Irish Immigrant Societies

Immigrants from Ireland received a less than enthusiastic welcome when they arrived on the shores of the US. In self-defense, as they were grouped into defined living areas, they formed social groups and established local communities.

In time organizations formed, not only for social purposes, but to help family and neighbors find jobs and provide emotional and financial support. As genealogists, we should be sure to tap into the archives of these organizations for personal family research.
Spring is finally here! Daffodils are up, crocuses are open, tree buds are swelling with new growth and forsythia is blooming! TIARA is also enjoying a Spring of new growth and openings.

The long winter search for a new office space has ended. We have moved into Suite 3 at 121 Boston Post Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. It’s a bright, first floor space with plenty of parking. We are still organizing the library and unpacking a few last boxes but have already hosted several Forester Project volunteer days and a meeting of the Writing Group. We used folding tables to get started but thanks to TIARA member, John Spillane, we now have a handsome conference table. Thanks also to Gary Sutherland who has provided fridge, microwave and coffee maker. A big thank you to the many who poured over office rental ads, made calls, wrote emails and came with us on our office space inspections. Huge thanks also to all who helped with the move: the sorters, packers and the “lift, carry, place, unplace and replace” folks. Among the many contributing to the office “seek and move” project were: Marie & Don Ahearn, Liz Barnett, Barbara Brooker, Mary Coyne, Marie Daly, Pat Deal, Sheila FitzPatrick, Carolyn & Charlie Jack, Julie Rizzello, Michael Shaughnessy, Gary Sutherland, Virginia & Dick Wright. We are working on plans for open hours at the new office. Watch our website for updates.

We also look forward to the “opening” of the new TIARA website this Spring. This has been a long, labor-intensive project with many hours contributed by Dick and Virginia Wright. We hope that you will be able to see stage one (attractive design, easy navigation, up to date events section) of the website by the time this newsletter goes to press. There will be a Member Login section. Some “Member Only” features (access to some speaker videos and newsletters) will be added after stage one is up and functioning.

Another TIARA / IGSI sponsored website has been “open” and has been accepting registrations for “Pathways to Our Past,” the 2018 Celtic Connections Conference being held Aug. 9 – 11 at the Boston Marriott in Auburndale, MA. A steady stream of registrants has signed up for the two days of lectures by well-known national and international speakers. Many registrants have also opted to include other activities including the preconference tour of Lowell, banquet and pub quiz. As every conference attendee knows, these non-lecture activities provide time for relaxing, socializing, trading a few genealogy tips and even meeting a new cousin – it’s happened! So go to www.celtic-connections.org and register now.
The charter of the Roxbury Bachelor Club states that it was created for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a “reading room” and a place for “social gatherings,” ostensibly for bachelors. However, most members were, in fact, married with children. “Charter members,” including William Burns and James Mulvee, together with John F. Dever, drew up the rules of the club in the bar of Boston’s Parker House in 1883.

In 1920 Mulvee recalled that the club had been incorporated in “about 1892,” while the archives of the Massachusetts Secretary of State specify August 15, 1887, as the date of organization. (Close enough, Brother Mulvee.) The Roxbury Bachelor Club maintained a clubhouse — which was torn down years ago — at 282 Dudley Street and, for some reason, also owned a nine-room house elsewhere where political celebrities were entertained.

John Francis “Honey Fitz” Fitzgerald, Mayor James Michael Curley and Governor William Gaston are said to have stopped by.

The Bachelor Club members who were married claimed that they were “benecks.” Research reveals that, in this context, a “beneck” or “benedick” is a newly married man, especially one who was previously a confirmed bachelor. It would seem that some club members stretched the concept of “newly married” beyond reason. James Mulvee was vague on why the founders had identified the club as being exclusively for unmarried men.

“I guess we didn’t like women at that time, but as we grew older and the women got more beautiful and charming most of us fell and got married… [However] we never entertained women at any of the gatherings. I guess we all acted like women-hating bachelors when we were at our clubhouse.”

Almost all the Bachelors were born in Boston in the 1850s-1860s. Most were involved with the Mount Pleasant chapter of the Knights of Columbus. All were active in Democratic politics. Many worked for, or held public office within, the City of Boston.

Among the founding members were James Mulvee and John Mulvee, brothers who were first cousins with William Burns and his brother Peter Burns. The others were long-time friends from the Dudley Square area of Roxbury.
William Burns worked for the Boston Streets Department. William Burns rose to become a deputy sheriff assigned to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. On the other hand, John Nawn and William Burns’s brother Peter were indicted, but never convicted, for fraud allegedly committed against the city. Peter was later restored to favor — he was given a city job in the Paving Department.

Not all were on the government payroll. John Golding and John Dever worked for the New England Piano Company. John Mulvee and William Conroy were salesmen. Ex-defendant Peter Burns and John Murphy, as partners, operated a bowling alley at the Hibernian Hall on Dudley Street.

During the more than 50 years it was active, the Roxbury Bachelor Club held a banquet every May, very often in the Old Vine Street Church. And on every Labor Day, club members would travel by rail in a special car to Providence and then by trolley to the Warwick Club on Narragansett Bay, where they would participate in an “outing.” Club members took special care to keep from their wives what went on at those outings. There is reason to believe, however, that the Bachelor Club outings featured the same sorts of athletic contests as are run on “field day” at elementary schools across America.

The Roxbury Bachelor Club charter was dissolved on March 28, 1941 by the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, having outlived most of its members.

Should you chance to walk through a certain street
In a suburb of the Hub,
You may read on a modest doorplate
The name of a famous club.

Though the name on the plate is “Bachelor, “
Many married men are there.
And one of the best and biggest
Is sitting in the president’s chair.

Every evening through the year
The members gather there,
To while away a social hour
From a day of toil and care.

Save the Date!
August 10-11, 2018
Celtic Connection Conference

Special pricing before June 4, 2018!

Boston Marriott Newton, Auburndale, MA
Can it really be fifteen years since I joined the Foresters Project? It has indeed. Back in 2002, I was curious when former TIARA presidents Judy Barrett and Janis Duffy spoke about the discovery of a cache of records in the basement of the Catholic Association of Foresters building on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston. Early the next year, Judy borrowed some Mortuary Records of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters (original name of the organization founded in 1879). I was hooked as soon as the first envelope was opened!

I’ve written many articles for the TIARA Newsletter outlining TIARA’s involvement with the Foresters Project. For those who are new to this endeavor, a summary appears on the website of the collection’s new home - the University Archives & Special Collections, Healey Library, UMass Boston [http://blogs.umb.edu/archives/collections/foresters/](http://blogs.umb.edu/archives/collections/foresters/). A sample Forester record appears on the TIARA website [http://tiara.ie/projects/foresters-project/](http://tiara.ie/projects/foresters-project/)

So what is it about this collection that has kept me mesmerized for such a long period? My TIARA Newsletter articles and PowerPoint presentations made in various venues have attempted to share the diversity and richness of the stories revealed in the Mortuary Records. As I scrolled through these past presentations on my computer, I contemplated a way to categorize some of the findings in the over 30,000 records Forester Project volunteers have indexed. The following headings seemed appropriate: Home & Family; Court & Community; Work & the World.

**Home and Family**
TIARA operated a research request program when the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters Mortuary records were in our custody from 2004 – 2011. We received many “thank you” notes from members who were thrilled to discover new facts about their ancestor families. Here’s a note from TIARA member, Liz Barnett, who joined the Forester Project volunteer corps in order to do her part in making these records available to the public.

“After searching diligently for months for traces of the elusive grandfather of my stepmother, I finally spotted him in the Foresters’ index on the TIARA website. John O’Shea and his brother, Mortimer, were both Foresters, and their files contained information that exists nowhere else: at last, their town of birth in Ireland!, names of relatives in both the U.S. and back home, as well as their physical descriptions and health information. John’s file revealed a long-forgotten “adopted son” in enough detail that within an hour or so I used the clues to easily trace his birth in Boston, parents, wife, career (stenographer and court clerk), and eventually his 1980 death in Denver, Colorado. In all the Massachusetts research I’ve done for all kinds of families, nothing except the later censuses compares to the Foresters files. Thanks to all the TIARA people for rescuing these precious records from the shredder.”

**Newly Published Books on Irish History by Academic Press/Merrion Press**

*War and Revolution in the West of Ireland: Galway, 1913-1922* by Conor McNamara, Irish Academic Press, Newbridge, Co Kildare, Ireland, 2018.

*The Men Will Talk to Me: Ernie O’Malley’s Interviews with the Northern Divisions*, Aiken, Mac Bhloiscaidh, Ó Duibhir, Ó Tuama eds, Merrion Press, Newbridge, Co Kildare, Ireland, 2018

*The Preacher and the Prelate: The Achill Mission Colony and the Battle for Souls in Famine Ireland.* By Patricia Byrne, Merrion Press, Newbridge, Co Kildare, Ireland, 2018
Liz’s finding of her ancestor’s place of birth and unknown / forgotten family members was a common theme running through “thank you” notes and emails. One of my own Forester ancestors, Daniel J. Desmond, died in 1881, leaving a wife and five children ranging in age from four to nineteen. The Foresters supported Daniel’s family in several ways. Daniel’s obituary stated that one hundred men marched in his funeral procession. A large number of these men were members of the Iona Court (one of the Malden, Massachusetts chapters) of Foresters. Probate papers for Daniel listed the thousand-dollar death benefit paid by the Foresters. This was the largest asset in Daniel’s estate. An inventory of Daniel’s estate also listed large amounts of outstanding debt. The Foresters death benefit eased some of this debt and helped the family stay in their home until 1885 when it had to be sold to settle the still outstanding debts.

Court and Community

In addition to ritual exercises such as attending funerals, Forester Courts conducted business meetings and offered social, charitable and educational activities. Picnics, dances, card parties and sporting events offered opportunities for relaxed time away from home and the workplace. Benevolent activities, especially during World War One, raised thousands of dollars. Many of the men and women who participated in these Court activities developed leadership skills.

(Founder from Page 22)

We urge local TIARA members to “spread the word” by dropping conference flyers and brochures at their local libraries and other gathering spots. Contact president@tiara.ie to make arrangements to receive conference materials.

So enjoy these TIARA “openings” and the opening of Spring blossoms!

Susan Steele
Co-President
president2@tiara.ie
A 1904 publication of the Foresters printed biographies of office holders in Courts throughout Massachusetts. St. Rose, a women’s court in Brockton, was represented by five members. I had researched St. Rose Court for a presentation and knew that four of the women had worked as stitchers in the shoe industry of Brockton. These women who joined St. Rose Court rose from members to attain the rank of marshal, financial secretary and the top rank of Chief High Ranger. Their leadership skills would be of benefit in their own communities and beyond. As noted in their biographies they were often sent to help establish new Courts in other areas.

**Work and the World**

The shoe workers in Brockton were just one example of the many Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters records that were notable because of occupation information. When TIARA was the custodian of the Forester records, volunteers placed the Mortuary Records in archival folders to get them ready for digitization. We would note Foresters who worked in the same industry in a specific location. This was the impetus for further research and the development of PowerPoint presentations.

I began with a study of Irish Foresters in the leather industry of Peabody and in the mills of Holyoke. I continued with an examination of German Foresters at the Plymouth Cordage Company. Virginia Wright and Pat Deal joined me as we researched more mill-workers in Lawrence, glass-workers in Sandwich, domestics, nurses and workers in armories. These studies began with Mortuary Records and were then combined with other resources. The end-product was a deeper understanding of the people, their place of origin and the workplace culture.

The study of nurses and armory workers was set during World War One. Forester records provided numerous examples of deaths during the war and during the Influenza Epidemic. The Forester tally of influenza deaths in 1918 was 332. Virginia Wright’s research on Forester member, Mary C. Burke, gave both a work and world perspective. When Mary joined the Assumption Court, her family was living in Chelsea and her occupation was listed as shoe worker. When Mary died of influenza in France in 1918, she was a member of the Army Nurse Corps. The Mary C. Burke Complex, a group of educational facilities in Chelsea, was later named after this unique woman veteran.

See Foresters on Page 32

The first details the author’s gathering in of his people as they resided in family stories and in the traces they left in official documents. *Odyssey* also gives the larger historical context of his people’s lives in an overview of Irish and American history. After walking where his people once walked, contemplating on their lives and recognizing their dignity as human beings Melanson placed them on the family’s tree.

If *Odyssey* is a landscape view of search and journey, *Journal Genealogies* keeps its lens fixed on six families in eight genealogies over three hundred years from 1665-1961. Sixty-five pages of names listed in two columns on each page testify to the extent of Melanson’s discovery. Now scattered throughout the United States and Ireland, they originated in Counties Sligo, Tipperary and Limerick. All are located within a family following the New England Historical and Genealogical Register’s style. A guide makes access easy.

The careful methodology values each person living among others in contrast to how Old John Feeney’s family and neighbors were treated in 1837. Lord Palmerston in London resisted his Dublin agent’s plan “to Thin the Population” on his Sligo estate. The British Minister considered expelling people unjustifiable but had no quibble about offering them emigration from their confiscated land. (p. 171-172).

*Journal Genealogies* brings Melanson’s first generations to the fore as actual men and women who thought their own thoughts and felt their own passions as they lived in circumstances they had not created. *Journal Genealogies* pushes the oppressor’s determination to make Ireland poor and to keep it poor into the background and focuses on how these individuals were affected by that policy.

As poor as the first generations were they left considerable data behind in County histories, census records, Tithe Applotment books, parish registers, passenger lists and Griffith’s Valuation. Melanson weaves these facts into compelling narratives and provides maps from the Ordnance Survey that pinpoint a family’s precise location in the family’s place of origin.

Another visual, a family tree diagram, completes the introductory phase in preparation for the Register-styled presentation of descendants over five and six generations. Terms such as no conclusive evidence, probably, likely, and may have been speak to careful qualifications in bridging gaps in the evidence but speculating from wide knowledge of the times and events. Inherent in the genealogical process is its incompleteness accompanied with the hope that further inquiry might yield *eureka!* moments when a new fact will solve an old mystery.

Photos from the family archives of more recent generations grace the front and back covers of this elegantly produced book. The first generations were individuals imagined from documentary data. Their progeny as seen in these photos are more accessible having taken on flesh and blood. They also contributed to the data collection. Patrick Hart, a third generation Hart is an example of this self-report. In 1901 he signed up for insurance with the Catholic Order of Foresters, a source that TIARA members know well. He reported he was temperate, added his height and weight and then specified that his waist measured 33 inches (p.42).
Some will use this book as an exemplar for reporting their own genealogical research. Others will use the book as an entrée to Ireland’s social history and its influence on American immigrant history. And still others will ponder on a common humanity with its contrasts and parallels. There are as many stories as there are people on these family trees.

On the thirteenth of February 1888 Kate Hickey, then in her twenty-ninth year, married John Mahoney then forty-three years old. Their daughter Josep hine “Josie” Mahoney was born December 29, 1888. Three weeks later John was dead, felled by pneumonia of seven days duration. (p. 389-390)

On May 3, 1889, the Probate Registry granted the young widow permission to administer John’s estate (p. 389). His father, Michael, following the custom of male inheritance, asked Kate to leave but Kate refused to go. Not to be foiled, Michael wrote a new will in 1890 naming his next surviving son, Denis, as heir. Then in 1891 the eighty-four year old Michael died. A year later his designated heir returned from the United States and had possession of the farm by 1893 (p. 379). As of 2018 when Journal Genealogies was published, “Kate’s destiny remains unknown” (p. 390).

Fear of the Widow’s Curse that once protected vulnerable widows seemed not to protect the thirty-four year old Kate in 1893. Where did she go? Who took her and her five year old in? Would her Hickey family take her back now that she was a Mahoney?

Kate’s story is only one story of hundreds that lie within the data collected in the family trees and descendants list. These stories invite the empathy that arises from a shared humanity. Embedded in their own culture, however, differences and distances cannot be bridged.

Surprises are a part of genealogy. One surprise is astonishing. Some of Melanson’s people lived in Siberia. Siberia in Ireland! How can that be? The answer was soon coming. Siberia is the Anglicized version of Slieveroe, probably sliabh rua in Irish meaning rusty-red mountain (p. 188). The place name may have been Anglicized but the mountain, like Melanson’s families, remained. Some of them will be found in Journey Genealogies.
My great grandfather John McCarthy lived in a time of turmoil and upheaval in Ireland. He was born in the 1830s during the Tithe Wars. Catholics resented the compulsory tax that supported the protestant Church of Ireland and many refused to pay. The police started seizing livestock and other goods for non-payment causing protests and violence. This was also the time of Daniel O'Connell’s mass meetings for repeal of the Act of Union, the largely unsuccessful attempt to meld Britain and Ireland into one unified government.

John’s mother was Hanna or Mary Mahony, his father was John or James McCarthy. The US Marriage and Death records give different first names for his parents. He grew up in County Cork but none of the US records indicate specifically where. He undoubtedly went to school since he could read and write English very well as shown in his application for US Citizenship. Perhaps he went to the National School which had been established in 1831, where all teaching was in English and speaking in “Irish” was forbidden. He lived through the great famine when he was in his early teens.

In the 1850s Cork was a hotbed of Fenianism, the revolutionaries dedicated to the overthrow of English rule in Ireland by any means including bombing and other violence. In 1857 John made his way to Liverpool, England and booked passage on a passenger sailing ship to Boston, the “Mary O’Brien” built in Thomaston, Maine. There were many young people on the ship and several McCarthys but it’s not known if any were related to John. The ship landed in Boston in June 1857.

At that point I lost him in the US records until 1865 when he married Joanna Collins of townland Lisheenroe, Parish Castlehaven, Skibbereen District, West Cork, Ireland. They married at St. Rose Church, Chelsea, MA. John is listed as a Teamster. He must have been doing well because he bought a two-family house at 127 Essex St, Chelsea. His next door neighbor was Timothy Collins and family, Joanna’s brother. I don’t know if John and Joanna or their families knew each other in Ireland.

In 1868 John applied for and was granted US citizenship. The application indicates that he had not been in the Civil war.

He was very active at St Rose Church and was a founding member of the “Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society” (TA&B). His oldest son John Florence became Secretary of this Society and eventually President.

John and Joanna had 9 children, three sons and six daughters.

Mary, 1866
Catherine, 1867
John Florence, 1869
Andrew Patrick, 1871 (died at 4 yrs of Croup)
Johanna, 1873
Ellen Elizabeth, 1876
Margaret Agnes, 1877
Alice Martha, 1880
Charles Henry, 1882 (my grandfather)
“Sowney” may refer to the Saivnose River which is boundary to several Sowney inhabited townlands in West Cork. Not a lot is yet known about this branch of the McCarthy family. There are a few references to the Sowneys in the literature.

For example, the famous Fenian Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa in his memoirs tells of enlisting men for the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood (IRB) movement, men who were looked upon as leaders of their clan. At that time he pledged McCarthy-Sowney to work for the cause and went on to say “The McCarthy-Sowney family are a noble Irish family; thoroughly hostile to English rule in Ireland, however they are, or wherever they are.

If you are on the run from England in Ireland, no matter what you are hunted for, you have shelter, and protection, and guardianship in the house of a McCarthy-Sowney.” This was in 1858.

Another reference is found in the Cork Hibernian newspaper in 1798: “EXECUTED as a consequence of supporting the United Irishmen activities, attempting to acquire firearms for use in an uprising, Timothy McCarthy, otherwise Sowney, was sent off under an escort of the Royal Cork Volunteers to be executed this day at Dunmanway, for attacking the house of John Gillman Esq. Any person now detected

breaking into a house can expect no mercy from this example.”

The McCarthy-Sowney group at Family Tree DNA have found in the parish records a McCarthy-Sowney family in the townland of Tullyneasky, parish of Rosscarbery, West Cork (about 15 miles east of Skibbereen), that looks like a good fit for my John McCarthy. It is as follows:

John McCarthy-Sowney, b. 1800, marries Mary Mahony, b. 1810 Tullyneasky, Kilkerranmore, at Rosscarbery & Lissevaird Roman Catholic Parish on 15 Feb 1831. Witnesses Charles McCarthy and John Mahony.

They have 6 children:
Timothy, 1831
John, 1833 (this could be my great grandfather who emigrated to US)
Margaret, 1835
Catherine, 1838
Mary, 1841
James, 1844

I have no proof at this time that this is my family. I think it’s possible because it is a Sowney family, one witness is Charles (a name my great grandfather gave to one of his sons), the girls names in the family are also names that John gave to his daughters, the mother is Mary Mahony, the 1830s time frame is right. As I continue to research the McCarthy family I hope to find more proof of a connection.

See McCarthy Page 32
In 2013, three TIARA members, Greg Atkinson, Janis Duffy and Mary Choppa, discussed the possibility of providing a unique genealogical opportunity to TIARA members. While Irish genealogy was sporadically offered in the programs of many regional and national meetings, there was no IRISH-focused genealogical conference.

The three New England musketeers pondered offering a local Irish-centered conference for TIARA members with renowned international and national speakers. At the NERGC Conference in Manchester, NH in 2013, the three TIARA members met with Ann Eccles and Kay Swanson, members of the Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI) who were attending from Minneapolis, Minn. They discussed the idea of a partnership to accomplish this goal and were met with great enthusiasm and a spirit of cooperation that has lasted into the upcoming third conference.

The first Celtic Connections Conference (CCC) in 2014 was held at Bentley University, Waltham, Mass. to overwhelming enthusiasm. The organizers learned a great deal from the first sessions and the event in Minneapolis in 2016 was much improved by the local hosts, IGSI. Now the 2018 Celtic Connections Conference is back here in Massachusetts at the Boston Newton Marriott in Auburndale, Mass., in August.

The reputation of this gathering of Irish genealogists has apparently reached the ears of the world. Of the 14 international/national/regional speakers invited, all 14 accepted. Lecture offerings were expanded from 3 to 4 tracks to accommodate the slate of superb speakers. Taking a cue from IGSI, local organizers have added an all-day bus tour on Thursday before the conference, along with a pub quiz to finish up the festivities on Saturday for a bit of fun and relaxation.

Won't you join us for this all-volunteer conference designed just for you? www.celtic-connections.org

(Forresters from Page 27)

Your Forester ancestor’s story may not be as dramatic as Mary Burke’s but you may find other surprises. The 30,000 entries on the UMass Boston website cover deaths from 1880 – 1946. The deaths from 1936 – 1946 are not complete. Forester volunteers are continuing to add to this section of records by surname in alphabetical order.

As of this writing we have completed surnames through those beginning with the letter N. These entries are integrated with the rest of the index as they are completed. To search for your possible Forester ancestor go to http://blogs.umb.edu/archives/collections/foresters/

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<th>McCarthy from Page 31</th>
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<td>to this McCarthy-Sowney family. At least I now know West Cork is the most likely place of origin and that my great grandfather and my family are McCarthy-Sowneys.</td>
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Bibliography
Merged Family Trees Give New Insight for Researchers
Mary Downey Coyne #3777

Family trees can provide information on parenthood, mating patterns, human evolution, anthropology and economics. Researchers attempting to construct family trees from vital records and parish records are generally a major project to undertake. However, the availability of genealogical family trees provides a ready source of such information. In this paper from the journal Science, a research group used data from Geni.com which is a crowdsourced genealogical website and covers nearly every country in the Western world.

Larger family trees are merged and are co-managed by interested parties. After obtaining permissions, 86 million public profiles were downloaded. The millions of individual profiles were connected to other individuals in the dataset. The data were corrected for discrepancies, such as two parents for one child and other problematic relationships. In the end, the largest family tree included 1.3 million individuals who were connected either by shared ancestry or by marriage. The tree spanned 11 generations.

Using data that included exact birth dates, rather than year-only, the data reflected elevated death rates during the Civil War, World Wars I and II along with a decrease in childhood deaths in the 20th century.

One of the researcher’s questions was whether the data in Geni.com reflected known birth/death patterns. One test was a comparison of data from the totality of 80,000 Vermont civil death records from 1985 to 2010 with those in the Geni.com database. About 1,000 records were found in both databases and included education level, place of birth, and cause of death resulting in a 98% match.

A look at the tendency of children to move away from the location of the parents indicated that in fact women were more likely to migrate than males, but usually over a shorter distance, whereas, long range migration was more common for men. Fathers displayed a higher frequency of birth in a different country than their children in North American and European datasets.

The genetic relationship of couples was determined by documenting the distance between mates’ place of birth. An increase in distance would tend to increase the variability in genetic makeup. Before the Industrial Revolution (<1750), the majority of marriages occurred within 10 km of each partner whether in North America or Europe. After the second Industrial revolution (1870) the marital distance increased approximately 100 kilometers.

The next question was the relatedness of marriage partners. Between 1650 and 1850, the relationship was relatively stable with an average generational distance around 4th cousins. After 1850, as might be predicted, as the distance between the birth place of partners increased, the relatedness decreased.

In the period 1820-1875, significant changes in transportation occurred such as the introduction of the railroad which would have potentially increased distances and one would suppose, decreased marriage to closer relations. But contrary to expectations, for this short period of time, even though birth distances increased, couples were more closely related than would have been predicted. The sum of these latter data indicate a 50 year lag between the time that children began to move distances from home and the decrease in their propensity to marry closer relations. The authors claim that the changes in transportation do not seem to have been a factor. Even though individuals could and did move further apart, they still seemed to marry close relations. Perhaps during this time interval, the introduction of better transportation allowed entire families to move and that factor, along with chain migration may have led to multiple...

See Merged Tree Page 37
Kyle Betit grew up in Juneau, Alaska, where he started researching his family history at age nine. Kyle co-founded AncestryProGenealogists and manages Ancestry’s travel program. His areas of expertise include Ireland, Canada, Eastern Europe, immigration, and DNA. He has researched many episodes and appeared on the “Who Do You Think You Are?” television program.

Marie E. Daly is one of the founders of TIARA, a former president of TIARA, 30-year employee of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, where she worked as the CFO, Library Director and Senior Genealogist. She has been involved with Irish genealogy since 1976, and has travelled to Ireland on numerous occasions. She has written and lectured on Irish genealogical topics, among which is her latest publication, Genealogist’s Handbook for Irish Research.

Fiona Fitzsimons is a founder of Eneclann, a Trinity College campus company. She combines a rigorous academic training with 25 years as a practitioner in Irish family history. Research credits include “Who Do You Think You Are” (2005 to the present), PBS’s “Finding Your Roots” & “Faces of America”, and the “Genealogy Road Show” (U.S. edition). Fiona is a columnist for History Ireland and Irish Lives Remembered, and a regular contributor to national newspapers and radio (BBC4, RTE). She teaches Family History at Trinity College Dublin.

Maurice Gleeson is a psychiatrist and pharmaceutical physician as well as a genetic genealogist. He is administrator of several Surname DNA Projects, works with adoptees, and has appeared on TV as a DNA consultant. He authors several blogs, is a regular contributor to genealogical magazines, and his YouTube videos are very popular. He has organised the DNA Lectures for “Genetic Genealogy Ireland” in Dublin and "Who Do You Think You Are" in the UK since 2012, as well as given talks all over Ireland, the UK, and internationally. He was voted “Genetic Genealogist of the Year 2015” (SurnameDNA Journal) and “Superstar Genealogist, Ireland” in 2016 (Canada’s Anglo-Celtic Connections).

John Grenham was Project Manager with the Irish Genealogical Project from 1991 to 1995. He developed a genealogical software, "Grenham’s Irish Recordfinder" and was the first (and so far only) Genealogist-in-Residence at Dublin City Library. He was awarded a fellowship of The Irish Genealogical Research Society and of the Genealogical Society of Ireland. John is the author of Tracing Your Irish Ancestors (4th ed. Dublin, Baltimore MD, 2012), the standard reference guide for Irish genealogy and Clans and Families of Ireland (1995), among other works. He wrote the "Irish Roots" column in The Irish Times from 2009 to 2016 and ran the Irish Ancestors website until 2016. He now runs the successor website.

David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS, is employed as the Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch. He graduated from Brigham Young University in 1980 with a B.A. in Family and Local History. A professional genealogist since 1977, he is one of the rare few who have earned both credentials: Accredited GenealogistCM with ICAPGenSM in Ireland research and Certified Genealogist® with the Board for Certification of Genealogists®. Since 1997, he serves as the Irish course coordinator and instructor for the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research. He is a past-president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Utah Genealogical Association. David is a Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association and the Irish Genealogical Research Society, London and is currently an instructor for the British Institute where he also serves as a Trustee of the...
International Society for British Genealogy and Family History. He currently serves on the Board of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

**Audrey Collins** is a Family History Specialist at The National Archives, which she joined in 2002. She is a regular speaker at major genealogy events in the UK and overseas, and has researched extensively on the General Register Office and its records. She co-wrote 'Birth, Marriage and Death Records' with David Annal, and authored a number of blog posts, podcasts and webinars on The National Archives site [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk).

**Dr. Bruce Durie** BSc(Hons) PhD OMLJ FSAScot FCollT FIGRS FHJEA QG is considered one of Scotland's top genealogists, with an international reputation in researching, lecturing, writing and broadcasting. Recently elected an Academician of the prestigious Académie Internationale de Généalogie he is Shennachie (Genealogist and Historian) to the Chief of Durie. His book *Scottish genealogy* is an international best-seller.

**Nora Galvin's** nine immigrant ancestors were from eight different counties in Ireland. She is a professional genealogist specializing in Irish and Connecticut research and DNA analysis. She also lectures on these and other genealogy subjects. She’s thrilled to be presenting at the third CCC.

**Pamela Guye Holland** lives in Swampscott, Massachusetts, and has been conducting genealogical research since 2001. Her specialties are Irish research and genetic genealogy. She serves on the boards of TIARA and NEAPG, is a professional genealogist, and works for research services at NEHGS. She can be found online at her [www.genealogybypamholland.com](http://www.genealogybypamholland.com).

**TIARA members get a registration discount and there is an early bird rate if you register before June 4th. See the website for details: www.celtic-connections.org**

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**Theme for Next Issues**

**100 Years Later: End of Seminal Year 1918**

In the year 1918, several notable events occurred which had national and international impact. The most dramatic was the end of the first international conflict, World War One. The folks at home, however, were not only dealing with personal losses from this conflict but also attacks on the family from the flu pandemic which infected 500 million people worldwide. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in human history.

In Ireland, the Sinn Fein won a landslide victory in December. The same day, two members of the Royal Irish Constabulary were killed by members of the IRA. And thus, started the long and bloody conflict that eventually led to Irish independence in 1921.

Do you have stories of family members who participated in World War I or were affected by the flu pandemic? These are the topics for our next issues in September and December.

The Irish War for Independence began in 1919 after the events in December mentioned above. Please collect any family stories that may relate to the Irish struggle for independence and submit them at any time to the newsletter.

We are always interested in stories and research articles as well as tidbits of information to help others in their Irish genealogical research. Submit articles to newsletter@tiara.ie. Please do not use pdf format.
We all have stories to tell. Last May at the transitional meeting for the TIARA newsletter, this was a hot topic for discussion - how to find and draw those stories from our membership. As a result, the TIARA Writers’ Group was formed. Ten TIARA members began to meet during the summer to talk about the writing process and to establish guidelines for providing feedback and encouragement to each other as we began to tell our tales.

The initial goal of the group was to make our members comfortable putting their stories down on paper. Many are good storytellers in the oral tradition but had not shared the same accounts in written form. As the Writer’s Group developed, we hoped that in the future these stories would fill our secondary goals of staying motivated to complete family histories and sharing our work with the membership through the TIARA newsletter.

From the beginning we wanted our meetings to be based on a Writer’s Group format and not a writing workshop. A writing workshop usually meets for only one or two sessions. The workshops are very directive as designated individuals present information that is helpful to writers: instructive lessons, handouts and sample writing. Workshops can have twenty or more participants. A writers group has limited membership and is collaborative as all members function as both presenters and learners. The TIARA Writer’s Group developed guidelines which suit the needs of the members of the group. Our members are committed to the ‘give and take’ nature of the group and we have a shared vision which is to leave a genealogical research legacy to our family and friends in a form that is relevant, meaningful and interesting to them.

The TIARA Writer's Group meets for six sessions and then we assess the value of our approach. We are currently on our third round of six sessions. Facilitators organize suggestions, send reminders to the group and keep the meetings running on topic. All ideas, suggestions and changes originate with group members and are agreed upon by all members. It is important to keep the group size at a workable number. Ten members has worked well for our six session segments. Members sign up for a specific date and submit samples of their family story to the group and everyone critiques the writing. It is a thoughtful exchange of opinions and ideas. Along the way, the group has submitted several stories to the newsletter. At the end of each group of six sessions, we take a break, reassess and decide if we wish to continue for another six sessions.

Scheduled meeting times are agreed upon by the group. Presently, meetings are twice a month over a period of three months alternating between Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings. Attendance policy is flexible with conference calls substituting for those who have far to travel. At the first meeting of the series, each member chooses a date to present their work and follows up by sending a first draft a week prior to their presentation. Spelling, punctuation and grammar feedback is given through email before the actual presentation date. This allows the group to focus on the story at the presentation.

When asked to comment on the benefits of the Writing Group Judy Izenberg said “The writing group was most beneficial, as I have wanted to write about my ancestors for so long. I had started many times, had many different drafts on the same person, but never put them together. Under self-imposed deadlines, I was able to create a final draft on my grandmother which I feel, with help from my classmate "editors" makes me feel that it is a writing piece I can be proud of and gives my
relatives a great picture of who my grandmother really was. I feel so comfortable being in this class that I now have signed up for my 3rd session and am anxious to complete another writing piece.”

Another Writing Group member, Marie Ahearn, highlighted the benefits of participation for her, saying “Originally, the writing group helped me to focus on beginning to write the story. After two rounds of sessions, I am well into one family line. The thoughtful comments from the group members have improved the quality of my story and I have enjoyed learning the stories of all the other members of the group. The comments from others have helped me to see new approaches to tell my ancestors’ story.”

Another member, Maureen Kenney, further says that “The writing group offers us: • hope that our stories are worthy - everyone shares works in progress and other members read drafts carefully. We offer grammatical and clerical suggestions and organizational observations. • support to help us get from unconnected anecdotes to coherent articles that are informative and resonate with connections to our past. • skills and resources: participants have varying interests and areas of focus - from photography, blogging, research, and expertise in genealogy, history, literature, culture. We represent several centuries of knowledge and experience • community members who are extremely helpful, generous with their time and positive in a non-competitive, pleasant environment.

Do you have a story to tell? Interested in forming another TIARA writers group? The facilitators Marie Ahearn, Kathy Sullivan and Anne Patriquin, would be happy to share the guidelines and suggestions that our group uses with anyone interested in developing a new writing group.

If interested in forming a new group, email TIARA’s co-president Virginia Wright at president2@tiara.ie.

Merged Tree from Page 33

neighboring families settling in geographically closer locations. Hence, marriage choices still retained a similar pattern.

In summary, what we view as genealogical data gathering, has become an important tool for the study of cultural, sociological and migration patterns. While construction of family trees did not have this intended purpose, the interpretation of the data by researchers has enhanced our interpretation of our own genealogical trees.

Source:

Quantitative Analysis of Population-scale Family Trees with Millions of Relatives.


http://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2018/02/28/science.aam9309.full

Original journal may be available at your local library.
Cemeteries
At Life from the Roots, Barbara Poole walks us through how to find your ancestors in Boston’s Historic Cemeteries:

Education
Dick Eastman compares RSS newsreaders on his blog. I use Feedly to review blogs I want to keep up with.
https://blog.eogn.com/2018/03/29/is-it-time-to-try-a-newsreader/amp/

Fun
Kitty Cooper blogs about the new Compare-A-Face tool on her blog. Which ancestor do you look like?

Irish in America
Damien Sheils guest posts on the Southern Ramblings blog from Center for Historic Preservation in Tennessee about migrant Irish building railroads, many traveled together with extended family

Wexford’s James Powers and migrants and on the Irish Trail of Tears through New Orleans to Texas

Irish in Canada
If your Irish came through Canada, Facebook has a new group for sharing and comparing of Gedmatch numbers.
You can read about it on Gail Dever’s blog.
http://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=22747

Methodology
Try organizing your research focus with timelines from Linda Stufflebean at Empty Branches on the Family Tree

Resources
This year for Saint Patrick’s Day the Library of Congress compiled a list of their Irish American resources
https://www.loc.gov/rr/main/irishamerican/

Records and Databases
Records from over 230 Archdiocese of New York parishes will be coming on line this year at Find My Past
https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/big-news-new-york-roman-catholic-records-now-online

John Grenham reviews the Valuation Office and the pre- and post-Griffiths records available there:
https://www.johngrenham.com/blog/2018/03/05/the-valuation-office-post-griffiths-records/

Technology
Lorine McGinnis Schultze at the Olive Tree Genealogy Blog reviews the Pic Scanner Gold app
The following are research sources related to “Fraternal Organizations”.

**Articles:**


**Books:**

(Directory) [BC, BPL, MLN]

**Research Guides:**
Fraternal Organizations – The Newberry [https://www.newberry.org/fraternal-organizations](https://www.newberry.org/fraternal-organizations)

When searching for the records of a fraternal organization or charitable society, if it is still active, contact the main office to ask about records of interest for your research. Some documents may be kept at the head office, while others at the local level.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), an Irish Catholic fraternal organization, was founded in 1836 in New York City and is still active. Their records may be found at various repositories. A link providing website and contact information for these archives is available at [https://aoh.com/archive-sites/](https://aoh.com/archive-sites/)

The Society of the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick, established in Philadelphia in 1771, remains an active organization. Its mission includes promoting Irish culture, providing scholarships and grants, and contributing to various charities. Villanova University’s Falvey Memorial Library is in the process of digitizing many of the Society’s materials, including membership rolls, annual banquet programs, and minute books dating back to the early 1800s. Some of the materials are available online [https://digital.library.villanova.edu/Collection/vudl:483977](https://digital.library.villanova.edu/Collection/vudl:483977). Check this website for additional materials as they continue uploading documents.

The Charitable Irish Society of Nova Scotia was established in 1786. Its original mission was to distribute food and/or money to those in need. Today the society provides grants to various institutions and groups. The Nova Scotia Archives of Canada has both a finding aid of its Society records, as well as an interesting collection of documents and photographs online at [https://novascotia.ca/archives/cis/](https://novascotia.ca/archives/cis/).
Upcoming Conferences, Workshops, and Events

Celtic Connections Conference
Boston Marriott Newton, Auburndale, MA
August 10-11, 2018
http://www.celtic-connections.org/

New York State Family History Conference
Double Tree Hotel, Tarrytown, NY
September 13-15, 2018
https://nysfhc.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/

Back to Our Past
Shelbourne Hall, RDS, Dublin (Ballsbridge), Ireland
October 19-21, 2018
http://backtoourpast.ie