ANCESTORS AT WORK

Workers at the American Tool Company (Including Patrick Francis Downey)
**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

We are almost through another year of TIARA programming. But TIARA’s work doesn’t stop over the summer. There are several events coming up that we hope you will participate in. The MGC Annual Seminar will be taking place at Brandeis University on July 21. The theme this year is Ethnicity and Genealogy ... definitely in our wheelhouse. TIARA is sponsoring our own Vice-president Margaret Sullivan’s talk on First Generation Irish and there promises to be other Irish lectures as well. We will also be having a vendor booth. Volunteers will always be welcome to help out.

At the end of August, Corresponding Secretary Gary Sutherland and I will be heading down to Birmingham, Alabama, for the FGS National Conference. TIARA will be acting as a vendor there as well, selling our books and hopefully some memberships. If you are planning on attending, consider spending a little volunteer time at TIARA’s booth.

Will you be pursuing your family history this summer? Any field trips planned? Don’t forget to write up your experiences. We can all learn from each other.

I am sure our Dublin attendees will be preparing for their upcoming trip.

We have some exciting plans coming up for next year. As always, we welcome your input on what you would like to see TIARA do.

Mary E. Choppa
President
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**Next Issue**

The theme for the fall issue is *Neighborhoods*. Have you researched where an ancestor has lived? What did you learn? Did you discover any other family nearby? How has the neighborhood changed since your ancestor’s time? How did you research the neighborhood? Share your stories in the TIARA newsletter. Deadline for the fall issue is August 5.
Nothing but Gratitude
Mary Choppa #1791

“Brave, gotta call it brave
To chase that dream across the sea.
Name, then they signed their names
For something they believed
Red, how the blood ran red
We laid our dead in sacred ground
Just think, wonder what they’d think
If they could see us now”

Although the words to this Dierks Bentley song, HOME, are meant in a different context, they remind me of our ancestors’ experiences. When I apply the thought to our ancestors’ occupations, I wonder what they would think of us complaining about fluorescent vs. soft lighting, ergonomic desk chairs, the elevator vs. the stairs, or having to work through our lunch or one of our break-times. No matter what their occupations, we’ve got it pretty easy compared to what they went through. Researching my WARD line, I’ve found some interesting information using the federal census and city directories.

We had very few, if any, “professionals” in our family history, as far as I can tell. Most of my ancestors were laborers. But I’ve come to appreciate that even more. They worked long and hard in dangerous places, so that the next generation had it just a little bit easier. I’m proud to say that I’m a child of the “Rust Belt,” although I didn’t realize until recently, how far back that heritage went.

The earliest occupation I can find for my WARD ancestor comes from the 1851 census for Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorganshire, Wales. This County Waterford WARD family left Ireland at the height of the famine, sometime in the late 1840s. My g-g-grandfather William WARD is listed as a laborer, but in the 1861 census he is listed as a Fish Hawker. During a visit to the area, I asked how he could be selling fish in a city surrounded by mountains. They told me there was a river nearby that served to transport goods throughout the that served to transport goods throughout the valley.

His sons are also listed as Fish Hawkers, including my great-grandfather, Michael, at age 17. In the 1871 census records, William is listed as a laborer, but Michael is listed as a puddler (more on that in the next paragraphs). William’s death certificate from 1871 indicates he fell ill after unloading coal.

His son, Michael Patrick WARD, my great-grandfather, along with his half-brother John WARD, grew up in the steel mills. I believe they came to the United States sometime between 1870 and 1873. John is not listed on the 1871 census for Wales, but they are both in the 1880 census for the United States. Fellow TIARA member and cousin Tom Reilley has a letter from their mother, writing from Merthyr to her sons (or at least John) in the United States, dated 1873.

There seems to be an additional brother, that neither Tom nor I was aware of, who pops up in the 1861 Welsh census. I’ve done some additional baptismal registry work and found a son Robert, born to Elizabeth Connolly and John O’Keefe who may have been a full brother to John and a half-brother to Michael. But I digress....

Merthyr Tydfil was known as the iron capital of the world in the 18th century. Although that was before my ancestors’ time, there were still four major ironworks in and around Merthyr Tydfil, Wales operating as late as the 1950s. The Dowlais Ironworks was the first to use the Bessemer Process, which I had only heard of in conjunction with Pennsylvania. The Bessemer process is defined as “the first inexpensive industrial process for the mass production of steel from molten pig-iron.” The process is named after its inventor, Henry Bessemer, who patented the process in 1855. An American, William Kelly, from western PA., discovered it almost simultaneously. The other three Welsh ironworks were Cyfarthfa, Plymouth and Penydarren. I have no record of which one Michael was working at, but maybe that’s an excuse for another field trip!

1861 Census shows Wards as fish mongers in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorganshire, Wales.
By 1871, Michael had developed the skills to become a puddler. A puddler is a worker who turns pig iron into wrought iron by removing impurities and sometimes forming it into steel. It was a dangerous and skilled occupation. Workers could suffer burns from the molten iron and the working conditions were poor. When I get some spare time, I would like to research local papers in Wales to see if the mills in Pittsburgh, PA and Youngstown, OH were recruiting workers.

By 1880, Michael was living in Pittsburgh and working as a puddler in the Steel City. His mother, younger brother and sisters were living with him, his wife and son. By 1900, he had moved to Youngstown, Ohio, and was a puddler in one of the mills there. In the 1910 census, he’s listed as a deputy sheriff. A more detailed review of city directories shows the change in occupation in 1906, from steel worker to sheriff. He would have been around 52 years of age at this point. Was his age a factor in the change? In the US 1920 census he is listed as a jailor, still working after the age of 65. He wasn’t listed as having an occupation in the 1930 census. Both John and Michael became very active in the steel union in Youngstown, serving as officers at various times.

Michael’s son, John Joseph Ward, my grandfather, was born in 1890 in Youngstown, Ohio. He shows up with an occupation in 1910 as a bookkeeper in the “Rubber Works.” I never knew that such a place existed in the steel town where I grew up. The Republic Rubber Works produced Republic Tires and other products. With a little additional research, I’ve discovered that I used to drive past their building on my way to high school, college and grad school every day.

The 1920 census shows John as a recent father of two. His occupation is streetcar conductor. By the 1930 census, he’s listed as an ironworker, his family has grown to five children, and his father is living with them.

In 1932, his wife died and he remarried a few years later. The 1940 census finds the family living in the nursing home run by his South Dakota-born wife. John’s occupation is listed as cab driver, something we had never known.

The next generation’s progress is evident in the 1940 census. My mother’s oldest sister, Mary Catherine WARD is a nurse. Her sister, Madaline, had gone to cosmetology school. Only a year or two later, Madeline would marry my father’s brother. And there is my 16 year old mother, still in high school, but on her way to becoming a child’s nurse. She would eventually work in an orphanage in Detroit, Michigan, for a time. Then she returned to Youngstown and married my Dad, Dominic CHOPPA, in 1947. It boggles my mind to think of how this census is a snapshot of them as teenagers, already having survived the Great Depression. Their lives are still ahead of them, but first they have to get through the pain and separation of World War II.

I cannot thank all of them enough for making life so much easier for us.
Semi-Professional Baseball Player
Robert F. Gallagher
Bob Gallagher IV #633

My paternal grandfather, Robert F. (Bob) Gallagher, "Pop," was born (1886) and raised in Brooklyn, New York. As a young boy he loved to play baseball on the nearby ball fields of Prospect Park in Brooklyn. He played so well that as a teenager he was sought out as a skilled player in the Semi-Professional "Prospect Park League" weekend games.

In Semi-Professional Baseball you only got paid when you played. There were no contracts, salary, medical coverage, or pension but if you were "good" you played each weekend and got paid well for it. There was an organizer who collected money from the people watching the game; paid for use of the field; and then divided the remaining money. Two thirds went to the winning team, and one third to the losing team. The teams would then distribute their payout amount according to how many innings each person played. Specialty players, like pitchers, got premium pay.

Playing baseball for money in Brooklyn, around the turn of the century, was a tough job because there was a strong incentive to win the game and collect the premium pay. There was a lot of rough play and physical contact. Players would run into opposing players to disable them. They would slide into base with spikes held high in order to stab opposing players and put them out of action. There was no first aid except to throw dirt on the bleeding wound to stop the blood and continue playing. Several players died from resulting infections. Broken hand bones were treated by jamming the hand into a regular glove and continuing to playing.

Pop played all positions but excelled at pitching. In his later years he would show me the broken bones in his fingers, and scars in other parts of his body inflicted by "bare handed" play of balls, and, by dirty player tactics. But he still loved playing the game.

Occasionally, the Prospect Park League team would be hired to play for a picnic or similar event at Bear Mountain State Park up the Hudson River. Those games were very popular because they included being fed on the steamboat going up river. They typically had an all-you-could-eat menu: clam chowder, hot dogs, clam fritters, watermelon and beer. While some of the team overindulged on food and drink, Pop indulged in moderation, because of his love of playing the game and also because of the premium cash payout if his team won.

Except for odd jobs, my grandfather played Semi-Pro baseball full time for about ten years and supported his mother, stepbrothers, and himself in a comfortable style. When he married Maude Bundick he had to take up additional work to support two households so baseball started to fade into the background, and, his baseball injuries also started to catch up with him.

He never lost his love for the game and Pop and I would attend many a Brooklyn Dodgers game at Ebbets Field before the team left for California.

When television came about Pop would be in his glory watching several games each weekend and also a few games during the week from the comfort of his easy chair.

Pop had other jobs after his Semi-Pro Baseball days.

The Boatman
Kelly Leary #3483

My great-great grandfather's occupation was listed as "boatman" on my great-grandfather's birth record. This would have been 1895 in the townland of Lettermore, on the Island of Lettermore, in the district of Oughterard, in the County of Galway, Ireland. I thought I had an idea of what that was. However, it was not confirmed until my parents made the journey to this small island last summer. Since Lettermore is an island, a boatman is the person who ferries people and supplies to and from the island. The island was remote and rocky and the arm of the English did not extend there, so the people on the island continued to speak Gaelic.

When my great-grandfather came to the United States in 1915, he did not speak any English but was immediately put into the Army at Ft. Devens in Massachusetts for nine months to learn a trade. He met my great-grandmother at one of the dances they held for the military. She was a laundress. After his nine-month stint in the army, he was immediately naturalized upon discharge and became a pipe fitter for the City of Boston. My grandmother called him the "water whisperer" as he would just know when a pipe was ready to burst.
A Carpenter from County Derry
Marion Huard # 764

There are so many different family lines that contribute to our present lives. They each influence our lives through their basic DNA, and also their trials and achievements. One of my family lines was brought to this country by Charles Logue, of Limavady, County Derry. He and his wife, Josephine, came to Boston in 1881, soon after marrying. They settled in the North End of Boston where Charles worked as a carpenter, and he and Josephine raised a growing family. There are few family stories about those early years, but by studying the addresses on their children’s birth records, and following city directories, it appears that Charles was successful. The earliest streets on which they lived no longer exist. They may have been in those areas in the North End where the tenements were later demolished in the 1930s. By the mid-1890s, the family was living on Garden Court, a brick row house that still stands. Directly across the street lived John Fitzgerald, who would go on to become mayor of Boston. Family stories indicate they were friends at that time.

By 1900, the family moved to Barry Street in Dorchester, to a large house built by Charles Logue that reportedly had six bathrooms. Quite a contrast to their living conditions in their early years in the North End, and also important as Charles and Josephine eventually had 16 children, 13 of whom survived past infancy.

Although there are few personal stories that have survived over three to four generations, there is a treasure in our family that gives a picture of Charles’ career and family life. A scrapbook of newspaper clippings exists that follows Charles’ development of the Charles Logue Building Company, which went on to build many buildings for the Boston Archdiocese, and the first building on the Boston College campus in Chestnut Hill, Gasson Hall. At that same time, in 1911, Charles was chosen to be the general contractor for Fenway Park. Just thirty years after arriving in Boston, Charles and Josephine were members of a growing Irish Catholic community that had achieved success and recognition.

During a visit to the White House, Charles and Josephine were presented to President Theodore Roosevelt as an example of his family ideal. Apparently, Theodore Roosevelt advocated for large families, and was concerned that too many families were limiting the size of their families. How attitudes have changed in 100 years!

As a result of his business experience, Charles was appointed to several positions in Boston city government, including Schoolhouse Commissioner. He was serving on the Tenement Commission in the year before he died in 1919, no doubt bringing his own personal knowledge of tenement conditions to the city’s efforts to improve the living conditions and health in the North End.

A record recently discovered online reveals a trip Charles took to Panama in 1913. He was not accompanied by any family members. It was the year the Panama Canal was completed. Was this a trip to witness a historic undertaking, or was it business-related? Another story lost to history.

Toolmaker
Patrick Francis Downey
Pat Willis # 3038

My grandfather, Patrick Francis Downey lived in Hyde Park, Massachusetts where he worked at American Tool Company for 45 years. He originally came from Roscommon County, Ireland and he was one of about ten children. He arrived in Boston in 1884.

Growing up, I always knew he was a member of the Foresters. He was very proud of it and I assume it was a social group along with an insurance company. He belonged to St. John’s Court, Hyde Park, Massachusetts, and he was a member of Most Precious Blood Parish. He married Margaret Collins from Chapel Street, Tallow, Waterford.

Margaret came over here at about eighteen years of age. Here, she worked as a cook. She was a graduate from Fanny Farmer’s cooking school and worked on Commonwealth Avenue. She married my grandfather, and we got the cook. She didn’t work after she was married. She became a member of the Foresters and she was in St. Agnes Court, Hyde Park, and a member of Most Precious Blood Parish. Margaret and Patrick had seven children, but only four survived.

Patrick had a brother, William Downey, who had immigrated on May 28, 1883. Patrick married Nora Larkin. She was born in the United States. Nora was also a Forester. They belonged to the St. John and St. Agnes Courts. William was a police officer in Hyde Park and he worked there all his life.

Cover Picture: Patrick Francis Downey and some of his co-workers in the machine room of the American Tool Company. Patrick is the one holding the hammer in his right hand.
Occupation Dressmaker
Susan Steele #1025

Can occupational skills be inherited? A look at some members of my family leads me to believe they might be. My grandmother, Helen DeGraw Steele was known for her sewing skills. We grandchildren thought she could make anything! My brother remembers a suit he had as a three or four year old – created from my father’s wool dress army jacket. I don’t have a photo of my brother’s suit but I do have photos of four Steele sisters wearing outfits made by “Gramma Steele” - careful handiwork from collars to pleats! The smocked dresses were made so well, that my sister Cathy was able to pass hers on to her daughter Mattie.

When I began to research Helen DeGraw’s mother, Margaret O’Neill, I had one of those “Aha!” moments. In the 1880 census of Albany, New York, my great grandmother, Margaret E. O’ Neill, age 16, was listed as a dressmaker! I don’t know a lot of details about Margaret’s life but I can guess that she used her dressmaker skills to provide income for many years. She didn’t get married until she was twenty-nine and after her marriage, her husband was absent for long periods. Since she is not listed in city directories, I can only speculate how she supported herself and three children. I do know that Margaret passed on her dressmaking skills to her daughter, Helen. The proof is in the photos!

Helen’s son, my father, didn’t have a lot of opportunity to demonstrate skills with fabric. As the owner of a 150 year-old home and several very “used” cars, he could “mend” most anything. I definitely remember a large needle and thread stuck in a piece of leather among his carpentry, plumbing and automobile tools.

In the next generation down, my sister Cathy has inherited the dressmaking skills. After graduate school, she moved to a farm and began a family. Following the “Gramma Steele” model of turning jackets into suits, Cathy became adept at tearing apart and reconstructing new outfits from old. And like “Gramma Steele,” Cathy can also follow a pattern. She made the bridesmaid outfit that her daughter Mattie is wearing in the photo. Now Mattie puts together very creative Halloween costumes – dressmaking passed on to the fifth generation?
Thomas F. Meaney - Stonecutter
Thomas Toohey #2705

Stone carvers (or “stonecutters” as they preferred to be called) were highly respected craftsmen in the 19th Century. They took dead stone and carved life into it. In doing so, they helped mourners commemorate the loss of their loved ones.

My maternal grandfather, Thomas Meaney, was a stonemason. He was born in 1867 to Thomas and Mary (O’Brien) Meaney in Ballywilliam, Templetenny Parish County Tipperary. The Meaneys barely eked out a subsistence living on their hillside farm near Ballyporeen.

During the 1870’s the crops in South Tipperary failed for three years in a row and the farmers feared another famine. Meanwhile, Nathaniel Buckley, the Meaney’s landlord, raised the rent. Dozens of inhabitants of his estate could not pay and were evicted. Several tenants were so upset that they attempted to shoot Buckley. These events led to a great deal of unrest and it is easy to see why Thomas left Ireland in 1881 for a more promising life in America.

Thomas had connections in the States. His older sister Josie was living in the South End of Boston where she ran a rooming house. Michael Meaney, his uncle, lived in Quincy, Massachusetts and worked in the quarries. Before long, Michael found Tom a position as an apprentice stonemason. Tom was an apt student and soon mastered his trade.

By the late 1880’s Thomas completed his apprenticeship and began working on major building projects. For several years, he worked on the New York State Capital Building in Albany, New York. Hundreds of Irish laborers were employed to carve the highly ornamented halls. The western staircase called the “Million Dollar Staircase” was especially ornate. It featured hundreds of human faces carved into the ceiling. While working in Albany Thomas lived across the Hudson River in Troy. He applied for U.S. citizenship and it was granted to him in 1895.

In the mid 1890’s Thomas moved to Williamstown, Massachusetts to work on Saint Patrick’s Church. He was employed to carve a statue of Saint Patrick, a corner stone featuring shamrocks and an ornate altar rail. While in Williamstown he worked with John Walsh, another stonemason.

When they finished the carving at Saint Patrick’s Church Thomas and John decided to go into business together. They soon learned that the Berkshire Monument Works in North Adams was for sale. They bought the business in 1896 and immediately began to do very well.

A year later Thomas traveled to Dorset, Vermont to buy marble from Will Tully, a quarry owner. While he was in Dorset Tom met Will’s sister-in-law Anna McBride. Tom and Anna became friends, fell in love and were married in 1899. In time, Tom and Anna had seven children, six of whom lived to adulthood.

Thomas and John went into the monument business at an opportune time. After the completion of the Hoosac Tunnel in 1875 the economy in North Adams boomed. The waterpower of the Hoosac River was harnessed and dozens of mills and shops were expanded. Thousands of men who worked on the tunnel went to work in these factories. Business owners prospered. Many of these owners erected large monuments on their family burial plots. They also needed ornamental stone for their homes and factories. The Berkshire Monument Works was well positioned to supply cut and engraved stone for these needs.

Civil War memorials were another important aspect of their business. Eighteen ninety was the 25th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War. Every town in New England wanted a public memorial to their war heroes. Meaney and Walsh were engaged to produce statues of soldiers with stone canons and piles of canon balls. They produced monuments that were erected throughout Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and Vermont.

Because of their ability to produce large round stone objects Meaney and Walsh began to be known for a signature type of memorial with a massive round ball on top. Over the years they produced dozens of this type of gravestone. The best of these were produced in black Quincy granite, a very hard stone that can be finished to a high polish.
The process of polishing the stone created a great deal of dust and Thomas got silicosis, a deadly lung condition. He continued to work but he was, in the words of someone who knew him, a “walking dead man.” In 1911, after erecting a monument in Mechanicsville, New York, Thomas collapsed and had to recover before returning to North Adams. His health continued to fail and he passed away at home on January 12, 1912.

Tom belonged to several fraternal organizations and had many friends. He was waked at home and hundreds of mourners attended. Fifty members of the Knights of Columbus returned the next day to hold crossed swords above his casket as it passed up North Church Street on the way to the funeral.

John Walsh continued to operate the Berkshire Monument Works until 1917 when he was also disabled by silicosis. Thomas and John had a joint partnership and none of the proceeds of the business went to Tom’s widow. Anna was left to raise six children on her own. Fortunately, she was a strong woman and all of her children grew up to be successful middle class adults.

By the time I began investigating my grandfather’s life my mother had dementia and her older brothers had passed away. Luckily a few relatives and former associates remembered him. Bill Fairs, a veteran Berkshire stonemason, said that he was “the best carver of his time.” Another craftsman called him “an artist.” A newspaper reporter wrote, “[Thomas] lived up to the highest teaching of morality and brotherly love [and] by his own example set in his daily life he strived to impress on others the necessity of living an exemplary life carrying his teachings into his own home where he was a loving father and considerate husband.”

The most dramatic statements about him are not verbal however. They are the beautiful monuments that he created. Even today, a century after his death, I can easily recognize his work from hundreds of feet away across a cemetery. His stones stand as plumb as the day he set them. Their beautiful finish and elegant engraving are a testament to his skill and his life. We should all have such lasting memorials for our own lives.

**Occupations of the Moran Family**

The Morans originally settled in Charlestown, MA. One of the closest jobs would have been to work at the Boston and Maine Railroad. So John Moran, the immigrant, arriving in 1892 probably started working right away for the B & M. His 1894 marriage certificate lists his occupation as “engineer”, though it does not say with whom. The 1900 census, also lists “engineer” as his occupation and the 1910 census lists engineer at “boat wharf.” In the city directories he was listed as a foreman at B & M from 1919-1924 and then in 1925 listed as engineer at B & M. On his death certificate it states that he worked for B & M RR for 25 years (but it could have been longer) and his obituary states that he worked as a “stationary engineer” at the Mystic Docks in Boston.

His brother Andrew seemed to follow John wherever he lived and he, too, worked as a laborer for the B & M RR, though on his death certificate he is listed as engineer.
John Moran had eight children:
1. His son John Jr. was an electrician in the Navy Yard in Boston and John Jr’s son, Ed, was a Pressman for the Boston Globe. All John Jr.’s daughters married and were housewives.
2. His daughter Mary was an accountant for the Eastern Mass St. Railways according to the 1920 census.
3. Daughter Anna in 1920 was an “examiner in a jewelry store” but her family knows her as being a diamond cutter in a jewelry store in Boston.
4. Ella in the 1920 US census lists bookkeeper in a printing company as her occupation, but her family remembers her as a telephone operator.
5. Bessie married young and was a housewife.
6. Grace was a telephone operator.
7. Ed was an engineer for the phone company, at first in Scollay Sq. and later in Framingham
8. Catherine, the youngest, stayed home to take care of parents, etc.

**Patrick Donahoe Jack Spinner,**
Susan Kiley #3506

We discovered through family research that our ancestor and his relatives worked in a mill – namely, the carpet factory in Saxonville, MA. We have no verbal history passed down, just what we have discovered through research.


For approximately 50 years [1820’s to 1870’s] the hand-operated spinning jack constituted the most popular device in the factory production of woolen yarn. And, because the quality of yarn depended almost entirely upon the ability of the operator, the Jack Spinner represented one of the most skilled laborers in an American woolen mill

Patrick Donahoe, a Roman Catholic, was born in Ireland in 1825. He came to America about 1833 with his parents, Thomas Donahoe and Margaret DAULTON. They lived in Lowell, Middlesex County, MA. Patrick was in Framingham in August 1850 where he was enumerated in the 1850 US Census as Patrick Donohoe, age 23, male, not married, Spinner, born Ireland, able to read and write. By the late 1850’s the family had moved permanently to the Saxonville area of Framingham, where Patrick Donahoe, some of his siblings, and other relatives worked in the Saxon Carpet Factory. (Later, the factory became the Roxbury Carpet Factory.)

The Saxon Factory Company, built in 1824, was named for the breed of sheep (Saxon) that produced the wool for the factory. Power for the mills came from a dam in the Sudbury River. In the 1820’s, the neighborhood was called “Saxon Factory Village,” which later became Saxonville. Only one factory building survived the fire of 1883, but by 1884 the rebuilt mill was in full operation again. The mill’s huge original bell was cast at the Paul Revere foundry but destroyed in the 1883 fire. In the 1990’s, the carpet factory was renovated and became the home of an artists’ colony, called Saxonville Studios, which continues to thrive.

On the map the large arrow points to the carpet factory/studio. At the top of the map is Danforth Street, where the Donahoe family lived. At the bottom of the map is St. George’s Roman Catholic Church, where Donahoe family members were baptized, married, and buried.

Patrick married Helen Bowman. I don’t yet have a copy of Patrick’s marriage record, but the index of Massachusetts marriages 1695-1910 on www.familysearch.org’s lists Patrick Donoho and Helen D. Bowman 24 Oct 1854, no location given.

Helen Deborah BOWMAN, was a non-Catholic descendant of several New England founding families—Bowman, Clough, Page, Smith, Church, Joslin, Barrett, How, and Collins and a Mayflower descendant. Patrick and Helen Donahoe’s only child, Mary, was born in 1855. Mary, her five
daughters and her grandchildren were all raised as Roman Catholics.

Patrick and Helen were enumerated in separate locations in the 1855 Massachusetts state census but Helen was listed as a “DONAHOE” In the household of Thomas Donahue in Lowell, Massachusetts, Patrick is listed as age 30-40, male, laborer, born Ireland. He is living with his parents, several siblings, and a cousin.

Patrick’s daughter Mary was born earlier that year in Brewster, Barnstable Co., MA, where his wife’s brothers were living. His wife was enumerated there in June 1855 as Hellen D. Donahoe, age 32, female, born Massachusetts (an error—she was born in New Hampshire). Also in household was Infant Donahoe, female, age 3 months, born in Massachusetts.

Helen Donahoe and daughter were living in Brewster with the family of her older brother, Levi Bowman and his wife Lois. Helen’s brother Roswell Bowman and wife Cassandra and her brother Harrison Bowman and wife Sarah also lived in Brewster in 1855. We do not know why Helen and Patrick were living apart. Helen’s widowed mother, Susanna Bowman, was living in Cambridge in 1855 with Helen’s married sister, Amanda Bowman.

In the 1860 federal census for Framingham, Middlesex Co., MA, PO Weston, Patrick is enumerated on 10 Aug 1860 as age 35, male, operative, born Ireland. Living with him are his wife Helen, his daughter Mary and a brother.

The 1865 Massachusetts state census for Framingham, taken 1 May 1865, lists Patrick Donahoe, as age 42, male, married, an operative, a legal voter, and naturalized voter. He lived in the same household with his wife and daughter. At the same residence are his parents, siblings, cousins, and another family. His father, Thomas Donahoe, seems to have been the head of this very large household.

In the 1870 US. census for Framingham, MA. Patrick age 46 has the occupation of Jack Spinner, with no real estate or personal estate valued. Living with Patrick, his wife Helen, and daughter Mary were his parents Thomas and Margaret Donahoe, his mother-in-law Susan Bowman age 85, and several siblings and other relatives. All the working members of the family worked in the woolen mill.

The 1880 Federal census shows Patrick 55, still in Framingham, as a married head of household, with the occupation spinner. Living with him was his wife Helen, Helen’s widowed sister Amanda Bow-

man Leavitt, and Amanda’s son, Martin Leavitt. Amanda worked in the woolen mill. Patrick and Helen Donahoe’s only child, Mary, had married in 1877 and was living with her husband, William O’Hearn, in Framingham at the time of the 1880 census.

Patrick’s wife Helen, died 13 Feb 1895 in Framingham, MA. Her death record gives the following information: age 71 years eleven months, married, maiden name Helen Deborah Bowman, wife of Patrick Donahoe, cause of death Bright’s disease, residence Saxonville, Framingham, MA. born in New Hampshire, father’s name “Lewis” (should be Levi) Bowman, mother’s name Susan Clough, both parents born in Salem, MA. (Incorrect—her mother was born in Henniker, NH.) Place of interment Saxonville, MA.”

The 1900 US census shows Patrick still in the Saxonville section of Framingham living as a boarder 1825, in the home of Amanda Bowman Leavitt, age 73, his widowed sister-in-law. Also living in the household was Amanda’s crippled son, Martin Leavitt, age 52, and another boarder, not a relative. Amanda Leavitt rented the house, and I can’t read what her means of support was. It looks like her occupation says “Drawing Fraime.”

Patrick died 7 Aug 1905, at the age 80, at 583 E. Fourth St., Boston, the residence of his only child, Mary M. “Minnie” Donahoe O’Hearn, MA The cause of death was Marasmus– Senility, He was buried at St. George’s Cemetery, Saxonville.

What’s In A Name?

Mary E. Dorion #843

For many years, I have been keeping a genealogical file on a man whom I believe to be a brother to my Irish grandfather, Martin Haugh. However, I have not been able to find that definitive link – a document. All the evidence I have is circumstantial.

The man’s name was John Haugh, recorded in the 1860 U.S. Census as having lived in East Boston after he arrived in the United States about 1854 with wife, Alice Scales, and children Thomas, Bridget, Patrick, Joseph, Mary and John. Following the family in the Boston City Directories, I found the name listed from year to year as Hawks, Hough, Hawes, Haughs, and Haugh. In the 1850 Census the family was listed as Hawes. Similarly, the last names of the male members of this family, recorded in these directories, as they became wage earners, vary from year to year in like manner.

Reviewing the documents I had collected for my father’s family, I found that a John and Bridget
Hickman Haugh were godparents to my father’s elder sister, Margaret. A Patrick and Mary Haugh were godparents to my father. I subsequently learned that Bridget Hickman was John Haugh’s second wife, and John’s son Patrick was the only person of that name living in Boston at that time. This leads me to assume a rather close relationship between the two families living in separate communities, since it is customary for close relatives or dear friends to be asked to sponsor a child at baptism.

I followed Patrick through city directories until he died in 1902. His death record listed him as Patrick Hawes. My first thought was, “Oh, oh! This is going to cause someone a lot of trouble some day.”

Then, on a trip to the Country Clare Heritage Center, I submitted the information I had on the two men, John and Martin, in the hope that their research would help to establish some verification for my assumptions. While I came up empty on Martin, I found all I could possibly ever want to know about John Haugh. He was born in the Parish of Kellard, where Martin states on his naturalization form he was born, but no stated townland. Each man has the same parent names, Patrick and Margaret. In addition, the Heritage Center supplied me with information on John’s marriage and the births and places of the births of their children. I filed it all away, hoping that some day it might be of some practical use. And guess what!

A few weeks ago I received an e-mail from a very gracious woman from a small Massachusetts town – someone whose maiden name was Hawes. She had seen my posting of the Haugh family tree on a genealogical web site. She was certain that John Haugh was her great-grandfather. She had not been able to find anything about her ancestors before her grandfather, Patrick Hawes.

We have had some very pleasant chats on the phone. I supplied her with the information I have, and my assumptions. Who knows? Maybe some day one of us will find that elusive connection as we comb through the innumerable Johns, James, Martins, Patricks, and Thomas’, not to mention the Marys, Margarets, and Ellens in the Haugh clan.

DATHI’S BOOKSHELF
Thomas A. Dorsey #2695

In our last column we sailed across two key currents in Irish history: the Elizabethan pressures on Irish chiefs in the 1550’s (Grace O’Malley) and the use of slavery in Cromwell’s Ireland in 1650. These currents are part of the long and bitter history between 1450 and 1650 involving major events in Tudor Ireland. Despite the common view that Cromwell imposed the worse treatment on Ireland the military atrocities of the Tudor monarchs were much worse.

In Tudor Ireland we reach the time in which the dissolution of the old Celtic culture reached its end. The unique civilization that had been growing on the island for nearly 3000 years would become severely truncated and “modernized” in less than 100 years. Remnants remain today but most of the original was lost in the destruction of this period. Not the least of this was the derivative, the fide, Brehon law, and other cultural elements that might have modern forms today.

In 1509 Henry VIII took the throne and in 1534 the Church of England was formed following Henry’s disputes with the Vatican [the Reformation]. Between 1536 and 1539 Henry destroyed 560 monasteries and convents in Ireland. Moreover, his generals indiscriminately slaughtered Celtic leaders who opposed him. His daughter Elizabeth I’s rule provided domestic stability in England for 45 years but Ireland remained a thorn in the Crown’s side. Her reign was bedeviled by the First and Second Desmond Rebellions in Munster [1569-1583] and Tyrone’s Rebellion (the Nine Years War) from 1594 to 1603. These events of the Tudor period are the foundation of the great animosity that has persisted between Ireland and England for 500 years.

The Tudor occupation was the final cultural turning point for Ireland. England was becoming a highly organized mercantile society while Ireland was still tribal and pastoral, with a grazing economy. The island was both an economic asset for the English and a geographic bulwark against England’s enemies - the Spanish and the French. However, as a Catholic society Ireland was sympathetic to Spain, France and Rome, and potentially dangerous. Its religion was antithetical to English Protestantism. It could not be left to become a strong independent society.

Internally Ireland was an immiscible mix of native Irish clans, Anglo-Norman nobility and English opportunists [in the Pale]. The settled Anglo-Norman lords, said to be “more Irish than the Irish themselves”, were either Catholic or Protestant with

Boston (Massachusetts) Evening Transcript, 15 February 1851, p. 4, col.2.
“The lady who was forty years old at the taking of the last census, reports herself as thirty-seven this year.” -- Eva Murphy #2494
varying relations with the Crown and each other. The Irish clan lords [e.g. “The O’Neill”] were susceptible to English blandishments and were unable to form a united government. Worse, they were suffering a period of decline. England’s technological superiority and an amoral mindset with regard to the “inferior” primitives next door set the stage for cultural tragedy.

A rich, dense and objective book introducing this period is The Twilight Lords by Richard Berleth, [Not in the “Twilight” series.] The author traces the events and actors from 1565 to 1599 with an eye to detail that shows the foolishness, viciousness and cupidity of all concerned. He knows Ireland and his sense of locality, geography and battle tactics contribute a great deal to the book. Berleth is Chair of the Arts Department at St. Francis College in New York City.

This was a clash involving strong and clever Elizabethans, including Arthur Grey, William Cecil, Walter Raleigh, the Butlers [of Ormond] the Fitzgeralds [of Desmond], the Burkes [of Galway], Edmund Spencer, and a host of others. Supporting actors were drawn from Irish clans such as the McSweeney, the O’Donnell, the O’Moriartys, the MacCarthys and the O’Neills, particularly clans from Munster. Many of the battles resound in Irish legend: Askeaton, Youghal, Smerwick, Slieve Mish and, the Yellow Ford.

Smerwick and the siege of Fort del Oro [1580] was a reprise of the massacre at Nass in March, 1535. While this battle does not sound Irish and involved few Irishmen, it was one “point of no return” in the lasting enmity with England. Smerwick is on the Dingle Peninsula and Fort del Oro was the seat of James Fitzmaurice. The fort was named for the wreck of one of Elizabeth’s bullion ships that crashed on the rocks below. In October 1580 it became the landing point for “Spanish” troops sent with the Pope’s blessing to support Gerald, Earl of Desmond.

In fact, when Arthur Grey and the entire English army put siege to the Fort they discovered they were fighting about 700 Basques and Italian recruits led by a Bolognese commander named Sebastiano di san Joseppi. None of the poorly equipped troops could speak English or Irish Gaelic. They had been told they would be supported by Gerald with 4000 troops flanking the English in the hills around Fort del Oro. Gerald, however, was not to commit to battle until he received a signal from the Italians. By the time they signaled the outcome was already determined. Worse, Gerald had only 1400 troops and was hopelessly outnumbered.

With superior cannon Grey demolished the Fort over several days killing over 300 of the occupying troops. Five days of surrender negotiations produced no results and finally Joseppi surrendered “without quarter” throwing himself on Grey’s mercy. The English stripped the troops of weapons and belongings, removed all the valuables from the Fort, then reentered and killed every living person, over 300 men and women. Gerald of Desmond never had the chance to formulate an attack.

By 1580, the continuous fighting in Munster had decimated the relatively small population. Over 30,000 natives died and the “scorched earth” policy of the English had destroyed all crops, livestock and habitation. When Spencer traveled with Grey to Smerwick he wrote of corpses rotting in the fields and that “…not the lowing of a cow or the voice of a ploughman, could be heard from Dunqueen in Kerry to Cashel in Munster.” In the following three years matters worsened as Gerald Butler, Earl of Desmond waged a guerrilla war in which he victimized his own people as badly as the English had done earlier.

The Second Desmond War finally ended in 1583 because of a stolen cow and a naked woman. Grey was still trying to hunt down Gerald Butler in the wilds of Kerry. Butler was starving and desperate in the late fall and pillaged the farm of a minor clan chief, one Maurice O’Moriarity, stealing a cow and all the woolens, including the clothes worn by Mrs. O’Moriarity. Her husband, understandably outraged, took some local friends and tracked the Earl into the Slieve Mish wilderness where he killed him. The entire English army had been unable to find Butler for 8 years. Butler’s head was sent to Queen Elizabeth and O’Moriarity received 1000 pounds. He died rich with many cows but his fellow Irish shunned him for the rest of his life.

The depopulation of Munster became an immediate opportunity for the English. Surveyors quickly arrived and plantations were awarded to the favorites of the Crown who had the intestinal fortitude to move to Ireland. Many of these new occupants were military veterans of the two Desmond Wars and their descendants’ fortunes were the direct result of their military service in Ireland.

A classic, chronological review of this same period is found in Cyril Falls Elizabeth’s Irish Wars (1940). Falls was an eminent British military historian whose concise and fluid review of each battle is a perfect complement to the Twilight Lords. After a review of the military organization of both sides and British presence in Ireland the book discusses Shane O’Neill’s rebellion [1558], the Fitzmaurice revolt [1571], the two Desmond wars [1579-1583] and the Spanish Armada event [1588]. The balance
of the book deals with Tyrone’s Rebellion and the aftermath through 1620.

Falls’ discussion of the Spanish Armada disaster of 1588 is particularly informative. Irish tales of the Spanish shipwrecks are varied and fanciful. In 1979 in Clare we were directed to a beach where Irish supposedly killed Spanish seamen. In fact, Falls argues that, while the Irish captured the Spanish and took all their possessions and clothes, they never killed them. The execution of survivors was conducted by the English. Sir Richard Bingham reported to the Crown that he executed 1100 in Connaught. On the other hand, 400 Spanish who escaped to Scotland were almost certainly aided by the Irish.

In fact, Irish involvement in the Armada event was mostly accidental, occurring when Spanish survivors begged for help. The Armada had orders from their admiralty to avoid the coast and they sailed down the west side of the island. Nevertheless of 130 ships, 63 were lost. Two were sunk in battle, two were lost on the French and Dutch coasts, and 35 vanished without a trace. Seventeen ended up on the Irish coast, primarily in Sligo, Mayo, Galway and Clare. One limped into the Blasquets in Kerry but was unable to get help. Three badly damaged ships entered Killibegs harbor in Donegal and were repaired by McSweeney, the local gallowglass chief.

Two other crews had real sagas. One crew, wrecked in Blacksod Bay in Mayo, was rescued by a second Spanish ship which was then wrecked on the rocks in Loughros Bay in Donegal. The crew survived and walked overland to Killibegs. They then tried to sail to Scotland on a badly repaired ship but it was wrecked on rocks near Dunluce Castle and all were lost. In the second case a ship wrecked in Innishowen had the crew taken prisoner by John Kelly, a loyalist. A number were killed but 150 escaped and were protected by a local clan chief O’Cahan, a liege of O’Neill. They eventually made it to Scotland, demonstrating that survival of Armada sailors was purely due to chance and circumstance.

Early Tudor Ireland seems so violent that it recently spawned a co-authored volume entitled Age of Atrocity (Four Courts Press, 2007). Here a group of academics examines topics such as violence, and increasing violence, in 16th century Ireland, Spencer’s propaganda after Smerwick, various Ulster massacres, and events during the Cromwell period. These articles are informative and focused but reflect academic preoccupations that are interesting but may not be to your taste.

A rewarding article is David Edwards’ “The Escalation of Violence in Sixteenth-Century Ireland.” He tackles recent revisionist views that attribute violence in Tudor Ireland to (a) the military actions of Irish warlords, (b) “inadvertence” because the “relatively benign” Tudor policy of policing the country was misinterpreted, or (c) the English had to change their approach because warfare, as practiced by the Irish, exceeded English standards. Edwards seeks to test these views by examining both Irish and English actions from 1500 to 1570.

Using nearly contemporaneous annals and records Edwards finds that Irish inter-clan killing was limited, never involved noncombatants, and never descended to wholesale massacres. Paroles of prisoners were common. Between 1500 and 1550 “scorched earth” reprisals were also limited to 17 or less in a decade. In contrast, the first three major engagements by the English were brutal.

At Nass [1535] the Irish captives were disarmed and slaughtered to a person. At Maynooth [1535] the executions were political theater and involved over 50 noncombatants. On March 25th, the Feast of the Ascension [traditional New Year’s Day], 25 prisoners were beheaded and the heads were placed on spikes over Maynooth Castle. The remaining captives were marched to Dublin and beheaded at points along the way. The message of a new era of Irish annihilation and religious reprisal was clear, and the phrase “pardon of Maynooth” became common.

Finally, in 1536, at Carrickgogunell Castle in Limerick, 46 survivors were executed, including women and children. This action, ordered by Leonard Grey, the lord deputy, became known as “Grey’s pardon” and earned universal enmity across Ireland. The fact that the lord deputy’s son Albert acted in exactly the same manner at Smerwick in 1580 was not lost on the Irish.

Edwards reviews other information and reaches the conclusion that the use of extreme force by the English was intentional and that Irish battle practices did not prompt it. Indeed, the two sides brought very different views to the battlefield, and only after years of struggle would the Irish believe that they would receive no quarter as they defended their ancient lands from the invaders.

The Nine Year’s War [Tyrone’s Rebellion] became the last, and final, spasm in the effort of the old Celtic order to assert its independence. We will turn to that period next and consider both the history and the personages that stand out in this era of massacre and mayhem, which took so much Irish blood and treasure.

Next: Tudors II
Comments/Inquiries:dathi2012@gmail.com
Patrick J. Magee
Marilyn Magee Zwieener# 3300

Like so many Irish immigrants who came to Boston in the 1880’s, Patrick Magee arrived with one suitcase, packed full of hope. In many ways, his dreams were fulfilled by later generations, but sadly he did not live to see them. Patrick’s time in his adopted land lasted only from 1886 until 1914 but before his death, he and his wife Kate (Foy) Magee had achieved their greatest dream – a home of their own.

Patrick was born March 17, 1858 in Killydrum, a village just west of Enniskillen, County Fermanagh. It was (and still is) a farming area, with glorious green fields and outstanding grazing for horses. The Magees (McGees) owned a piece of this good land, but it was Patrick’s older brother, John, who inherited the farm. The logical choice for Patrick, as well as brothers, James and Frank, was emigration; all settling in the Boston area. Each brought with him farming and ‘hosteling’ skills. James spent his life as a horse-trainer at the once famous Readville Race Track. Frank worked for a private family, first as a coachman and later, with the coming of the automobile, a chauffeur.

Patrick landed in Boston on 22 May 1886, having been packed in steerage with 1200 immigrants aboard the ‘Catalonia’. Family legend tells that he soon found work on a country estate in Canton MA, working for a prominent Boston family. Family history identifies it as the Hemenway Estate. Documents confirm that he spent the rest of his working days there, with occupations variously listed as teamster, gardener, and farmer. Another employee at the estate was Catherine (Kate) Foy, who became Patrick’s wife in June 1888. Kate, also a recent immigrant was from Bunnanaden, County Sligo.

A large family came naturally starting with the birth of John in 1889; James arrived next, but lived only a year. Charles and Thomas H. kept the family growing, but the parents must have been pleased when a daughter, Mary, arrived in 1897. It was back to boys in 1899 when William was born. Another girl, Catherine, lived only a short life. Anna, the last child, was born in 1908 while the family still lived in Canton, in housing provided by Patrick’s employer.

Patrick had joined the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters in 1896, St. John’s Court #23 in Hyde Park. A wife and three sons must be provided for and no doubt he recognized the security of an insurance benefit. No one could predict the future and Patrick’s decision was a blessing to his widow in 1914.

Just three years earlier, in 1911, Patrick and Kate had put money down to buy a house on Hamilton St. in the Readville section of Hyde Park. The area was close to Patrick’s work and convenient to the railroad yards where so many others, including his children, found work. Records show that they took on a mortgage of $1400 with a monthly payment of $14.35. We don’t know how Kate used the $1000 death benefit, but that amount guaranteed that she could pay off the mortgage.

Anecdotally, we know that buying this home for his family was one of the proudest moments of Patrick’s life. A story is told that he greatly enjoyed gardening in his free time. However, when gardening time conflicted with church time on Sunday and his ‘work clothes’ were visible to the neighbors, there were words with Kate! He was known to remind her that this was his own home and he would work in his garden when he wished, dressed as he wished, even in his shirtsleeves!

Unfortunately, Patrick had only a couple of years to enjoy his home and garden. He was diagnosed with cancer and suffered about a year with the illness. When he could no longer work and after his death, everyone pitched in to keep the family going. Oldest son, John, was already married and had blessed Patrick with his first grandson a few months before he died. A story is told that soon after the birth of John Jr., he was brought to Patrick’s sick bed where the grandfather expressed great pride.

Second son Charlie, a bit adventurous, headed to Panama where he began his life’s work on the Panama Canal – he faithfully sent money home to Kate and returned home as often as possible to check on the family. Thomas and William found work on the New Haven Railroad and were able to contribute their share. Daughter Mary lived at home and worked as a typist for the railroad; Anna also found office work.

As the years went by Patrick’s children married and continued the Magee name with new generations. Kate, the matriarch, shared her home at 77 Hamilton St. with Anna’s family until her own death in 1953. It was Patrick’s financial legacy through the Foresters insurance policy and Kate’s natural Irish strength that planted the Magee roots solidly in Hyde Park, giving later generations a place to call home.

Patrick’s membership in the Foresters has provided another benefit, one he could not possibly have imagined! The detailed application he completed in
1896 gives us rich details of his physical appearance and family background – a genealogist’s dream! We know that his health was good – except for having had a ‘broken rib from the kick of a horse’ and having had a bout of malaria in 1892. And, Patrick seldom touched the ‘ardent spirits’! The family has no photos or first hand accounts of his life, so these details are precious indeed.

Catholic Order of Foresters. These displays were complimented by Irish themed photos and stories from the university’s Mass Memories program and additional artifacts illustrating a variety of materials available at the archives.

“A remarkable and memorable event commemorating the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters Mortuary Records gift received from The Irish Ancestral Research Association...all made possible because of TIARA’s ‘award-worthy’ work over the past 7 or so years with the Foresters collection!” These were the combined sentiments of Daniel A. Ortiz-Zapata, University Librarian and Director of Libraries at UMass Boston and Joanne Riley, University Archivist at the Joseph P. Healey Library. They were describing the “Calling the Heart Back Home” gala held at UMass on March fourteenth.

Although TIARA donated and moved the Foresters records to UMass in August 2011, this was the official launch of the collection in its new home. Joanne Riley and her staff worked with TIARA volunteers to create displays that told the story of “The Path to UMass” – TIARA’s rescue and processing of the Foresters collection. Other displays explained the components of a Foresters Mortuary Record, told stories of Forester ancestors of TIARA members, and gave a history of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters. These displays were complimented by Irish themed photos and stories from the university’s Mass Memories program and additional artifacts illustrating a variety of materials available at the archives.

Over one hundred guests viewed these exhibits and were audience members for a program that included harpist, Susan Miron and storyteller, Norah Dooley. My own presentation highlighted historical themes contained in individual and collective Forester records. These themes included the Molasses Tank Explosion, the Influenza Epidemic of 1918, World War I, and the Spanish American War.

John Anderson, High Secretary-Treasurer and Kathleen T. Niermeyer, High Chief Ranger represented the Catholic Association of Foresters in expressing thanks to TIARA for rescuing its historic records. Joanne Riley, together with Dale Freeman, Digital Resources Archivist and Andrew Elder, Outreach and Development Coordinator spoke about the organization of the Foresters collection at UMass and future plans to increase access.
One of the evening’s many highlights was Daniel Ortiz-Zapata’s presentation of the first Joseph P. Healey Library Community Archives Award to TIARA.

Whereas members of The Irish Ancestral Research Association in 2004 undertook the herculean task of preserving over 80,000 historical records of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters and

Whereas TIARA Presidents Judy Barrett, Janis Duffy, Mary Choppa and Kathy Roscoe preserved the Foresters records by negotiating the transfer of the records to TIARA’s custody and the launch of a professional scanning operation conducted by the Genealogical Society of Utah and

Whereas 57 members of the Association guided by Janis Duffy and led by Susan Steele logged more than 6,000 hours as volunteers, and met the highest professional standards in indexing and re-folding 20,600 policy files and

Whereas those Volunteers over the course of six years have connected more than 600 grateful researchers with their family records

Therefore, be it known to all here present that the First Joseph P. Healey Library Community Archives Award is presented to The Irish Ancestral Research Association on this day March 14, 2012.

Forester Project volunteers joined TIARA presidents and Board members in accepting well-earned recognition for a seven-year long “labor of love.” Names of all 57 volunteers appeared in the “Path to UMass” display case. My thanks go out to each of those who contributed to the 6,000 hours! A special thanks also to TIARA members Cate Ryan, Marie Ahearn and Bob Cavanaugh who put in additional hours to create the “Path to UMass” display. They worked alongside the UMass team of Joanne Riley, Dale Freeman, Andrew Elder and Simmons College intern Jessica Holden to create materials for the exhibit cases and presentations. As one TIARA member wrote, “Together you created displays and presentations that were thorough, informative, and moving - congratulations! The total program was very impressive and a coup for all involved.”
Back L-R: Bernie Couming, Judy Barrett, Pat Willis, Janis Duffy, Sheila FitzPatrick, Marie Ahearn, Robert Cavanaugh, Richard Wright
Front L-R: Pat Deal, Carlyn Cox, Susan Steele, Judy Lang, Virginia Wright, Kathy Roscoe
My father, Jim Reynolds, worked for the railroad for over 40 years. He started working for the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad about 1935. It merged into Penn Central in 1968.

Freight operations went to Conrail in 1976. When he retired in 1978, he received the framed patches.

I can remember visiting his workplace as a kid and seeing all the freight trains, the engine house and the turntable.

My Dad's ID tag is pretty worn; I would love to remove the plastic coating. I think the blotch on his face is just on the plastic, but I am afraid of making it worse by removing the plastic.

While writing this, I realized that I had never tried looking into railroad history. I discovered that "Railroad Retirement" has a page set up for genealogy at: www.rrb.gov/mep/genealogy.asp.

Older records of deceased rail workers are at the NARA Center in Atlanta, GA.

BOOK UPDATE

The latest edition of John Grenham's book, Tracing Your Irish Ancestors has arrived. We are happy to offer it to our active members at $25 ($4 shipping and handling, an additional $2 for each additional title).

From www.genealogical.com:

The best book ever written on Irish genealogy, this new edition of Tracing Your Irish Ancestors retains the familiar structure of previous editions but is now more useful than ever. Combining the key features of a textbook and a reference book, it describes the various steps in the research process while at the same time providing an indispensable body of source materials for immediate use.

The biggest change from previous editions is in its approach to the Internet. Online research is now an essential part of any Irish family history project, so the 4th edition serves as a directory to online records, discussing their uses and outlining research strategies. The sheer scale of the data available online makes a guide such as this even more essential and in the hands of a master, it is indispensable.

Along with its step-by-step instructions in the location and use of traditional genealogical records, its discussion of civil records of birth, marriage, and death, as well as land records and wills, and its list of Roman Catholic parish records and source lists—all expanded, updated, and indexed—make it easily the most useful book in Irish genealogy.

About the Author:
The author of many books and articles on Irish genealogy, John Grenham was the first Genealogist-in-Residence at the Dublin City Library and Archive. He is a Fellow of both The Irish Genealogical Research Society and The Genealogical Society of Ireland. Since 2009, he has written the "Irish Roots" column for The Irish Times.

It is one of the most up-to-date and thorough source books for serious researchers of Irish family history."

--American Reference Books Annual

"Highly recommended for anyone doing Irish research."

--Federation of Genealogical Societies Forum
Kieran Furey at the March TIARA Meeting

TIARA was fortunate to have the Irish Poet Kieran Furey at the March joint meeting with NEHGS. Kieran read from his works Tales of Roscommon, 2011, and The History House, 2008. He gave permission to allow a few of his poems to be reproduced here, since they capture some of the essence of genealogy research and Irish history.

From Tales of Roscommon:  

**GENEALOGY**

Patrick Kenny of Ballyroebuck, Wexford, moved to Roscommon, married Ellen Kearns. They had eleven children who lived to ages ranging from a month to seventy-four years.

My mother wrote them down. For her sake, I remember them.

John, Eugene, Ellen, William lived and died in Connecticut.

Anna May, Dennis and Rose in Dublin.

The other four in Roscommon: The first Dennis reached only half a year; Thomas Francis lasted five weeks and lived and died in 1901; Alfred went at six; Young Patrick lived to father my mother and nearly half a dozen others.

That’s genealogy for you. Like poetry, it’s the stuff of life: The seeds planted; The hazards confronted; The outcome scattered By and to the four winds. The upshot written down.

**A CENTURY ON**

Of the eleven children of Patrick Kenny and Ellen Kearns, seven would marry and, in the fullness of time, the following seventy surnames would be linked with the family:


There you have them, then. Names factored in, a century on. 23 of the 26 letters represented. No X or Y, predictably But why no E?

Alphabet soup, on the face of things, Though we’re deep in Darwin territory here, Binding us together as roots bind soil, My wife bringing up the alphabetic rear, sent by fate from Ecuador, That mainland of Galapagos.

From The History House:  

**PERENNIALS**

Hunger sliced into them, left them all eyes. They were scattered on the earth. Time passed. History happened to them like weather. They sprouted everywhere: on blue stone ridges, in the pits of cities, in red and brown and yellow clay and in black earth. Lush stalks grew and blossomed and spread like the canopies of trees and made leaves the size of dollar bills. We stand like leprechauns in the shade of what they sowed. Let us look up in awe. Let us try to have eyes for them all.

Copies of Kieran’s books are available from him at:

21 Palace Crescent
Longford, Ireland

Or contact him: kieranfurey@hotmail.com
An Capall Ban Award
Greg Atkinson #1766

TIARA’s An Capall Ban award was presented to Kathleen “Kathy” Roscoe; former TIARA President 2009-2011 and former Vice President and Recording Secretary on March 24, 2012 at the joint meeting of TIARA and the New England Historic Genealogical Society at the Society’s headquarters in Boston, MA. The event was by all accounts considered a great success and it was a perfect setting for the surprise presentation. The award was presented between sessions in the main lobby of the Society packed with attendees and with Kathy to the side, camera in hand, waiting for the next perfect shot! Kathy was not to get the next perfect shot, as it was she who was the object of the next perfect shot as the recipient of the award! It was my great pleasure to present this award to Kathy. I have always enjoyed working with Kathy in a variety of capacities and settings and have always admired her dedication and thoughtful work on TIARA’s behalf.

Kathy has done more than serve as President and Board Member. She took on Treasurer’s duties when TIARA was between Treasurers and got us back on track with important reports to the state. She was instrumental in the planning of the TIARA 25th anniversary program at Bentley and instrumental in the organization and participation of TIARA at the 2006 FGS Convention held at the Hynes Civic Center. Kathy has represented TIARA at ICC festival planning meetings, managed, and orchestrated TIARA’s presence there. Kathy has truly dedicated herself to this organization and it was with great pride and pleasure the President and Board voted to recognize all her great work on TIARA’s behalf.

Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife:

The Irish in New England is a three-day conference of seventeen lectures on the Irish presence in New England from the early eighteenth century to about the middle of the twentieth. Beginning with issues of immigration and the Irish diaspora, the program addresses the work typically associated with foreign-born Irish families: railroad building, domestic service, and grounds keeping. Other sessions deal with Irish-born merchants and mariners; Revolutionary-period Irish loyalty and law enforcement; Irish suffrage; and folklore and memory. The conference concludes with a session on the growth of Irish neighborhoods and charitable societies, and the work of Irish craftsmen, artists, and entertainers.

The Seminar is designed for educators, historians, genealogists, collectors, authors, librarians, and museum curators; students and the general public are cordially invited to attend. A selected and edited transcript of this conference will appear as the 2012 Annual Proceedings of the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, to be issued about two years after the conference. Past Seminar Proceedings and publications by program speakers will be available at the conference.

The thirty-seventh annual meeting in the Dublin Seminar series, The Irish in New England will take place on the weekend of June 22 through 24, 2012, at Historic Deerfield, Deerfield, Massachusetts. The lecture program will begin at 7:00 P.M. on Friday evening and will continue until approximately 11:30 A.M. on Sunday. The weekend includes an optional program on Irish genealogy on Friday afternoon, 2:00P.M. until 4:30P.M., and a concert of Irish songs on Saturday evening. Lunch and dinner will be provided on Saturday, June 23; coffee and doughnuts will be served each morning. Dormitory accommodations will be available at the campus of Eaglebrook School beginning Friday afternoon.

LECTURE PROGRAM

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 22
OPTIONAL SESSION ON IRISH GENEALOGY
Marie Daley and Judith Lucey, New England Historic Genealogical Society:
A Virtual Way to Tipperary: Researching Irish Ancestors Online
FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 22

IMMIGRATION ROUTES
Hannah M. Lane, Mount Allison University: 
*The Irish in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, and Calais and Baring, Maine, 1840 to 1871*
Donald R. Friary, Colonial Society of Massachusetts:
*New Ireland to New England: The McCormick Family’s Peregrinations from Ulster to New Brunswick to the Boston States, 1823 to 1935*

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 23

WORK
Katheryn Viens, Boston University and Massachusetts Historical Society:
*Irish Labor Unrest on the Early Massachusetts Railroads*
Margaret Lynch-Brennan, Independent Scholar:
*The Irish Bridget: Irish Immigrant Women in Domestic Service, 1840 to 1930*
John F. Quinn, Salve Regina University:
*Irish Influence in Gilded Age Newport*

IRISH AS MERCHANTS AND MARINERS
Richard M. Candee, Boston University, and Louise P. Richardson, Strawberry Banke Museum:
*Starting Over at Fifty: A Northern Ireland Merchant’s Move to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1796*
Frederic C. Detwiler, New England Landmarks:
*Magee Family Mariners, circa 1750 to 1820*

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 23

LOYALTY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND SUFFRAGE
Peter Gilmore, Carlow University:
*“An Enemy to this country”: Rev. John Houston and Revolutionary Culture War among New Hampshire’s Irish Presbyterians*
J. L. Bell, Boston1775.net:
*Wemms et al.: The Enlisted Men at the Boston Massacre*
Robert William Hayman, Providence College:
*Foreign-born Irish Suffrage in Rhode Island, 1840 to 1890*

FOLKLORE AND IRISH MEMORY
Jonathan Keljik, George Washington University:
*Irish Immigrant Families in New England and Ethnic Inheritance*
Scott Molloy, University of RhodeIsland:
*Keeping Alive the Memory of John Gorden*

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 23

CONCERT
Julia Lane and Fred Gosbee, Castlebay Music:
*Irish Music of Maine*

SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 24

IRISH NEIGHBORHOODS, IRISH GENEROSITY
Catherine B. Shannon, Charitable Irish Society:
*“With Good Will Doing Service”: Highlights in the History of the Charitable Irish Society of Boston*
Patricia J. Fanning, Bridgewater State University:
*The Greening of Norwood: Irish Migration and Life in a Massachusetts Town*

CRAFTSMEN, ARTISTS, AND ENTERTAINERS
Gerald W. R. Ward, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston:
*Faces and Makers: The Irish Presence in Eighteenth-Century Boston Furniture and Silver*
Jack Larkin, American Antiquarian Society:
*D. C. Johnston’s Irish and Catholic Background*
Peter Benes, Dublin Seminar:
*John Brenon: An Eighteenth-Century Irish Showman*

Register for this conference online or download a registration form at [http://www.historic-deerfield.org/Dublin-seminar](http://www.historic-deerfield.org/Dublin-seminar). Reservations are limited and will be accepted in the order received and must arrive on or before June 10, 2012. Registrants may request complimentary lecture abstracts through e-mail. Advance registrations are refundable, less $10 handling, if returned before June 10, 2012. For information and phone reservations, contact Julie Orvis Marcinkiewicz at 413-775-7179 or events@historic-deerfield.org.

Past seminar topics and a current list of publications for sale may be consulted at the conference website, [www.dublinseminar.org](http://www.dublinseminar.org).

Upcoming Conferences

MGC Annual Meeting and Seminar: Ethnicity and Genealogy
Hassenfeld Conference Center, Brandeis University
July 21, 2012
(Early Registration ends June 30, 2012)
[www.massgen council.com](http://www.massgen council.com)

Back to Our Past Conference
12-14 October 2012
Industries Hall
RDS Dublin, Ireland
[www.backtoourpast.com](http://www.backtoourpast.com)

FGS 2012:
Indians, Squatters, Settlers and Soldiers in the Old Southwest
Birmingham, Alabama
29 August-1 September 2012
[www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org)
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