Researching Family History in Newspapers

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And More....
Co-President’s Message
Mary Choppa #1791

As my current term as co-president comes to a close, I’ve been reflecting on the time I’ve served on TIARA’s board. I started as recording secretary when Judy Barrett was president. I’ve also served as vice-president under Janis Duffy and then as president for two terms. These last two terms as co-president with Greg Atkinson have passed very quickly.

I’ve been fortunate to serve with an extremely dedicated group of individuals, both on the executive board and with the committee chairs. They seem to be truly motivated by their love of TIARA members and TIARA’s mission. I’ve cited this before, but it defines TIARA to me. At FGS 2006 in Boston, Carlyn Cox was putting her time in at TIARA’s booth in the exhibit hall. A neighboring exhibitor asked her how many people (referring to paid staff) worked at TIARA. That’s the dedication she saw in action.

I’ve witnessed the TIARA volunteers on numerous occasions and it always amazes me. I’ve seen them listening and assisting others at festivals, conferences and meetings. This past year’s Celtic Connections Conference was a prime example.

What I’ve also been privileged to see are the directors and committee chairs who put so many things into motion for TIARA’s members and give those volunteers an outlet for their dedication. If you’re interested in participating in planning TIARA’s direction, I (Continued on page 3)
would ask you to consider getting involved with TIARA’s board.

So what does this entail? Every month, we get together and discuss what’s happening for about two hours, usually a weeknight evening. You don’t have to attend all of the meetings in person. We use a telephone conference line so you can call from the comfort of your home if you prefer. By-laws only require an officer to attend so many meetings, but the more you can make, the more opinions are shared and the better the outcome for TIARA.

The Corresponding Secretary’s job is pretty much what the name entails. You handle TIARA’s correspondence. This could include meeting notices or responding to general inquiries. It’s a good way to get involved in the organization and get used to the tenor of the meetings. Contact Gary Sutherland if you have any questions: correspondsec@tiara.ie

The Recording Secretary’s job is a bit more involved. We currently have co-recording secretaries that split the duties quite nicely. It’s their responsibilities to record the minutes for the monthly membership meetings and also the board meetings. The recording secretaries also work with the treasurer to file our paperwork with the state and to maintain TIARA’s records held in the office. For questions, contact Susan Steele: recsec1@tiara.ie or Pam Holland: recsec2@tiara.ie

The Vice President’s job is to head the programming committee. This includes planning monthly membership meetings and the annual banquet. This involves communicating that information to the board and the website and newsletter chairs as well. It involves negotiating with speakers and getting contracts in place. This can also be done as a team approach (co-vice presidents). Kathy Sullivan can give you a great idea of how this is done: vp1@tiara.ie

Finally, there is the President’s job. Working with Greg Atkinson has been a great experience. My part of the job has been mostly administrative: organizing and notifying board meetings, setting up and tracking occasional board votes done via email, and serving as TIARA’s delegate to NERGC and MGC. Greg has taken on the detail work of many of TIARA’s activities. Greg: president2@tiara.ie Mary: president@tiara.ie

Not ready to commit to an officer’s position? How about working on TIARA’s committees? There are plenty of opportunities there as well. The list below shows the current committees, their chairs and contact info:

- Newsletter: Virginia Wright newsletter@tiara.ie
- Membership: Pat Deal Membership@tiara.ie
- Website: Pat Landry webmaster@tiara.ie
- Volunteers: Eva Murphy Volunteers@tiara.ie
- Library: Joan Callahan library@tiara.ie
- Foresters: Susan Steele ForestersProject@tiara.ie
- DVDs (Recording Meetings): Brian Reynolds
- Volunteer Projects: Susan Steele: recsec1@tiara.ie or Pam Holland: recsec2@tiara.ie
- Books & Trips: no current chairs – contact Mary Choppa trips@tiara.ie

TIARA is your organization. It’s only as good as we make it. I’ve been fortunate to work with the best.

Co-President’s Message
Greg Atkinson #1766

This June, my term as co-president will end. I will not be continuing on the board but will remain as active a member of TIARA as I can from my Greenland NH outpost. TIARA thrives due to the support it receives from its committed and active membership and volunteers. There are many ways to support TIARA from paying your membership dues each year as well as donating service and time to its operation and mission. TIARA is now seeking replacements for its departing Board members and is always in need of volunteers for a variety of purposes. TIARA has been, is and will remain true to its purpose and at the forefront of Irish genealogy due in no small part to its volunteers on boards, committees and at its meetings and associated events.
Beyond the Obituaries
Maureen R. Berube #1933

Anyone interested in genealogy has probably used newspaper obituaries to find additional family information. Obituaries can contain many bits of family history which don’t appear on a death certificate. Especially in the first half of the twentieth century, obituaries were quite informative; they often contain the names of relatives and friends. Pall bearers’ names regularly appeared as well as names of persons who sent floral arrangements.

But newspapers contain much more than obituaries. My sister and I first ventured into new territory at the Boston Public Library. We were looking for a ship’s arrival notice for the “Catalonia”. We were interested in the date of December 25, 1894. Our maternal grandfather, his mother and three siblings arrived in Boston on the “Catalonia” on that day. The brief announcement in The Boston Herald of December 26, 1894 listed the names of first and second class passengers (not our family) as well as the number of steerage passengers (our family). It also contained the following information:

“The Cunarder Catalonia, Capt. Atkin, from Liverpool, arrived at her dock in East Boston at 10:30 A.M. yesterday. She had strong westerly winds and high seas the first five days out, followed by fine weather to port. She anchored off the light at 11:40 P.M.”

This was all welcome news for us. Not only do we know exactly when and where the family arrived but also the weather and sea conditions they experienced. Best of all, we confirmed the family story that they had arrived in America on Christmas Day. It also led me to search online for information on the Cunard docks and the harbor area in East Boston and to make a visit to the area.

Our next experience using newspapers was in the public library in Fall River, Massachusetts. Our maternal grandparents were both mill workers prior to their marriage on June 28, 1915. My sister chased down the newspaper announcement of the wedding. I was skeptical that there would be anything much about the marriage of two mill workers on the society page but my sister made a believer out of me.

Our grandparents’ marriage announcement in The Evening Herald News was quite lengthy and newsy. It not only mentioned the wedding service, the wedding breakfast and the bride’s gown but also contained information regarding their honeymoon and their new residence.

“...The bride was dressed in crepe de meteor, trimmed with baby Irish crochet lace and wore a veil. The bridesmaid, Bridget E. Sunderland, a sister of the bride, was attired in a pink crepe de chene dress and wore a picture hat to match. Mr. and Mrs. McGreavy left this afternoon for Boston where they will stay for several weeks and will be at home, 62 Snell Street, after Sept. 1.”

We have a black-and-white photograph of our grandparents on their wedding day with the bridesmaid and best man. But we had never seen our grandmother’s wedding gown. We had always assumed that the material for the gown was muslin or batiste. Because we were not familiar with the material known as “crepe de meteor”, we sought out additional information online and this led us eventually to The American Textile History Museum in Lowell where we met with the curator. There we learned that the material was silk not cotton and the estimated cost of just the material for the gown would have been approximately $10 which was most likely more than two-week’s pay for a mill worker.

The other curious note was that our grandparents would spend their honeymoon in Boston and that it would last several weeks. We do not know anything about what they did or how they could afford such a lengthy stay in Boston. Since our grandfather was a musician, we can picture the couple attending concerts. Both of our grandparents were baseball fans, so we can also imagine them at Fenway Park which had opened three years earlier. We know that our grandparents “had connections” which often get you things like a society page wedding announcement, silk material for a wedding...
gown and a lengthy honeymoon in Boston even if you are a mill worker.

We have also used newspapers to find details of two family deaths that did not have obituaries. One was a great-uncle who died in France during World War I. There was a front-page article in The Fall River Herald which gave information about the death and the surviving siblings. It was front-page news because Uncle Sam (yes, his name really was Samuel) was the first soldier from Fall River to die in World War I. A bit of information that we also gleaned from this newspaper article was that Sam’s older brother (Patrick) was still alive at this time and was working in New Bedford. Patrick is still an elusive character who died sometime before the early 1920s. With this new bit of information we can narrow our search.

The second death was another great-uncle who was a first-mate on a ship of the Fall River Steamship Line. The death occurred on a trip from Fall River to New York City. His death should have been recorded in New York but we have never found the death record in New York or in Massachusetts. We did, however, find a brief but informative article on an inside page of The Fall River Herald. The article gave details, probably from the police investigation, of the discovery of Uncle Albert’s body in his locked cabin with a handgun on the floor beside the body. He died of a gunshot wound. Once again, the newspaper confirmed a family story. In this case, the family story was that Uncle Albert had killed himself and that it was most likely because the Fall River Line in 1936 was in financial trouble and that Albert would be losing a job and a way of life that meant a great deal to him.

Newspapers have a wealth of information that may help you with your research. Even if you don’t find exactly what you were looking for, newspaper research can help with clues that may lead you to other areas to research and it can actually be quite enjoyable.

One of my newspaper research experiences was very upsetting! I had been on a mad search for my great grandfather, Martin Delaney, who emigrated from Nova Scotia to America. I was able to find him on the 1880 Boston census living with his sister, Mary Delaney Manning, her husband, Daniel Manning and their 2 daughters. So in trying to pin down Martin and my multiple brick walls, I decided to concentrate on his siblings and nieces.

I found that Mary Frances Manning, the oldest daughter, had married a Charles Folsom in New Hampshire in August 1899. She was 23, he was 41. They were listed together on the 1900 census in Boston and eventually had a son Clarence in 1902 as well as a son Arthur in 1905. Young Arthur died at age 6 months and Mary Frances Folsom purchased the grave at St Joseph’s Cemetery in West Roxbury, Massachusetts. This was gratifying as my search for Mary Frances also provided the graves of her father, sister, niece (and her family), a nephew AND my great grandfather’s 3 sisters! I discovered that Mary Frances turned the cemetery deed over to her sister Elizabeth not long after her baby’s death. I suppose it was because she knew she would be going to California.

I followed Mary Frances, her husband Charles and son Clarence to California. They were together on 1910 census - but then I found the death record of her husband. When I checked on Clarence and a World War I Registration, I noticed that his next of kin/guardian was a former nurse who worked in a mental hospital. With continued searching, I found "Mae Folsom’s" date of death - one month before Clarence’s draft registration. When one of my cousins was going to Los Angeles on business a few years ago, he managed to get a photocopy of her death certificate. That was the OMG moment. Cause of death was gunshot to the brain. She was only 43 years old.

A few months after that upsetting revelation, I was put in touch with a woman in Califo
nia whose daughter recently had started working at NEHGS in Boston. Through her, I was able to get a newspaper article about Mae’s death. Reading that newspaper released such emotion and prompted so many questions. Other family members all felt the same. Why didn’t she come home? She still had family in Boston. Her father was alive, her sister, a brother and his family - aunts, uncles, cousins. What happened? One can tell by the note she had pinned on her dress that she had provided information about whom to contact to anyone who found her. So very sad. I have yet to find out what happened to Clarence.

**The Indian Fighter**

Patricia McHugh #3509

When I was a young girl my father told me that we once had an Indian fighter in our family’s past. Since we both figured that our Irish ancestors came during the Great Famine in the mid to late-1840s, I concentrated my research on the English branch of our ‘tree’ that we guessed came in the late 1700s. Once I started researching the English side as an adult, I discovered that we had ancestors who came over more than a century before our original estimate. I later learned that we had an ancestor who fought in the King Philip War in 1675. In fact, his home was called the Woodcock Garrison in North Attleboro, Massachusetts. John Woodcock and the Indians did not get along. In fact, the Indians beheaded John’s son and placed the head on a post outside the garrison. It seemed very unlikely to me that this was the story of our Indian fighter. If it were I think the story would have stayed alive in my family history because the Woodcock Garrison (now rebuilt) is still on the site in North Attleboro, which is close to where our family has lived ever since that time. Of course, this information was found in books.

I kept searching this English side and found that James Leonard of Taunton was an ancestor of ours, too. James was the founder of the first iron forge business in New England, and there is a small stone monument to him as such on the Taunton/Raynham boundary line. According to Taunton history, James Leonard was a friend to the Indians and often fixed their metal objects without charging a fee. The legend continues that during the King Philip War, the Indians were instructed not to burn the Leonard homestead and they did not, but much of the settlement was burned down. However, when King Philip was killed, the colonists beheaded him and his head was brought for safekeeping to James Leonard’s cellar. Then, it was brought to Plymouth where it was posted for all to see. I learned this information from books. However, if this were the Indian fighter to whom my father referred, I would need more of an oral family connection than I had. In addition, James was never reported to be a fighter. I temporarily gave up looking for the Indian fighter and moved on.
Later, while I was tracing one of the Irish family branches, I learned that not all of our Irish ancestors came to America during the Great Famine. Yes, it is true that one direct ancestor came in 1849, but his brother-in-law, John Bateman, came in 1842 and John’s wife (sister of my ancestor) joined him in 1843. This made sense to me because I was able to get their 1841 marriage record from Rathkeale, County Limerick. Yet, there seemed to be a glitch. When I found John Bateman’s naturalization record, it said that he arrived in New York in 1836 and filed his first papers (found in the Waltham National Archives branch along with the final papers) in the Marine Court of NYC. However, he was sworn as a citizen in Boston in 1845 and on his final papers he stated that he was born in Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. So, this must be our family’s John Bateman. His residence was listed as Charlestown, Mass. where he lived according to the city directories. So, John must have lived in the U.S. between 1836 and 1841 and then went back to Ireland to get married. But I could not find any account of what he did here during that 1836-41 time. That is, not until I located his obituary from 1885 in the Charlestown newspaper. John Bateman’s obituary states that he fought in the ‘Great Florida War.’ This particular war with the Seminole Indians took place from 1838-1842. The state of New York sent one regiment to help fight during this time period. John must have served for several years with this regiment before he returned to Ireland to get married. Could this be the Indian fighter that my father spoke of to me? Indeed it is. The connection is that my dad’s grandfather was John Bateman’s nephew and they knew each other well, and this ‘Grandpa’ later lived with my dad. Ahhh...the Indian fighter at last--thanks to the Charlestown newspaper!

Newspapers: Helpful or Distracting?
Mary Choppa #1791

I've found newspapers to be both helpful and distracting, but mostly helpful. My first attempt at genealogy, back in my early high school years, was done with the assistance of newspapers. My great-grandfather, Michael Patrick WARD, was apparently fairly well known in Youngstown, Ohio. His obituary, along with that of his brother John WARD, was the first bit of family research I did. I was thrilled to find pictures accompanying their obituaries. We had photos of him, but it was exciting to read his history, however brief, in the local newspaper. At the time, the library only had the ability to print a negative copy. I've since been able to obtain a positive image. There are still clues in the obituary that I need to follow up on.

Newspapers were also helpful in tracking another branch of the family. The New Castle Public Library, in New Castle, PA, had marriage and obituary notices from the New Castle News available online, dating back to 1880. They've recently added the City Directories. (http://www.ncdlc.org/genealogy/)
The newspaper notices were helpful in tracking my John KEELEY family.

With any source, it’s important to remember where the information originated. The obituary for my great grandmother Catherine RILEY KEELEY was not really helpful at all. It contained a great deal of misinformation, obviously given by her survivors. For this same reason, the information contained in a death certificate is not as valuable as a marriage or birth certificate. For example, the obit stated that she was born in Maryland and her parents’ names turned out to be incorrect. The only correct item was her mother’s first name. This did give me a great deal of experience in learning how to disprove many premises. Felix, listed as her father, was the name of her husband’s father. I’m not sure where they got her mother’s maiden name of WEIR, but when visiting the area of England where the family settled after leaving Ireland, I drove through an area called the Weir Valley. The obituary did contain some clues for tracking down other folks mentioned as surviving relatives.

Newspapers can also provide background to understand an era in which our ancestors lived. Several years ago, on one of TIARA’s trips to Belfast, I had run into a dead-end with my research. I could not find the death certificate for William HEANEY, or the birth
records of his daughter. Rather than curse my luck, I decided to spend some time at the Linen Hall Library, reading through some of their newspapers. A bit of family lore was that the son emigrated soon after the father’s death. The news accounts of the day discussed the various troubles that were going on at the docks. I had no knowledge of this part of Belfast’s history. On a subsequent TIARA trip to Belfast, I did manage to locate a death record at the Belfast GRO, as well as the birth record for his daughter.

Lastly, newspaper articles can provide some details for even more recent cases. This is a tale from my CHOPPA line, but I always tell folks that TIARA members have helped me with both my Irish and Italian research. My dad’s sister Genevieve married Armand DEBACCO. The family story had always been that he died at the Battle of the Bulge during WWII. My aunt “Mal” (Madaline WARD CHOPPA), the true archivist in our family, had an article that tells how he died after the battle, not necessarily in the battle. Sad and tragic still, but a little different narrative to his life’s story.

I have found newspapers to be extremely useful and remarkably interesting. In truth, the only danger, if you want to call it that, is that I can get lost in reading through them. The old ads, the headlines of days gone by, they all add flavor and substance to the lives of my ancestors.

**Newspaper Intrigue**

**Drawing in the Next Generation**

Susan Steele #1025

It was about 12 years ago when my nephew began to tease me about my interest in “dead people.” Trying to figure out my fascination with genealogy, Brian asked me what was my most exciting discovery about an ancestor. Of course, to me, just about every family history discovery has its own excitement. So I thought the story of a relative involved in a “shootout at a saloon” might appeal to an adolescent boy. I gave Brian a brief recounting of the exploits of our “wild west” ancestor. This past Christmas I decided to share the story with a larger family audience.

One branch of our Desmond ancestors had begun life in America laboring in the lumber industry of Ellsworth, Maine. They headed west after treaties with the Dakota and Ojibwa tribes opened timberlands in the territory of Minnesota. Four Desmond brothers and a sister made their trip to the “Big Woods” in 1856. They bought land in Monticello and Maple Lake townships. There were many early struggles including a period when the family feared an Indian attack and sought protection in the town stockade. I found Desmond stories documented in local histories and in newspapers such as the Buffalo Journal and the Wright County Times.

The September 1875 Wright County Times entitled the story of William Desmond’s dispute with the landlord of his saloon “The Shooting Affray”. The Times ran a double column story in three editions outlining a disagreement over rent payments, repossession of liquor stock, and initial shots fired by William Desmond. A gun battle in front of the saloon ended with the wounding of Desmond. Upon his recovery William Desmond appeared in court along with his landlord. The justice found no probable cause to believe that an offense had been committed! Frontier Justice?

Instead of copying the faded, tiny print original newspaper columns, I summarized the story. I tried to maintain some of the original phrasing that gave the story a unique flavor. A Wright County history provided photos of Monticello’s main street. Taking some artistic license, I labeled one of the buildings “Desmond’s Saloon.” The Wright County history also provided a reproduction of a front page of another contemporary newspaper, The
Wright County Eagle. I used this as a background and mounted my version of “The Shooting Affray” and the “Saloon” photo.

I had acquired several photos of the Desmonds in Minnesota. One photo in the Wright County history showed members of the Desmond family outside a log cabin dwelling in the snow covered “Big Woods.” One photo acquired from an Ancestry.com public family tree showed Timothy Desmond’s large family of twelve and another showed five granddaughters. I used these photos to assemble additional “newspaper” stories. Through correspondence with a distant cousin, city directories and the 1930 census, I had learned that one of the granddaughters, Mabel Desmond Connole, had worked as a tealeaf reader in the Cavern Café in Minneapolis. Again, instead of printing a census page and city directory listings, I created a “local girl goes to the big city” story announcing Mabel’s new career. I used the

Listening to family comments and reading thank you notes, I learned that my “newspaper stories” about the Desmonds helped capture some new interest in “dead people”. Brian, my nephew who inspired the project wrote his note in casual “twenty-something” language. “It was cool to read such a badass story from old America.” Brian’s brother, Ben, was the first to report on his tealeaf reading experiment and told me about fortune-telling traditions in Ghana – a place where he has lived for several years. Isn’t this what it is all about – passing on stories of prior generations and learning new stories from the younger generations?
The later 17th century in Ireland was a period of relative calm punctuated by its use as a venue for resolving major political conflicts originating outside the country. For the average Irishman much of this activity was in the background and did not interfere with daily life. Nevertheless the central issue in these conflicts revolved around the Catholicism that was central to Irish society. It was not until the 18th century that the political changes that had occurred in the 17th century began to directly affect the lives of native Irish. By then the aptly named Protestant Ascendancy had established itself.

Between 1660, when Charles II’s monarchy was restored, and until 1731, when the first penal laws were enacted, the native society of Ireland was often left to its own devices. This is not to say that nothing happened. Ireland felt the backwash from events in England including: the Popish Plot (1678-1681), the Rye House Plot (1683), and the Exclusion Bill debate. More directly it was the site of the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, and the sieges of Limerick and the Battle of Aughrim (Galway) in 1691 all battles in the Williamite War of 1688 (The Glorious Revolution). We will return to these events later but for now it would be good to look at the nature of Irish society in the late 1600’s.

Broadly, the island’s development was influenced by trade and economic factors, such as the Ulster Plantation. After 1660 the continued growth of plantations in the north led to a shift in agriculture from cropping to grazing. In the process of creating this landscape most of Ireland’s forests were razed with the wood sold for shipbuilding and cooperage. The assemblage of larger acreages put pressure on small land holders and populations concentrated in small villages. A famine in Scotland in 1675 caused Scots to immigrate to Ulster for cheaper farmland: and, a crop failure and famine in 1696-1698 caused 50,000 more to move to Ulster bringing the Scot Presbyterian population to 150,000. In the south of Ireland a slower change followed held back in part by the persistence of Old Celtic customs.

Fortunately, some of this is described in a rather charming book compiled by Edward MacLysaght, entitled Irish Life in the Seventeenth Century. (Cork, 1939), reprinted by Barnes and Noble in 1970. This book can still be found in used book listings. Dr. Edward MacLysaght was Chairman of the Irish Manuscripts Commission and a former head of the Genealogical and Manuscripts Division of the National Library. As he says in his introduction “[t]his book is an attempt to give an account… [of the] generation which enjoyed a time of comparative peace after the devastation and upheaval of the Cromwellian War and Settlement.”

The book is divided into two parts; a series of discussions of life in the country and in the larger cities dealing with topics like “morals”, “sports”, and “the gentry” followed by the text of everyday documents that survived the period. The section containing texts is an eclectic set of information dealing with things like “hedges and fencing”, “estate work”, “last speeches of condemned rapparees”, “road repairs”, “funeral entries” and “food menus.”

The material can be boring or intriguing but it demands attention for its ability to convey a slightly different picture than your ordinary expectation. It is probably helpful to point out that MacLysaght, who came from an old Clare family (see May, 2014 newsletter), was a strong apologist for Irish culture in the face of British contempt in the 1920’s and 1930’s. He is quick to point out biased accounts by observers with agendas but he also debunks exaggerated accounts of Irish accomplishments. The best way to discuss the book would be to tackle it head on and try for an organized summary.

MacLysaght begins with a general discussion of 16th century Irish society. He notes several traits in particular: the ancient adherence to hospitality, the broad-based knowledge of family genealogy reaching back many generations, and an inordinate fondness for gambling (which he says is peculiar to the 16th century). He cites an English traveler’s
journal to the effect that “They are of ready wit; the ridiculous notion we have of their stupidity is the worst grounded in the world.”

Having presented a general description, MacLysaght turns directly to “Morals” as his next topic. He takes care to quote the outstanding definition as “habits of life in regard to right or wrong conduct; also ... sexual conduct.” He concedes that the latter topic will be more frequently discussed than corruption, perjury and drunkenness. His explanation is that in the 17th century upper class families married their children early (as pre-teens) and introduced them as adults leading to a lack of romantic bonding. He gives the example of the Jephson family of Mallow where one girl was married at 12 and had her first child at 15.

Foreign writers critical of the Irish represented that adultery, incest, and promiscuous sexual intercourse were rampant, that female modesty was rare and that polygamy was common. While these were generally calumnies, polygamy seems actually to have been a problem. In 1634 the Irish Parliament had to pass an act to enforce monogamy and efforts were made to repeal it. Children born of polygamous marriages were considered legitimate as long as their fathers were alive but bastards after the father’s death. This is a clear carryover from Brehon law surviving in the traditions of native Irish.

In general, illegitimacy, or the maintenance of a mistress, was not viewed as a social impediment until the mid-1700. In the 1600’s these things were fairly common. MacLysaght also says that native Irish would prostitute their daughters to noblemen’s sons. If a child resulted from this liaison the Irish would raise the child and include it in any estate distribution from his grandfather. On the other hand there were vices which were condemned by law (and which MacLysaght refuses to name!). He explains that one vice was a crime punishable by being drawn and quartered or, in the case of a woman, by being burned at the stake. (It appears that the issue was homosexuality but the author avoids defining the matter.)

Prostitution may have been fairly common, particularly in cities, but the author points out that there is little evidence among native authorities to suggest that it was rampant. Drunkenness, on the other hand, was undoubtedly common and MacLysaght doesn't dwell on it for long. Some writers felt that tight control of liquor production and sale in the early 1600’s exacerbated the social response when liquor became more available. Public nakedness seemed to be situational (nursing babies, trampling wash, etc.) and was only commented on by foreign travelers. The author argues that the fact that most people, even whole families, slept nude together tended to make this a non-issue.

A substantial issue of morality in the period was perjury, and attendant bribery and false swearing. This was consistent with the wide spread use of litigation to resolve disputes.

It is not clear why MacLysaght began by discussing “Morals” but the first sentence of his next chapter talks about: “...the constant vilification of everything Irish by certain English writers.” It is fair to assume he wants to provide a balanced view and he continues this effort in his next chapter “The Gentry and their Dependents”. Here he looks at the interaction of old Irish and the English arrivals.

One issue that distinguished the Old Irish from the English was their view of fosterage. In the old Celtic culture “fosterage” was the adopting out of a child to a family of similar status to be raised for a term of years. From the English point of view “fosterage” was the equivalent of “wet nursing” which became much more common in the 18th century. The English attitude toward Irish practices was derogatory since they viewed Irish fosterage as “barbaric”. This was a clear cultural difference with little rational basis. The matter became moot over the next 50 years as the Irish practice of “fosterage” faded away.

MacLysaght emphasizes that the Old Irish refused to be cowed by their loss of status after the Cromwellian conquest. Rather they found a place to live, work and a community and continued on with their lives. The author
has a charming Irish anecdote which speaks directly to this point. Daniel Byrne (known as "The Tailor") was the son of a wealthy dispossessed landholder. He made a fortune supplying uniforms to the army. In the Restoration his son was made a baronet. The son was walking with his father one day and said to him "Father, you ought to walk to the left of me, I being a Knight and you being a private individual." His father is said to have replied: "No you puppy, I have precedence in three ways: first, I am your senior; secondly I am your father; and thirdly, I am the son of a gentleman and you are but the son of a poor lousy tailor." No pretensions these Irish.

In matters of family and genealogy the Old Irish brooked no quarter. The author recounts another anecdote from Boswell (1740-1795) that a Mr. Sandford and two acquaintances went to visit a man of ancient Irish lineage. Sandford's mother was Irish, his friend O'Hara was Irish on both sides and the third visitor, a Mr. Ponsonby (son of the Earl of Besborough), was English. They were greeted by their host as follows: "O'Hara you are welcome, Mr. Sandford your mother's son is welcome; Mr. Ponsonby you may sit down!"

The book also discusses "Sports and Recreation" which, given the nature of the Irish, should be extensive. In the 17th century, however, these activities were affected by the wealth of the individual. Generally, the Irish peasant did not have the wherewithal to engage in activities common to the nobility or the large estate owners. Among the latter hunting, fowling, fishing, and horse riding were predominant. Among the lower classes, dancing, gambling and some hurling were common. Ironically, music was not a common pastime because of the expense of instruments nor was hunting because of the expense of guns.

Because Irish wolves were still common despite continued deforestation, public wolf hunts were organized. A bounty of £6 was established for the head of a female wolf, £5 for a male and £2 for a young wolf. As a result, breeding of wolfhounds was increasingly common. In 1652 a statute prohibiting the export of "wolf-dogs" from Ireland was passed as the dogs were apparently highly prized. Export licenses show that the dogs were sent as gifts to Cardinal Richelieu, the Shah of Persia, and the Great Mogul, among others. The Irish wolf was exterminated (in Carlow in 1786).

Sporting activities led to the breeding of the foxhound and the setter whose ownership was also controlled. A setter owner was required to have an income of £100 per annum and hounds and spaniels could not be kept by a small farmer. Good dogs often cost more than good firearms. Similarly well bred horses fetched high prices. Lord Ossory paid £129 for one in 1687. Irish racing was enjoyed by the upper classes as were tennis, bull baiting and cock fighting. Wrestling matches were held in market towns and one account discusses competitive stone casting, dancing, running, and riding but MacLysaght maintains that these activities had mostly vanished by the middle 1600's.

The infrastructure for travel and communications was poorly developed and had a definite effect on the life of rural residents. The native Irish, and the farmer in particular, did not engage in wide travel beyond the immediate vicinity of their residence. Being able to reach the nearest market town was the most extensive journey for most. The majority of travel was done by horse and if heavy loads were moved it was by sledge. What roads existed were usually impassible in bad, rainy weather.

More extensive trips were challenging in the late 1600's. MacLysaght recounts the travels of Sir Thomas Molyneux who traveled by chaise from Dublin through Naas to Monasterevan. This trip was 39 and ½ miles. They began at 10 am, reached Naas at 3 pm (20 miles), Kildare at 5:30 pm (12 miles), and finally reached Monasterevan around 6:30 pm (7 miles). This journey took 8 and ½ hours in the summer under good travel conditions.

Travel was made more challenging by the fact that there were no public accommodations. The presence of "taverns" did not mean that there were sleeping arrangements or
that food was available. Indeed a “tavern” was often just a cabin indistinguishable from a local residence and MacLysaght refers to them as “miserable pot-houses”. Gentry who traveled looked for hosting at personal residences of the local nobility.

The last portion of the book contains reproductions of documents the author dealt with in his career. They are of varying interest. Menus for banquets are one curiosity. A modern cook might be challenged by preparing: a “shoulder Rack of Mutton, 1 Line of veale, Scotch Schollups of Veale, Sallett, Buttered Carretts, Venison Pye, Toung & marrowbones, Chickings and rabbits, Gelly, Harty Choakes, Pease, Sheepees Tonges and Ducks (3)”. This was Friday Dinner (not Supper) for July 3, 1679 at Castlemartyr House.

**NEXT TIME:** The Glorious Revolution.
Comments/suggestions to: dathi2010@gmail.com

**Upcoming TIARA Meetings**

**Saturday, March 28, 2015 10 AM**, Chelmsford Public Library, 25 Boston Road, Chelmsford, MA,
David McKean and Walter Hickey, “Digging Up the Past: Uncovering the Acres Roots”

**Friday April 10, 2015 7:30 PM** Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm. G3.
Connie Reik, “Researching Your Civil War Ancestor in Federal Publications”

**Friday May 8, 2015 7:30 PM** Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm. G3.
Speaker TBA.

**Friday June 12, 2015** Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm. G3.
Annual Meeting will precede lecture
Speaker TBA

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**A Twelve Year Old’s Eyewitness to a Tragedy**

Mary Ellen Doona #1629

2015 is the one hundredth anniversary of the sinking of the *Lusitania*. Known as the Queen of the Atlantic, the Cunard liner was called by some a “floating palace” and by others a “floating hotel.” The *Lusitania* also featured a 24-bed hospital divided into four wards ready to care for 540 in first class: 460 in second class and 1200 in third class, as well as a crew that numbered 850. Named for a Roman province in Portugal, the *Lusitania* was considered to be the most powerful ship in the world. She was launched in 1906 and on her maiden voyage 7 September 1907 she broke the transatlantic speed record sailing from Queenstown (now Cobh Co Cork) and arriving in New York five days later on Friday the thirteenth.

Some who were superstitious might have worried about the date but luck was with the *Lusitania* during that voyage and the one hundred that followed. It was the 102nd crossing that left New York on 1 May 1915 for Queenstown and Liverpool that proved to be the unlucky one. The German Embassy in Washington, D. C. placed a black-bordered notice in the *New York Tribune* beside the Cunard sailing schedule for that day warning travelers that a state of war existed between Germany and Great Britain and her allies. People sailing in the war zone, continued the warning, were doing so “at their own risk.”
Indeed Britain knew that U-boats were active in the waters around the British Isles but Cunard was confident that the swift *Lusitania* could outrun them. As she sailed along Ireland’s southern coast nearing Queenstown on the seventh of May 1915, the thirty-year-old Walter Schwieger, Lieutenant Commander of a German U-boat, launched a torpedo into the *Lusitania*’s starboard bow. The torpedo struck at ten minutes past two. Unlike other liners that took hours to sink making rescue possible, the *Lusitania* sank in eighteen minutes followed by a second explosion. Of the 1,201 passengers aboard (three were stowaways) 785 died, and of these 128 were Americans. Of the 702 members of the crew, 413 died as did 94 of the 129 babies and children on board.

Twelve-year-old Katie Cahalane was at school at Butlerstown that day about two miles away. She told the family genealogist she saw the *Lusitania* sink, “Right from school, dear. Right in the schoolyard.” Mickey Donovan, who later as an adult ran Mickey’s, the pub in Butlerstown, ran into the girl’s school shouting, “Mrs. Sheehy, Mrs. Sheehy, the *Lusitania* is going down! Come out to see it!”

How did she know it was the *Lusitania* her visitor wondered. Katie replied, “We knew all the boats, every bloody one.” The *Lusitania* stood out from all the other ships that sailed in front of her home in Ballinluig at Seven Heads midway between the lighthouses at the Old Head of Kinsale and Galley Head. Their fog horns “boooing to one another” was a common sound in Katie’s ears and her eyes were dazzled when ships sailed by in the night all lit up. “The *Lusitania* had four smokestacks,” continued Katie. At the time only five ships had four funnels. And then, the clincher, “Her name was in gold letters across her bow.”

Other memories of that day followed. “We were all out in the yard looking at her sink. Mrs Sheehy shot us all out to see it and there was the poor *Lusitania* going up and down, and up and down. And that was the end of it.” In eighteen minutes the ship was gone. The list was so extreme; people falling off the upper decks smashed into the lower decks coming down and got killed. “Arrah, Lord,” sighed Katie. “Sure, they were destroyed. We didn’t give a damn what it was. We didn’t have any better sense.”

But the enormity of what had happened soon focused her initial reactions. “Two of them [bodies] came into Travarra, you know, [the townland next to her Ballinluig]. So the guy came along and brought the box along and put them in and they were buried in Lislee with the priest. [Katie didn’t see the bodies]. But I remember the day very nicely. Oh, gracious God, Almighty. After she went down, then, a fleet of warships came, you know, looking around to pick up anything, anybody they could.” Months later bodies were still washing up along the coves and inlets along the coast. Furs washed up in Kerry many weeks after the disaster.

Eight years later at the end of July 1923 Katie was aboard the one funnel *HMS Samaria* sailing from Queenstown in front of her home on her way to Boston. She only talked of sadness at leaving her home. If she feared a fate similar to those on the *Lusitania*, she never said. Years later she became a celeb-
rity of sorts when grandchildren and other youngsters were studying immigrants in their social studies classes. After filling them in on the usual details she would tell them, “I saw the Lusitania being sunk right from school.” When her story met with their astonishment “You did not!” she’d reply, “I did, dear, and it wasn’t a pretty sight.” After telling the story she would then recite a poem she had learned as a child:

“The good ship Lusitania
Seven times the ocean crossed
And never was a soul before
From aboard our good ship lost.
Until those cruel murderers
For her they lay unseen
And shot at her to fragments
From the cursed submarines.”

“So, of course,” she told her visitor, “I had to send that little verse to them, the nice little kids.”

Genealogy enthusiasts in the family continue to trace Katie’s tree and retrace her steps in Ballinluig, Butlerstown and Barry’s Point. They have toured the Heritage Center at Cobh and found one of her cousins, Timothy Keohane, listed among those who responded to the shipwreck. They have taken photos of the Lusitania Memorials at Cobh and at the Old Head of Kinsale. They have also visited the cemetery at Lislee where Katie’s people are buried, and resting among them, are the poor souls who washed up at Travarra. More and more they are placing Katie’s early life within the context of her times: as a subject of King George; as a subject of an Anglo Irish landlord; as an innocent bystander in the war between England and Germany; as a beneficiary of the Easter Rising in 1916; and, as a witness of Ireland’s Civil War that was still raging as she left Ireland. Easily she renounced her British citizenship to become an American citizen but she never gave up being Irish. Nor did she ever forget the tragedy of the Lusitania that was a catalyst for the United States involvement in the Great War (1914-1917).

Reference

Canadian WW I Soldier Records

As part of the Government of Canada First World War commemoration activities, Library and Archives Canada is in the process of digitizing all their soldiers’ records from the First World War. There are about 640,000 service records, and within each of those folders there are numerous documents. While the digitization of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) service files will take over a year to complete, a substantial number of digitized files have been added to the Library and Canada website.

Volunteers for the Canadian Expeditionary completed a two-sided Attestation paper which included the recruit’s name and address, next-of-kin, date and place of birth, occupation, previous military service, and distinguishing physical characteristics. Men who were draftees completed a simpler one-sided form, while officers completed a short declaration paper.

The service files of CEF members can consist of up to two or three dozen forms, dealing with enlistment, training, medical and dental history, hospitalization, discipline, pay, medal entitlements and discharge or notification of death. A copy of the Attestation paper or Military Service Act Enlistment form is usually in the file, unless the soldier was a deserter or failed to report for duty.


Trash, Treasure & Talk
Susan Steele #1025

No that’s not “talking trash.” could be “talking treasure.” No really, what is it? It’s a curious name for an “Open House” day at the TIARA office this spring.

Over the past ten years the TIARA office has accumulated a number of treasures as well as a number of surplus items (perhaps “trash” to some, “treasures” to others.) Some
items were collected during the period when the Foresters Project was housed in the office. Other items were donations to the office and to the TIARA library. Over the years, we spread into several additional storage rooms at the Auburndale address. Our landlord understood that this would be a “temporary” situation. “Temporary” eventually turned into ten years. It’s time for a big spring cleaning!

A partial inventory of some of the office surplus items accompanies this article. If you are interested in any of the larger items, we will accommodate “early bird shoppers”. Contact recsec1@tiara.ie and we will make arrangements to have you come out to the office to take away items. We may have some suggested “prices” but are open to financial donations of your choice.

A Book Sale will be another component of the office Open House. The TIARA library has grown during the last ten years. Past librarian, Mary Rita Grady and current librarian, Joan Callahan, have done a great job culling through many donations. A list of our current holdings appears on the TIARA website (see drop down item “Library Collection” under “Membership.”) We have limited space in the library area of the office and have had to institute the donation policy included below. This means we have a large number of books that do not fit in our collection but may fit in yours.

So ... Trash, Treasure... what about Talk? Over the years the Forester volunteers have shared many hours chatting as we worked on project tasks. We would usually all break for lunch at the same time and share stories of new resources discovered and ongoing genealogical quests. We would leave these lunches jotting down notes about books, websites and suggestions for new research strategies. These sessions have provided countless benefits and several “brick wall breakthroughs”. We hope to have one of these casual “research roundtables” going on during our Open House. We’ll provide snacks and you can wander in, chat a bit about your own research roadblocks and share strategies with other participants.

"Our Trash, Treasure & Talk event will be held on Sunday, May 17th from 1:00- 4:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating in the “research roundtable” or helping us get ready for the “Trash & Treasure” sale contact recsec1@tiara.ie “.

**Trash & Treasures Inventory**

**Computer/Electronic**
1 flat screen monitor
1 keyboard
100 pack CD-Rs
1 RCA television
1 VCR player
1 Canon PC 400 desktop copier
1 microfiche reader Bruning Model 4010
1 microfilm reader MDP (Manual Direct Projection)

**Storage**
40 plastic shoeboxes with covers
20 archival storage boxes

**Books**
Fiction – Irish and historical themes
Travel, Poetry, Genealogy magazines

**Library Update**
Joan Callahan #3491

Thank you to the following members who have made donations to the TIARA Library: Arlene Chapen, Connie Koutoujian, Mary Ellen Whyte

**New Library Donation Policy**

The TIARA Library contains books that have been generously donated by our members. Donations that fill a need in our collection are welcomed by TIARA. However, our storage limitations and volunteer staff ability to sort large amounts of materials make it necessary to limit donation. Books that do not fill a research need will be sold at our meetings or open houses with proceeds benefiting TIARA.

**How to Donate:**
Please contact Joan Callahan: library@tiara.ie or Susan Steele: recsec1@tiara.ie before bringing materials to the office.
What to Donate:
Genealogy research and history
Economic history
Geographic places of emigration/immigration
Methods and causes of immigration
Unique historic importance
Published family histories

We can no longer accept fiction and newsletter/magazine donations because of space limitations.

Nugget

A free online exhibit that follows one Irish family’s involvement in WW I is available at http://longwaytotipperary.ul.ie/ It is based on the diaries, correspondence, photographs and memorabilia accumulated by the Armstrong family of Moyaliffe Castle, County Tipperary, between 1914 and 1918.

New DVDs Available!
Mary Choppa 1791

TIARA has 2 new DVDs for sale. If you missed the O’Duill lectures at the Celtic Connections Conference, this is your chance to own them and view them at your leisure.

Getting Started in Irish Genealogy features two lectures by Eileen O’Duill, CG, a professional Irish genealogist who has lectured at national and international conferences in the U.S., Ireland, Canada and the U.K. from 1999 to 2014.
“Introduction to Irish Genealogy: Where Do I Start?”
This lecture is a beginner’s guide to Irish research. Learn about the ‘paper trail’ left by your ancestors, that will lead you to his/her place of birth in Ireland. The application process for Irish citizenship will be discussed.
“Researching in Ireland: Planning is the Key to Success”
This lecture helps researchers who are planning their first trip to Ireland. The research necessary and advice on the best use of time while in Ireland is reviewed. Handy hints, gathered from experienced American researchers in Ireland will be shared.

Irish Folklore for Family Historians features two lectures by Sean O’Duill who has spoken at conferences in Ireland and in the United States
“Matchmaking and Marriage Customs in 19th Century Ireland”
Family historians wishing to understand how their ancestors lived are discovering the study of folklore. Sean communicates the traditions of the Irish, explaining traditions which were brought to their new countries by the immigrants and still live in the memory of their descendants.
“Death and Burial Customs in 19th Century Ireland”
Learning about the experiences of life and death of your Irish ancestors, will make the names and dates on documents come alive. Sean O’Duill describes death and funeral rituals in the 19th century. The Irish wake, funeral games and superstitions are explored.

The cost of each DVD is $15. They are subject to Massachusetts sales tax for Massachusetts residents. Shipping and handling charges are extra.

Next Issue

Have you researched an ancestor who was or had a sibling that was a minister, priest or member of a religious order? Did these records provide information on place of origin in Ireland, or perhaps identify other family members not found elsewhere? Share your story and write an article with a Religious Occupations theme for the next issue of the TIARA Newsletter. Articles on other topics of family research are also welcome.

Have a research tip, new resource or database to share with TIARA members? Submit your nugget of information to the newsletter.

Please send submissions to the newsletter to newsletter@tiara.ie or mail to the above address. Submissions for the Summer Issue are requested by April 30, 2015.
In the fall of 2013, a group of TIARA's members spent an enjoyable Sunday afternoon talking about Irish authors and books. Here is the remainder of the list started in the last issue.

**History**

Cahill, Thomas
**How the Irish Saved Civilization**
The first book in Cahill's series, Hinges of History, tells the story of 5th century Irish monks who copied the great heritage of western civilization.

Diner, Hasia
**Erin's Daughters in America**
A look at the conditions that caused women to leave Ireland and the story of how they overcame the barriers of society to succeed in America.

Duffy, Sean, editor
**MacMillan Atlas of Irish History**
A concise view of Irish history through the use of maps, art and photos.

Elliott, Marianne
**The Catholics of Ulster**
A history of the Catholics in Ulster and a look at the troubled past of the region.

Hegarty, Neil
**The Story of Ireland: A History of the Irish People**

Diocese of Cloyne A D 2002
**A Glimpse of Our Christian Heritage**
published by Editions Du Signe, Strasbourg France
History of all the parishes of one diocese in Co Cork.

Stevens, Peter F
**The Voyage of the Catalpa: A perilous Journey and Six Irish Rebels' Escape to Freedom**
Suspenseful true story of the rescue of Irish rebels from an Australian prison by an American whaling ship.

**Famine**

Kelly, John
**The Graves Are Walking: The Great Famine and the Saga of the Irish People**
A comprehensive look at the causes of the Irish Potato Famine published in 2012.

Kinealy, Christine
**This Great Calamity: The Irish Famine 1845 – 1852**
First published in 1994, this is a complete and scholarly account of the Famine in Ireland.

Laxton, Edward
**The Famine Ships: The Irish Exodus to America**
The book tells of the courage and determination of those who came to America in leaky, overcrowded sailing ships, coffin ships, to make new lives for themselves.

Miles, Kathryn
**All Standing: the Remarkable Story of the Jeanie Johnston, the Legendary Irish Famine Ship**
Well-researched book about the only famine era ship and crew that never lost a passenger.

**Memoirs**

McCourt, Frank
**Angela's Ashes**
Recollection of the Brooklyn born author who was raised in the slums of Limerick

Monagan, David
**Jaywalking With the Irish**
A Connecticut couple uproot their three children and move to Cork City, Ireland. Their experiences are not all what they expected.
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For shipping and handling within U.S.: add $5 for 1st book or DVD, plus $2 each additional item.

*For Kane Ancestral Map, add $7 for Shipping and Handling

**Subtotal**

Massachusetts residents add 6.25% sales tax

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Upcoming Conferences, Workshops and Events

**NERGC Conference 2015 “Navigating the Past, Sailing into the Future”**
Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI
15-19 April 2015
[http://www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org)

**New York State Family History Conference**
The Holiday Inn and Conference Center Syracuse/Liverpool, Liverpool, NY
17-19 September 2015
[http://www.nysfhc.org](http://www.nysfhc.org)