. The death date on the pension records led me to Elizabeth’s probate records. These records helped me find the family of the niece to whom she left her estate. This niece had come to America for the sole purpose of caring for Elizabeth with the understanding that she would inherit her money. Family members remember references to her as “The Greenhorn.” When Elizabeth died the niece “hightailed” it back home and married a member of the local gentry with her American dowry in her pocket.

Every American schoolchild knows the story of the surrender of the Army of the Confederates at Appomattox at end the Civil War. Few know however what General Lee said to Grant. According to some accounts Lee said, “You know the reason you won? You had more Irish!”

I know how he felt. I wish I had more Irish ancestors who served in the war. If more of my ancestors had served I would have had more information on them. The Murray Civil War records were one of the most exciting and helpful
finds in my journey of discovery about my family. If a person suspects that they might have a Civil War ancestor they should look for their records.

Sources:

National Archives and Records Administration, Attn: NWCTB
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001.
www.archives.gov/contact/inquire-form.html.


Wilt, Richard A., New York Soldiers in the Civil War


IT’S OFFICIAL!
Submitted by Susan Steele, Member #1025

On May 4, 2011, TIARA’s president, Kathy Roscoe, together with Joanne Riley, University Archivist at the Joseph P. Healey Library, University of Massachusetts, Boston signed a Deed of Gift. Through this document, TIARA conveyed its collection of Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters records to UMass Boston. As stated in the previous Newsletter, TIARA Board members and Foresters Project volunteers believe this is a very positive move. Joanne Riley and her staff at the University Archives will provide safe storage while continuing to work with TIARA volunteers to process the collection and increase access – a win-win solution for both organizations!

Plans are underway this summer to move some materials that are not being digitized. The Genealogical Society of Utah will continue digitizing 1880 – 1935 records at the TIARA office. When this digitization process has been completed (early fall) these materials will also move to UMass. TIARA members may continue to send in requests for Foresters records to the TIARA office. See http://tiara.ie/forest.php for information. Information regarding processing of record requests at UMass will appear in future Newsletters and on the TIARA website after materials have been transferred.

A huge “Thank You” to University Archivist, Joanne Riley; current TIARA president, Kathy Roscoe; past president Janis Duffy, TIARA Board members and Foresters Project volunteers who worked so hard to make this move take place!

Pictured above (L-R): Joanne Riley, Kathy Roscoe, Jay Lucas, Judy Lang, Connie Koutoujian, Susan Steele, Janis Duffy, Sheila FitzPatrick, Carlyn Cox, Bernie Couming, Tom Toohey.

THE SEARCH FOR JOHN TRACEY
Submitted by Geraldine “Geri” Cox, Member #3054

Growing up, I always knew that my great-grandfather’s brother, John Tracey, had died in the Civil War because every time we visited family in Clinton, MA, they proudly pointed out the monument in the town square on which his name is inscribed. It was a ritual of the visits well into the 1970s when my great-aunt Margaret, then in her eighties, was the only one of the Traceys still living there. When as an adult I became interested in pursuing our family history, one of the first things I did was to send for John Tracey’s Civil War service record and pension files, a task made easy by the fact that his regiment was inscribed on the monument: 21st Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. The files turned out to be a treasure trove of information.

The service records show that John enlisted at Camp Lincoln, Worcester, on April 5, 1861 for a period of three years. His residence was Clinton; occupation, laborer; marital status, single; age, 20; birthplace, County Galway, Ireland. This is one of the few records I’ve seen to give more than just “Ireland” as a place of birth. As it happens, I already knew where in Ireland the Traceys were from as it had been handed down in the family. One of my mother’s cousins had remembered the postal address recited by her grandmother: “Tynagh, County Galway, Ireland,” but it was good to have confirmation that the address might be correct.

The Company Muster Rolls cover every month of his three years service and show whether he was
present or absent, and if absent, why. In August 1862 John was absent “sick at Vicksburg, Va” and again in September “sick in hospital at Washington, D.C.” There is no mention of what the illness was. Among the battles that the 21st Massachusetts took part in were the well-known encounters at Bull Run, Chantilly, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. From Sept 1863 to April 1864 John was absent from the 21st Massachusetts, “detailed as a Cattle Guard” to the 35th Massachusetts at Mt. Vernon, Ky.” On April 16, 1864 he was transferred back to the 21st Massachusetts “by order of the War Department” just in time to participate in the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Courthouse, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. Special note is made of the fact that the 21st was present at the infamous mine explosion at Petersburg. John’s service record shows that he was wounded on April 17 1864 at Petersburg: “shoulder - slight.”

In August 1864, when their three-year enlistment was up, the veterans of the 21st Massachusetts Regiment were sent back to Boston by boat from City Point, VA to be mustered out at Worcester. John’s record states that he was “accidentally left on wharf on sailing of steamer.” What am I to make of this tantalizing bit of information? Did he fall asleep while waiting? Had he ducked into a nearby tavern for a celebratory drink? I am left to imagine the possibilities. He did eventually make it back to Worcester, as there is in his file a copy of an order for the Quartermaster’s Department to provide transportation for him to Boston, MA, and copies of his mustering-out papers.

After his muster out, John returned to the army as a civilian employee of the Quartermaster’s Department. He was working in that capacity in January 1865 when he succumbed to typhoid fever in a hospital in Nashville, TN. To date I have found no records of his burial. I do not think he was brought home to be buried in Clinton as I think it highly unlikely that they could have afforded to bring his body home and there is no record of his burial there with other family members. There are however, three burials in the family plot recorded only as “from old cem.” All the burials in St. John Cemetery were removed to a new cemetery of the same name in Lancaster in 1901 before the area was flooded after construction of Wachusett Reservoir. I can account for two of the removals as my great-grandparent’s infant sons who died before their first birthdays; so far I have not been able to identify the third removal. Despite the unknown removal, I believe it likely that John is one of the twenty-nine unknown civilian employees buried in the National Cemetery in Nashville, TN. To date I have found no records to confirm or refute either possibility, only an ambiguous list of names of soldiers and employees “who died or were killed at Nashville, TN ... who have either been interred as Unknown in the Nashville Tenn. National Cemetery or removed to their homes by their friends,” on which list John Tracey’s name and date of death appear. The search for John’s grave continues!

The service records give some depth to the story of John Tracey’s Civil War experience, giving it life and personality, but the pension file is far more helpful for genealogical purposes. After the war Congress passed acts providing for pension benefits for survivors of Civil War veterans and because the applicants had to prove their relationship to the soldier this often resulted in a wealth of affidavits containing family relationships and origins. In the case of John’s mother, my great-great grandmother, Bridget Fahey Tracey, there were fifty-one pages of applications, affidavits, letters, and assorted reports such as bureaucracy generates.

The pension file shows that in May 1868 Bridget received $90.00 of back pay due to John at the time of his death. Then in 1882 she filed a formal claim “pursuant to Acts of July 14, 1862, and March 3, 1873” to receive a mother’s pension as the sole heir of John Tracey. In her “Declaration for an Original Pension of a Mother” Bridget states her husband’s name, age, place and cause of death: “John Tracey, aged 62 years died at Rahan, County Galway, Ireland on the fifteenth day of May AD 1865.” There for the first time in a record generated in America is the name of the townland of origin in Ireland, precious information for the Irish researcher, and it matches with the Irish address handed down through the family as the Ireland maps show that Tynagh is the parish for the townland of Reaghan (as it is spelled in all the Irish maps and records.) In another document in the file, titled Claimant’s Testimony, Bridget lists the names of all her children and their ages at the time of John’s enlistment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“all of whom are now [1883] married with families of their own to support.” The three oldest children were previously unknown to me as they remained in Ireland. Subsequent research in the Tynagh parish records revealed that Bridget recalled her children’s ages quite accurately. She signed both documents with an “X,” labelled “her mark” on one and “her ink” on the other.
Bridget's sons Lawrence and Patrick (my great-grandfather) filed one of the many affidavits in John Tracey's pension file. They confirmed Bridget's testimony regarding the poor health and subsequent death of their father and the name of the townland where they had lived in Ireland. They indicated the years in which they immigrated to the United States: Patrick brought his mother Bridget over with him in 1867 and Lawrence followed in 1872. They added information that their father had "leased a small estate of about 7 acres ... and possessed a little household furniture, two cows and a small number of sheep." They also confirmed Bridget's account that she had received "no property of any amount" from their father's estate and had long been dependent upon her children for her support. Patrick and Lawrence signed their names to the document; the signatures look pretty shaky, like those of children just learning their cursive. Still, they had been educated to a degree that their mother had not. This is all great information, helping me to form a picture of the family and their life in Ireland more clearly and on a more personal level than before.

Friends, acquaintances, Clinton town officials, army personnel were among the others providing affidavits to the pension file. The Clinton town assessor declared that Bridget Tracey owned no property in town and that her husband's name did not appear in the town records at all. The Adjutant General's Office testified to the dates of John's service and the dates of his hospitalizations while enlisted, including a post script that the "nature of sickness not stated ... books of organization not on file." Among the other affidavits is one by a Dennis Marra who served in Company B, 21st Massachusetts Regiment with John. He states that they shared a tent together at Newbern, NC where he saw John write a letter, put money in it, and give it to the chaplain to send to his sister in Clinton for her to send to his mother. Now I have a little snapshot of John's life in the army and I know that his sister Anne is already here in the United States. Did the two of them come over together? Once again new information leads to new questions. James Keaton testified that he and John "were boys together" in Ireland. He and Michael Kelly, Thomas Burke and Thomas Ward each supplied affidavits testifying to having known the Traceys in Ireland. They confirmed much of the information provided by Bridget and her sons with the additional facts that that John Tracey, the husband, "was unable to work ... for many years previous to his death;" that he "was always troubled for breath and his speech was much affected;" that the couple had been dependent upon their children for their support for many years and that all the children contributed what they could.

I am so moved by the picture this paints for me of the life of my ancestors, both here in the States and especially in Ireland. I am energized by the clues which led me to further research in both locations which has filled in the picture of my Tracey family history. Now I have a fuller understanding of the stories I heard so many times growing up and a deeper appreciation for the courage and determination with which the generations before me lived their lives. In comparison to the ease of my life today, it seems such a poor and difficult life they were dealt, yet I know they lived with much humor, good will and zest; they were not sorrowful, nor bitter at their lot. They looked forward, not back. So I feel sure that in January 1884 when Bridget's claim was "Rejected: Soldier's death from typhoid fever not attributable to his service - disease contracted subsequent to his discharge," they considered it only a temporary setback and would have continued to pursue the pension had not Bridget died of "old age" just less than one year later on December 4, 1884, aged 84 years.

Bridget was buried in St. John Cemetery in Clinton, next to her two infant grandsons, who had (each in their turn) been named John in honor of their uncle the Civil War soldier. In the 1950s a great-grandson of Bridget's was named John Tracey (first and middle names). First John's brothers and sister, then his nieces and nephews, showed off his name on the town Civil War monument and proudly told his story, so although John Tracey's life was lost so young and so far from home, he lives on in memory thanks to the family that loved him.

I feel so fortunate to have had an ancestor who served in the Civil War. The records generated in the course of that service and especially the records generated two decades later by his mother's pursuit of a pension, provided facts, which led to other sources and information which evoked images from the past. My knowledge of the Tracey family has been so richly enhanced. I just know that the first American generation of the family, whom I knew and loved so well growing up, would be so pleased and proud that John's story lives on.

Author's Note: The surname Tracey was spelled "Tracy," "Treacy," and "Tressy" in the various records viewed. For the sake of clarity I have chosen to use the spelling preferred by the family when I knew them and in use by their descendants today.

References:
The Civil War Monument in Clinton, MA, on which is inscribed the name and regiment of John Tracey.

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FROM Webmaster Carolyn Jack:

A good starting point in looking for civil war records:
http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/

It allows a search of databases for soldiers, sailors, regiments, etc. There is also a link there to a new National Park web site about the history of the Civil War.

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PETER COSTELLOE – AMERICAN CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR

By Rosemary K. Nunnally, Member #2478 (With help from Valerie Lane)

Peter Costelloe was my first cousin four times removed or in other words my great, great, great grandmother’s first cousin.

Peter Costelloe was born on Inisheer, the smallest of the Aran Islands in Galway Bay, Ireland. His birth date was approximately June 1838.

Peter arrived in Boston, MA on May 14, 1851, along with his mother Mary and his sister Mary Winifred. He was about 13 years old. They went...
on to Saco, Maine where Peter’s sisters Margaret and Anne had settled in 1849. Peter also had a sister Jane who was in Maine in 1860. Peter’s two brothers, Michael and Martin, remained on Inisheer.

Peter enrolled in Colby College in Waterville, Maine in 1859. He was naturalized in Portland District Court on May 21, 1860.

On September 24, 1862 Peter left school and joined the 14th Maine Volunteers, Company D, after the Civil War began. He enlisted as a private at age 24 years. He was promoted to full Hospital Steward on February 6, 1864. According to his war records, he worked as a steward in field hospitals and re-enlisted in January 1864 in Iberia, Louisiana. Early in 1865 he was promoted to an Assistant Surgeon by Commission of the Governor of Maine and was discharged August 28, 1865 in Darien, Georgia.

After the Civil War, Peter went to Del Norte County in California. Peter was a schoolteacher on a circuit that ranged from Crescent City, California to Cottage Grove, Oregon mostly in small communities. In 1905, Peter was issued one of the first life teaching certificates of Oregon. He also had a life-teaching certificate from California.

Peter married twice and had four children. Besides teaching, Peter also was a Justice of the Peace, a shopkeeper and postmaster.

Peter died at the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Soldiers on January 29, 1911. He was buried in the Los Angeles National Cemetery in Malibu, Los Angeles County, California. The cause of death on his record from the Disabled Soldiers Home was mitral stenosis, complicating chronic myocarditis. He had no cash or pension money when he died. The record also said that he was five feet four inches tall, had a fair complexion, blue eyes and gray hair.

Bonnie Costelloe Heimer and Betty Costelloe Guttierre are great granddaughters of Peter Costelloe and pass on these stories about Peter while he was in the Army. Peter and some friends got a little tipsy one night and Peter passed out. His friends thought it would be a great joke if when he came to, he found himself in a coffin. Luckily, he made enough noise that the coffin was located and opened. It was on the burying line at the time and as a result of this “prank” Peter’s hair turned white almost overnight. Another time as Peter was crossing a muddy road, he slipped and fell. A passing wagon ran over his ankle and broke it. It never healed quite right and he walked with a cane for the rest of his life.

WE ASKED; YOU ANSWERED

From the editor:

Jim Gordon, member #1449 responded to the questions we posed in our last newsletter. Here are Jim’s answers:

Do you use a software program to organize your research? If so, what do you use?
Yes, FamilyTreeMaker 2011

Do you use some other method to organize your research? Notebooks? Note cards? Color-coding?
Yes, I also keep generational family folders, organized by the name of the ancestor who was the head of the household.

Who is your favorite ancestor and why?
My paternal grandfather. At the age of 21 in 1898, he made his way from rural Hancock County, Maine to Boston. With great expectations, he had himself listed in the Boston City Directory of that year as a “Yacht Engineer,” based on his education and experience with maritime steam engines. He went on to earn a Chief Engineer License for any First Class Steamship (i.e. ocean liners of the Titanic, Queen Mary class).

Do you have a least favorite ancestor?
Not that I can say.

If you found a dusty lantern hidden away in the stacks of a library and the genealogy genie inside gave you three wishes, what would you wish for (genealogically – speaking)?

a. The identity and birthplace of my remotest paternal ancestor in Maine whose legacy to date is a widow and two sons in York, Maine

b. More information on my remotest maternal ancestor who left County Armagh for Montreal Canada in pre-famine times.

c. The connection between my ancestor in a. above and his predecessors in Kilrea Townland, Co, Derry. [The connection was determined by DNA analysis]

What kind of field trip would you like to take to research your relatives? The location can be near or far.
I would love an all-expense paid trip to N. Ireland, visiting Glebe Townland, Co. Armagh and Kilrea Townland, Co. Derry.

When did you start doing family history?
About age 18, about 60 years ago, when I started asking questions about where my family came from. I don’t know what got me asking that; but I do remember my mother saying that our ancestors came over on the Mayflower. I immediately went to the library and looked up the passengers on the Mayflower, I was sorely disappointed when I found there were no Gordons or Quinns aboard. That only piqued my interest and I went from there.

Who was the first person that helped you?
Other than my mother, it was her Aunt Gertrude, her father’s sister. She gave me the information on my maternal grandfather’s side of the family.

MORE TO BE FOUND
Submitted by Dave Timpany, Member #567

I’ve been trying for years to find “my” favorite C.W. veteran’s early history, which I still think should be possible, and his death, which may not be.

His name is variously listed as Ed(ward) Travers or Travnt, E.D. Trevor, even Col. E.D. Trevor (but no C/W officer, he). The only U.S. Census in which I can find him is the 1880, where he appears as E.D. Trevor, mayor of Ruby Camp (also Irwin), Colorado, a silver boomtown N. of Gunnison. He is listed there as single, white, male, age 42 (therefore born about 1838) of Irish immigrant mother and father in VA. Townfolk referred to him as “Big Ed” – respectfully.

Suspecting the VA birth would strongly hint at Confederate service in the Civil War, I did in fact find him in Nat’l Archives and Nat’l Park Svc, also Ancestry.com: enlisted in Conf. (LA) Infantry 21 June 1861 (New Orleans), captured 1862, exchanged shortly after on a gunboat near Vicksburg, served the rest of the war until discharged as 2d Corporal. Fought at the battle of Adobe Walls in TX (end of June, 1874 – buffalo hunters nearly overrun in dawn attack by Kiowas and Comanches incl. Quanah Parker).

Trevor was rumored to have served with Benito Juarez in Mexico after the Civil War (and before Adobe Walls), and seems to have been last heard of having garnered a $10,000 “stake” in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, after leaving Irwin, CO.

Boy, would I like to find out about his family and the early adventures that finally got him to New Orleans by the eve of the Civil War – or anything else! I have a trove of stuff on Big Ed that includes a lot on his time as mayor of the CO ghost town, but seem to be at an impasse.

WE ASK, YOU ANSWER

What’s your favorite place to research?

Had any recent ah-ha moments in your research?

Planning any research trips this summer?

Met any living relatives as a result of your research?

You can submit your answers by snail mail to the TIARA office, or by email to newsletter@tiara.ie
As the Famine faded the Irish were scattered like fall leaves across the oceans of the world. In America, Australia, and Europe, their lives and values were attacked. They responded by digging in and reestablishing themselves. In America they were met with a virulent anti-Catholicism, violence, and intimidation. The hurly-burly of the 1840’s and 1850’s was ended only by the Civil War and the national crisis that it presented. For the next two columns we will examine this period to better understand the experience of Famine emigrants and why self-preservation may have made them fade into the background in the records of the period.

First, however, we have to divide our attention between America and Ireland in the 1830’s and 1840’s. During those decades, American society was turbulent and self-governed, imbued with contention, mob rule, lawlessness, and fear. One cause was economic competition between Protestant workers [“mechanics”] and Irish emigrants. Thomas Darcy McGee’s, *A History of the Irish Settlers in North America*, is one of the early treatments of this topic. (Free download on Google Books.)

From 1649, when Irish exiles from Cromwell’s purge settled in Barbados, to 1850, the book covers the burning of the Ursuline convent in Charlestown, (August 11, 1834) and the attack on St. Philip Neri Church, Philadelphia, (May 5, 1844). His discussion is brief but is of interest because it is contemporary. Darcy McGee himself was a United Irishmen who fled Ireland to avoid arrest. In America he was an assistant editor of the *Boston Pilot*, and in Canada an author of the national constitution, where he served in Parliament before being assassinated by a Fenian sympathizer. His story is one of many linking America and Ireland in the 1840’s.

As mob unrest grew in America, in Ireland Daniel O’Connell’s Repeal Association (seeking repeal of the 1801 Act of Union) had weakened over the issue of reasserting their demands in the face of a new Peel Administration. As O’Connell’s influence waned a group of new recruits to Repeal began to undercut his old arguments through *The Nation*, a newspaper formed by Charles Gavin Duffy, Thomas Davis, and John Blake Dillon. *The Nation* espoused a high-minded spirit of nationalism. They rejected economic determinism and argued for pursuing the common good. These developments are discussed in two books discussed previously: Gearoid O’Tuathaigh’s *Ireland Before the Famine* and Cecil Woodham-Smith’s *The Great Hunger*.

A more detailed treatment of this period is Richard Davis’ *The Young Ireland Movement* (1988). Davis dissects the history, philosophy, politics and fate of the movement which was, at best, a disorganized, contentious, naïve, and short-lived phenomena. It was, however, an extraordinary collection of talent and intellect. Davis praises the brilliance of their modern views on “…violent versus nonviolent resistance, neo-colonialism, racism…Third World development, and liberation theology….” Unfortunately, they could never realize a focused political agenda.

The European Revolutions of 1848, the ongoing Famine, and the threat of arrest, propelled some Young Ireland members into a premature rising. It’s instant failure is described by O’Tuathaigh as the “…heroic turned to burlesque…” (p. 179). Led by Smith O’Brien, a large body of men, rapidly shrinking, arrived near Ballingary on the Tipperary-Kilkenny border. The local police barricaded themselves in a farmhouse with a widow and her children as hostages. O’Brien was unable to order an attack and the rising ended in what is now known as “The Widow McCormick’s Cabbage Patch.”

The movement may have fizzled but Young Ireland gathered together a group of men whose names would be known for years to come. They include John Mitchel, Thomas Francis Megher, William Smith O’Brien, Darcy McGee, James Fintan Lawlor, John Edward Pigot, and John Martin, all of whom deserve attention.

Meanwhile, back in America, the anti-immigrant, anti-Catholicism forces consolidated into Nativist political organizations with names like Native Sons of America and Order of the Star Spangled Banner (often called the “Know-Nothings”).
Carlton Beals’ book, Brass Knuckles Crusade, The Great Know-Nothing Conspiracy, 1820 - 1860 is a unique survey of the times. The book is a mix of history, muck-raking, and opinion. Beals, the author of 45 books, was the son of a lawyer and journalist and the step-grandson of Carrie Nation. Trained as an engineer, he earned a B.A. at the University of California and a M.A. at Columbia. Nevertheless, he is viewed as a “radical American journalist and author” because of his writing on socialism and Latin American politics. His book expands Darcy McGee’s eyewitness account with historical context. The book is an accessible way to learn about this period.

Beals repeats McGee’s reporting on events in Boston and Philadelphia. He also focuses on anti-Catholic propaganda, most notably the sensation of Maria Monk’s disclosure of prostitution and infant sacrifices in convents. Maria’s book, Awful Disclosures, spawned a wave of conspiracy theories about depraved Catholics, centered in Austria and steered by Jesuits, plotting to take over Cincinnati and the Mississippi Valley.

Beals points out that this growing agitation was pushed out of the news by the Mexican War (1846-1848) and by the California Gold Rush (1848-1855) which absorbed much of the public’s attention. The Know-Nothings went underground and reorganized, focusing their energy on politics. In 1852, Thomas R. Whitney, a founder of the New York Order of United Americans and The Republic magazine, wrote A Defense of American Policy which became very popular. The book presented the Know-Nothing view that “fiendish...foreign workers...” wanted to “...pull down the [social] fabric which generously protects them.” by advocating [1] an eight hour work day, [2] abolition of a landed monopoly, [3] priority of wages over creditor claims, [4] the direct election of public officials, [5] universal suffrage, and [6] the public education of the poor. Whitney contended that these claims clearly foreshadowed a “bloody revolution.”

The political consequences of these views are also traced in Tyler Anbinder’s book Nativism and Slavery: The Northern Know-Nothings and the Politics of the 1850’s. (1992). More academic and less entertaining than the Beals book, this very thorough analysis of electoral outcomes in 1854 and 1856 discusses the forces affecting your ancestors, particularly in Massachusetts and New York. In 1854, without the second party system, the Know-Nothings swept the Massachusetts legislature, the Governor’s office and all elected state offices. Similar results occurred in New York. Thomas R. Whitney’s views were becoming institutionalized in the Northeast. Although this was the peak of success for the Nativists, immigrant Irish Catholics must have been deeply concerned for their future.

More specific views of mob behavior in New York City and Baltimore, Maryland can be found in Herbert Asbury’s The Gangs of New York (1928) and Tracy Melton’s Hanging Henry Gambrill (2005). Asbury was a journalist and true crime writer who achieved his first success in H. L. Mencken’s American Mercury (in 1926) with a story banned in Boston. (He also wrote several articles debunking Carrie Nation who, as noted, was Carleton Beals step-grandmother.) The book describes the criminal environment of the Five Points section of New York City and the political use of gangs like the “Dead Rabbits” (from the Irish ráibead or “man to be feared”) to influence elections. The book is a peephole into urban politics and crime in America.

Tracy Melton’s book traces the history of the Pug Uglies, a Baltimore gang affiliated with the American [Nativist] Party who were also political enforcers. A microscopically detailed book, often difficult to follow, Melton’s book is subtitled The Violent Career of Baltimore’s Pug Uglies, 1854-1860. The core of the book concerns the murder of Benjamin Benton, a Baltimore police officer, on September 22, 1858. (The Baltimore police were first organized in March, 1857.)

Very limited evidence at trial suggested Henry Gambrill, a Pug Ugly, shot the officer in the neck during a rowdy street confrontation. The murder was a problem for both the city administration [Nativist] and the gang because they were deeply entwined. It signaled that the city gangs were out of control. As in New York and Massachusetts the city election of 1859 brought in a new regime and an end to American Party control. Despite its narrow focus, Melton’s book demonstrates how detailed research into local resources can be effective in reconstructing the social environment of your ancestors.

Finally, a brief summary of The Attitudes of the New York Irish Toward State and National Affairs, 1848-1892 by Florence E. Gibson (1951) might be of interest. This a historical survey based on newspaper reporting from the period (originally a doctoral dissertation). The book is not widely available but its basic information might be helpful, particularly for family histories. There are, however, very few surprises.

Citizenship. Irish immigrants were strongly motivated to obtain their citizenship. Gibson notes that, of 88,877 Irish voters in the 1854 election, the 1855 N.Y. State census recorded 42,704 (48%)
as naturalized citizens. Since the majority were most likely recent emigrants it appears they had a strong desire to be naturalized and to vote. This is understandable, since two major demands of the Nativist parties were to increase the period of eligibility for citizenship to 21 years and bar all foreigners from public office.

The Irish were also highly vocal in the 1848 affair of Bergen and Ryan. These two United States citizens were arrested in Ireland for treason against the Crown. Richard F. Ryan was naturalized but Lord Palmerston argued that he was subject to “perpetual allegiance” and could not change his nationality by naturalization. The controversy involved the State Department, Congress and eventually the President, and was resolved only when the men were released. However, England never formally reversed its view of allegiance.

Great Britain. The Irish attitude toward England was unequivocal. They despised the British and anyone who associated with them. In 1848, an acclaimed visit by Lajos Kossuth, freedom-fighter and Governor-President of Hungary, was snubbed by the Irish, because Kossuth had both praised the British and criticized the Catholic Church in his tour of England. Similarly, aggressive British expansion in the Caribbean around 1850 and the contention between Britain and America over Nicaragua had the Irish offering to fight for the U.S. This was not pure altruism. The Irish held the view that if Britain could be entangled in a war, that Ireland might have a successful rebellion.

Prohibition. Attempts to institute prohibition or liquor licensing were strongly opposed by the Irish. The majority of liquor distributors and saloon owners were Irish or German and the expected economic effects (among other things) motivated the position.

Unions. The earliest evidence of labor movements in America occurs in 1849 when the Irish American supported the efforts of a printers strike in Boston in November. In January of the next year a Mr. Dean introduced legislation in N.Y. to limit canal work to ten hours a day. Later that year Representative Dean addressed the Legislature on the “Rights of Labor.”

Politics. From their arrival, the Irish were nearly always enrolled Democrats, a connection driven primarily by the affiliation of the Whigs (later Republicans) with Nativists. In the 1848 Presidential campaign, Zachary Taylor, the Democrat, was smeared by accusations that he was a Nativist supporter to influence the “Irish vote“. A second reason was the anti-slavery position of the Republicans, a view which the Irish did not share.

Slavery. On the most vexing issue of the times the Irish carefully parsed their position. They did not support slavery; they supported the Union. In effect this also meant they did not oppose slavery! They saw freed slaves as a threat to their near monopoly in the labor market. They also blamed England (probably derisively) for bringing slavery to the New World. The Irish American editorialized that so long as the Union was whole “… slavery [will] exist till the SOUTHERNERS THEMSELVES AGREE TO ABOLISH IT.” (October 5, 1850, emphasis in original). At the outset of the Civil War Lincoln’s espoused policy was to save the Union, and the Irish, despite their political differences, enlisted in droves. Of the 337,800 white Union soldiers from New York some 51,206 (15 %) were from Ireland.

Settling in America was no bed of roses for our ancestors. Subject to both silent and vocal discrimination, they had exchanged the oppression of John Bull for the attacks of “Sam” (a Nativist euphemism). By 1860 new chaos loomed on the horizon and they had to choose how to deal with it.

NEXT: War
Suggestions/requests to: dathi2010@gmail.com

THE COLLINS BOYS AND CO. K
Submitted by Marie Ahearn, Member #0097

Among the “nine month men” of Co. K, 8th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, were four soldiers named Collins. Brothers Henry, Thomas and William along with first cousin, Patrick, were residents of the same Danvers, MA neighborhood. However, they were all natives of County Tipperary, having immigrated to America in the 1850s. Henry (1832), Thomas (1834) and Cousin Patrick (1841) were all baptized in Clogheen Parish in the Galtee - Vee Valley in So. Tipperary. I have yet to locate a record for William, my great grandfather.

Early evidence from census and enlistment sources indicates that William was probably born in 1846. In a newspaper interview from the 1920s, he related that he had enlisted in the summer of 1862 on a dare. Shortly after he began his training, William’s mother arrived at the camp in Wenham and brought him home. After a day or two, he told her that he was going to enlist and, if she would not let him join Co. K, he would run
away and she would not know where he was. His mother relented allowing him to go with his brothers because she knew Henry and Thomas would look after him.

According to William’s interview, Co. K sailed for New Bern, NC in Nov., 1862. It was an uneventful but rough four-day journey. Shortly after arriving in New Bern, the muskets that had been issued to the regiment by the state were “condemned”. Perhaps the salt air and stormy sea voyage had ruined the rifles. Each soldier received a new “Rattlesnake rebel musket” from a captured shipment. But when the men tested the new rifles, over half of the weapons did not work. As a result, the 8th Regiment was ordered to garrison New Bern while other regiments went “on expedition into the center of the state.” Eventually, the soldiers were equipped with new Springfield rifles and the regiment did its share of regular duty.

In April 1863 Thomas Collins was injured while Co. K was at Fort Totten, one of the defenses of New Bern. He was part of a gun crew loading cannon. Thomas was manning the iron shod wooden lever that moved the gun into place. He was standing too close, with the lever resting against his side, when the cannon recoiled striking him. He suffered a lung hemorrhage and was hospitalized at New Bern. Eventually he was discharged with disability and sent home. Thomas died in Danvers on August 16, 1863.

In late June, the regiment was ordered to Boston. William’s affidavit for a pension relates the following:

...[we] embarked aboard the Schooner Highlander in tow of steamer Mystic for Fortress Monroe to take transportation for Boston. The said schooner soon sprung a leak...[and] sunk(sic) in about an hour. Our orders were countermanded and we were ordered to Baltimore.

The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and, for several weeks after the Battle of Gettysburg, they attempted to cut off Lee’s army. At one point they endured a forced march of sixteen hours in search of the southern general, but Lee eluded capture and crossed the Potomac into Virginia. According to the regimental history, the 8th was then ordered to Massachusetts and were mustered out on Aug. 7, 1863.

Henry returned to his wife and two sons and resumed his life as a shoemaker. William and Patrick also returned to Danvers but, on July 15, 1864, they were mustered in to Co. I, 6th Regiment for 100 days and were stationed at Fort Delaware, Maryland. After the second enlistment, the cousins returned to Danvers and the work they had left behind: Patrick as a shoemaker; William as a “tinman” in a stove shop.

In the Report of the Committee Appointed to Revise the Soldiers’ Records published by the Town of Danvers, 1895, this assessment of the Danvers soldiers was printed:

In reply to a letter sent out by the Adjutant General, dated 9 Dec., 1865, seeking information as to the character and behaviour of discharged soldiers, etc., the following answer was returned from Danvers.

“The soldiers who have enlisted from this town have, on the whole, have come back better men than when they entered the service. Up to this time none have been convicted of crime, and those who, before entering the army, were addicted to intoxication have some of them reformed, and almost all drink less. So far as we know they have gone to work immediately, and no families are in better circumstances than those of the soldiers.”

(Signed) J.A. Putnam, for the Selectmen

On the 3rd Monday of September 1868, Civil War veterans Henry, William and Patrick became proud citizens of the United States. The three men continued to display the qualities described by the Selectmen in 1865. They worked all their lives, supported their families, became Danvers homeowners and voters, and were enthusiastic members of the local chapter of the G.A.R.

Despite recurring bouts of a debilitating illness (possibly malaria) that William contracted as a young soldier in North Carolina, my great grandfather lived a long life. His interview with the Salem Evening News in June 1924 was an opportunity he relished. As the last surviving Danvers resident of Co. K, my great grandfather could share his remembrances with a new audience.

COULLAHAN & SHERIDAN
Submitted by Margaret (Peggy) Hayes, Member #438

Here is a story that was handed down to us from our older relatives. My mother said that her four uncles served in the Civil War. Also it was mentioned that we were related to General Phil Sheridan.

I checked the records and found that they did indeed serve in the Union Army.

James Coullahan enlisted on June 10, 1861 as a private in the 12th Infantry Massachusetts and was mustered out in 1864.

William Coullahan enlisted Sept 27, 1864 – mustered out on June 4, 1865.

Malachi Coullahan enlisted on May 21, 1861 in 29th Infantry and deserted on May 6, 1863 and enlisted in the 181st Vol Ohio on Sept 19, 1864 under the name John Sheridan. The General’s father lived in Ohio. Maybe they were related through his mother Catherine Sheridan Coullahan.

**PHOTO TREASURE**
Submitted by Mary E. Peters, Member #1758

I recently received a batch of professionally taken photographs of relatives from County Cavan who emigrated to New York City in the late 1800’s. Naturally, none of the pictures had names on the back. That is something that my ancestors never did. One of the pictures was that of a man in a uniform. I assumed it was he was a policeman or fireman.

One of my favorite places to go to is to ask an archivist for help. So I emailed the picture to the NYC archivist of the Police Department. I asked the archivist if he could identify the uniform as police or fire department issue.

To my surprise, it was neither. The archivist told me that I had a picture of a Civil War soldier and that the soldier had fought for the famous NY 69th Regiment. He also had a medal pinned to his chest, so he must have been in an important battle or was singled out for a brave act.

Now a new search goes on...

Kathy Hourihan (3375) and sister Claire Brassil (3374) forwarded this photo, taken by Matthew Brady circa 1861.

Our Uncle, John J. Sheehan, was a member of the 9th Inf. MA Volunteer Militia, Spanish American War. This assembly of 9th Reg. Infantry MA Officers, Civil War, sparked Uncle John, a great amateur historian, to attempt to name soldiers in this photo, for posterity.
Congratulations to TIARA Member #2750, Marie Barry who was the winner of the raffle for the trivia quiz in the last edition of the newsletter. There were several entries with the correct answers (even the disputed high king of Ireland question). Thanks for everyone who entered.

MY GRAND-UNCLES
Submitted by Helen B. Collins, Member #1852

The following served in the Civil War. They were all my grand uncles. I have more relatives on my Leahy side but have little information on them. I only have photos of two of the uncles taken after the Civil War.

1883 Correspondence

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ADJUTANT-GENERAL’S OFFICE
Sacramento, February 26th, 1883

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My grandfather John David McAuliffe’s oldest brother, and my Grand Uncle, Thomas Francis McAuliffe, was in the Civil War. He was born in Massachusetts, and along with his parents and 2 brothers arrived in California in 1850. He was a Private of Captain Brown commanding Company L, 2nd Cavalry, Regiment of California Volunteers who was duly mustered into the Service on the Twenty Third day of September, A.D. 1861 to serve three years.

He was HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the service of the United States, on the thirteenth day of October A.D. 1864 at Camp Douglas Utah by reason of expiration of term of service as appears of record in this office. Witness my hand and seal of my office, the day and year first above written.

Signed: Geo. B. Cosby, Adjutant-General of California
Official: J.J. Tobin

Following are images of a collage of photos and articles about Thomas Francis McAuliffe, his discharge paper and a certification of enlistment and discharge.
DECLARATION OF RECRUIT:
Private Jose King
Drum Barracks, Wilmington, California

My grandmother, Mary King McAuliffe's oldest brother, Jose King, age 23, also served in the Civil War at Drum Barracks, Wilmington, California, where he was mustered in April 15, 1865 in the Native California Volunteers. He was born in Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California and served in Company D, 1st Battalion, Nat. Cal Vol. and guarded the South West of the U.S. He died shortly after his honorable discharge. His discharge papers were lost.

My grandmother, Mary King McAuliffe's youngest brother, Private John B. King, age 16 and born in Santa Cruz, California enlisted in the Civil War in San Francisco on November 18, 1864 in Company B, 1st Battalion, Native California Volunteers. He was very young and served as a bugler and was assigned as a caretaker for the Calvary horses. (Many young boys served as buglers during the Civil War). He was working as a waiter in a San Francisco Hotel restaurant at the time of his enlistment. He died in a smallpox epidemic in Santa Cruz County in 1870.

(see next page for enlistment document)
Kathleen Williams, Irish Studies Librarian at Boston College gave a presentation about the use of the on-line databases at Boston College at TIARA’s May 20, 2011 meeting. 

Election of Officers took place at TIARA’s June meeting.
The new officers are:
President: Mary E. Choppa
Co-Vice Presidents: Margaret Sullivan
Greg Atkinson
Co-Recording Secretaries: Susan Steele
Pamela Holland
Corresponding Secretary: Gary Sutherland

The September issue of the newsletter will feature short bios on the new Executive Board.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Massachusetts Genealogical Council
Annual Meeting and Seminar
23 July 2011
Bentley University, Waltham MA
LaCava Center
http://www.massgencouncil.com/

Federation of Genealogical Societies
Pathways to the Heartland
September 7-10, 2011
Springfield, IL
http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/

RootsTech 2012
Salt Lake City, UT
February 2-24, 2012
http://www.roots tech.org/
Currently calling for presentations

NGS 2012 Family History Conference
The Ohio River: Gateway to the Western Frontier
Cincinnati, OH
May 9-12, 2012
http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info
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