



The Irish Ancestral RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

84 South Street
Waltham, MA 02453-3537

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Researching World War I Ancestors



Wedding Picture of Isabel McShane and Charles Reardon.
Charles is wearing his WWI service uniform.



The Irish Ancestral Research Association
84 South Street
Waltham, MA 02453-3537
www.tiara.ie

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Meetings: TIARA meets monthly except July & August at locations throughout the New England area.

THE TIARA NEWSLETTER

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In This Issue

President's Message	Page 2
Paul A. Redmond:	
American Ambulance Field Service	Page 3
A World War One Hero	Page 6
A World War One Family	Page 7
Research in the	
Registry of Deeds in Dublin	Page 9
Website Updates	Page 13
The Mysterious Thomas Tuffy	Page 16
Next Issue	Page 17
The Heart of TIARA: Our Members	Page 18
Using irishgenealogy.ie	Page 19
Upcoming TIARA Meetings	Page 19
Upcoming Events	Page 20

President's Message

Susan Steele #1025

It's Your TIARA.

It truly is your organization. TIARA has no paid staff. We function with all volunteer effort. In the last Newsletter I thanked the many volunteers who helped keep us going in 2016. The list of activities was long and the list of volunteer names was even longer. Co-President Greg Atkinson and I continue to be grateful for those who keep us functioning daily and those involved in long range planning for TIARA.

Greg will be completing a four-year term as Co-President in June. TIARA by-laws prevent Greg from continuing to serve as Co-President but he will continue to serve as one of the chairs on the Celtic Connections Conference 2018. We thank Greg for all his past work participating on many board meeting calls and hosting our banquets and other events. We appreciate Greg's willingness to continue to serve as a conference chair.

Kathy Sullivan also completes a four-year term as Vice President in June. We give thanks to Kathy for multiple years of providing successful banquets, workshops and monthly meetings with engaging, informative speakers. One way Kathy will continue to contribute is by managing TIARA's Facebook page.

Greg and Kathy's positions will need to be filled in June. All of the other Executive Board members have the possibility of continuing to serve in a current position or make a change. A Nominating Committee will talk with current board members, determine interest and help recruit new board members.

Another big change will be happening in June. Virginia Wright will be retiring from the position of editor of this newsletter. After almost six years and more than twenty issues jam packed with member stories, guest authored articles, photos and new genealogy website information, Virginia has decided to take a well-deserved break. Thank you, Virginia!

(Continued on page 7)

Paul A. Redmond: American Ambulance Field Service

Geraldine M. Cox # 3054

My mother's cousin Paul Redmond served with the American Ambulance Field Service in World War I in France. I only knew of him when he was an older man because he and my mother corresponded regularly during my childhood. Every time she received a letter from Paul, my mother would say, "Oh, I must get out there to visit him." "Out there" meant Binghamton, New York where Paul was then living. However it was a fair distance from our home in West Hartford, Connecticut and with a young family and aging parents and in-laws to care for, my mother never did get to Binghamton to see him.

Despite never having met him, I felt I knew him through their letters and the ensuing conversations with my mother. I was fascinated by her tales of his WWI experiences. Every year on his birthday he would send a photo of himself along with a witty comment about how he was still getting on, even in his advancing age. Though they were second cousins, Paul was almost 50 years older than my mother. She would say that she thought her father had some photos and newspaper clippings about Paul's WWI service and even a diary, but somehow there never seemed to be time to search for them. We did have a copy of a Redmond family tree which Paul had made and distributed to all his relatives who attended a Redmond family reunion at Clinton, New York in 1937. It was a treasured possession and I was intrigued by it.

Paul was born 14 Sep 1891 in Syracuse, New York the fourth of eight children of Nicholas J. Redmond and Mary Hayes. Nicholas J. and my grandfather James H. Redmond were first cousins. They were part of a large extended Redmond family in the Syracuse and Utica areas of upstate New York. Paul studied at Syracuse University and was working as a clerk at the Savage Arms Company in Utica when he volunteered to join the ambulance corp. The American Ambulance Field Service was started at the beginning of the first world war by the American community in Paris. As the Germans invaded, they recognized the need to

transport the wounded to safety for treatment at the American Hospital near Paris. In 1915 they had 60 ambulances in service and by late 1917 the number had grown to 1,220. From the beginning and even before the United States entered the war, the service attracted many idealistic and adventurous young men especially from colleges and universities in America. Some of the volunteers later went on to become popular writers and poets, among them Ernest Hemingway, E.E. Cummings and John Masefield. While cousin Paul did not become a famous writer or poet we surely assume he was an idealist and looking for adventure when he decided to join a group being formed by his alma mater as the Syracuse University Ambulance Company.

Information on Paul's passport application paints a picture of him in his youth: twenty-five years old, five feet six inches tall with blue eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion. It also states that he intends to depart for France on or about August 4, 1917, sailing on board the ship "La Tourraine." However, when the time came, he actually sailed aboard the "Aurania" (now designated "Aurania 2" to distinguish it from the first and third ships to bear the name.) They were all commissioned by the Cunard Line for their North American service. The first "Aurania" was built in 1882 and sailed between Liverpool and New York until 1899-1903 when it was requisitioned as a troop transport during the Boer War and was scrapped in 1905. "Aurania 2" was commissioned in 1913 but the advent of war caused delays and it was not launched until 1917 and immediately put to use as a troop ship. In early 1918 on a voyage to New York as it sailed around the north of Ireland in an effort to avoid being attacked by German submarines it nevertheless was torpedoed off the coast of Donegal and broke up and sank near the Isle of Mull, Scotland, while being towed back to port for repairs. The "Aurania 3" was built in 1924 and voyaged between Liverpool and Quebec and Montreal until the outbreak of World War II in 1939 when it, too, was requisitioned for use as a troop transport. While serving in this capacity it was torpedoed; however, it was able to limp into port and was repaired and served its war duty until 1944. I find it ironic that all three ships "Aurania"

originally intended for Cunard's North American service ended up converted to troopships during three different wars.

To return to Paul's story, on 18 Aug 1917 the "Aurania 2" sailed from Pier 56 in lower Manhattan in midafternoon. Paul's brother Kirk was there to see him off along with Judge Cobb of Syracuse, who had established the Syracuse Ambulance Unit. Paul writes that he "watched the Statue of Liberty fade from view" from the porthole in his cabin as everyone had been ordered below decks before sailing. Other notes written by Paul found after my mother's death detail his journey: "Syracuse to NY 8-11-17 to Halifax 8-18-17 to Liverpool, Eng. 9-3-17 to London 9-4-17 to Southampton 9-6-17 to Le Havre 9-7-17 to Paris 9-7-17." These and other notes were found with a collection of photographs and newspaper clippings and notebooks which must have been saved by my grandfather. None of the newspaper clippings are sourced or dated but they appear (from printing on the other side of the newsprint) to be from Utica and Syracuse newspapers and information in the relevant clippings date them to the period of Paul's service.

One of the newspaper clippings printed part of a letter by a Charles Love, a member of the unit Paul served with written soon after their arrival in France. He tells that they are located in the Valley of the Marne, about twenty miles from the front and they can hear the big guns firing. It was there that they were sworn in as members of the medical corp. They were practicing driving ambulances (remember that cars were still very new and not everyone knew how to drive.) They were also doing some military drill. They expected to be issued uniforms before being sent to the front. He reported that the food was decent, but rather limited, mostly bread, meat and vegetables, but nothing sweet, as sugar was very scarce.

In the autumn of 1917 when Paul reached Paris, the American Ambulance Field Service had thirty-four ambulances units and 1,200 drivers. Each driver was assigned to a relay post from where he would receive instructions to go to advanced dressing stations (known as "abri") at the front to collect wounded soldiers (called "blesses" the French for wounded) to transport them farther from the front lines to

triage hospitals. The wounded were carried through the trenches by their fellow soldiers to the abri where doctors cleaned and bandaged the wounds and stabilized the patients as best they could for transport by the waiting ambulance. The abri might be the cellar of an abandoned farmhouse or bombed out barn, reinforced as best as possible with beams or possibly simply a cave supported with timbers in an effort to protect against enemy shelling.



Paul Redmond in front of his AFS Ambulance in France

Ambulance drivers were assigned to wait at an abri when there was fighting in the vicinity until blesses arrived so as to be available to immediately drive them to a triage hospital. The triage hospitals were farther away from the front lines and there the blesses were evaluated into three categories; some went on to the relative safety of a rear line hospital (from which they might eventually be returned to their fighting unit); others, more seriously wounded, were sent to a hospital from which they would be evacuated; and other less fortunate ones were sent to the morgue. After delivering their blesses, the drivers would return to the relay station for their next assignment. They were posted at the front line dressing stations, the abri, for 24 hours of on-call duty and, depending on how heavy the fighting was, either 24 or 48 hours off duty at the relay station. When the fighting was very fierce, they were on call all the time. They often had to travel to the abri at night without use of headlights to avoid detection by the Germans if there was heavy shelling in the area.

On February 4, 1919 at Seagemiend, Lorraine, Paul learned that he had been awarded the Croix de Guerre for heroic work at Vailly the previous October. The citation of the order

was reprinted in one of the clippings in my grandfather's collection. It states "An excellent driver, very efficient with the wounded and for remarkable courage on October 4, 1918, when he brought the most urgent cases of reclaimed wounded back from a place in the road under heavy shell-firing by enemy artillery and encumbered with great stones, without thought for himself and with the most praiseworthy persistence. Signed, Marshall-Commander and Chief of the Armies of the East, Petain."

After the truce Paul's company, which had been attached to the 121st Division of regular army troops, was ordered into Germany with the army of occupation and stationed at Coblenz and Metz. A letter from Paul written on March 17, 1919 says that "his unit has been ordered to a base camp" and they are expecting to sail for home in early April. He spent three days on leave at the unit headquarters in Paris to pack his belongings and arrange shipment home of his luggage. A Syracuse newspaper reported that Paul returned to Syracuse wearing the Croix de Guerre he received for heroic work "but without a scar or any ill effects of the strenuous days he passed in war-stricken France."

Apparently when asked for a comment he said that the story had already been told and all he could add was to praise the men from Syracuse he had worked with in his unit. "Every man was faithful to the last hour, and we passed through some conditions and horrors that are best to forget."



In my grandfather's collection there is a newspaper photo of Paul standing beside his ambulance in France accompanying an article about his receiving the Croix de Guerre and also quoting from a citation to his entire ambulance section from the commandant of the 121st Division of Infantry. It includes a photo of a smiling Paul, taken after his return home, wearing his uniform decorated with the Croix de Guerre. There is also a photo of Paul with my grandfather taken at the Redmond family reunion in Clinton, NY in 1937, the year that Paul gave copies of his Redmond family tree to his relatives.

Though I never knew Paul myself, I am so grateful to have these mementos of his American Ambulance Field Service, carefully saved by my grandfather and then by my mother. I feel a special fondness for him because of his selflessness and bravery in the war and also perhaps because of my appreciation of his interest in the Redmond family history and the great help it was to have his Redmond family tree to guide me when I began my own genealogy research.

Sources:

1. A personal collection of newspaper clippings, photographs and notebooks about Paul Redmond's service compiled by my grandfather, James H. Redmond.
2. Hansen, A., Gentlemen Volunteers, The Story of the American Ambulance Drivers in the Great War, August 1914-September 1918, Arcade Publishing, Inc., New York, 1996.
3. "The AFS Story," (includes a roster of American Field Service Volunteers, 1914-1917), at ourstory.info. Accessed January 2017. There is a menu bar down the left hand side of the page, click on "The Great War" and that page will have a link to the roster.
4. "In the American Ambulance Field Service, 1916" at EyeWitnessstoHistory.com. Accessed January 2017.
5. "United States Passport Applications, 1795-1925," database with images at familysearch.org. Accessed May 2016.
6. "World War I, The Ambulance Service," U. S. Army Medical Department, Office of Medical History, at [history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/History of USArmy MSC/chapter2](http://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/History%20of%20USArmy%20MSC/chapter2). Accessed January 2017
7. "Cunard Liners, Martin's Marine Engineering Page," at dieselduck.info/historical. Accessed January 2017.

A World War One Hero

Joanne Delaney #2850

Joseph Francis DeCota, Jr. was born 3 October 1896 in Charlestown, MA. His parents were Joseph F. DeCota Sr. born in Charlestown, (son of Francis Cota, born in New Brunswick, and Margaret McLaughlin, born in Ireland), and Mary Boyle, born in Scotland, (daughter of Mary Ann McKenzie, born in Scotland).

Joseph Sr. was a teamster who later owned his own trucking company. Mary, sadly, passed away in 1911 at 36 years old, from pneumonia. She left four children, the youngest only 9 months old. Joseph Sr. remarried in 1912, which didn't sit well with Joe Jr. According to family lore, he intensely disliked his step-mother, and moved out to live in the stables where his father worked. In July of 1913, a few months before his 17th birthday he enlisted in the US Army. Again according to family lore, he lied about his age to enlist. Early years in the Army are still unclear, although he was involved in "troubles at the Mexican border", was promoted to Corporal, and did receive a "Mexican Border Service" medal.

However, what is known is that Joe Jr. served in Company B, 101st Infantry Regiment, 26th Division, A.E.F., in World War One. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest medal awarded to US Army personnel, for "extraordinary heroism in action" during the Battle of Verdun, on October 23, 1918. The citation read "During the thickest of the fight, while advancing near Molleville, Sergeant DeCota was wounded and rendered unconscious when a large piece of shell lodged in his arm. Finally another soldier found that the weak thread of his pulse was still throbbing, and forced a drink of water between his teeth. Recovering his senses, he rejoined his platoon, and led it during the attack. Although suffering from a painful wound, he remained on duty until ordered to the rear by his commander the next day". Earlier he had been wounded in the left hand, but quickly returned to duty. This injury was reported in *The Boston Globe* on July 10, 1918, among a listing of New England men wounded or killed

in Europe. Other battles he participated in include: Chemin de Dames Feb-March, 1918; Chateau Thierry July 1918; Marne Offensive July 1918; St. Michel offensive Sept 1918; and the Argonne offensive Oct-Nov. 1918. He was demobilized 15 November 1918, and honorably discharged 28 April 1919.

His name appears in *The Boston Globe* several times in over the next few months. On April 7, 1919 while still on active duty at Camp Devens, he was among a group of soldiers given leave to visit relatives, and according to the *Globe*, were "Given royal welcome" as they arrived in Boston. The April 25, 1919 edition of the *Globe* had a full page article dedicated to "Those Stout-Hearted Lads", New Englanders who were awarded citations for valor.

On May 17, 1919, the newspaper reported on the "Big Bonfire", ending the two-day welcome home celebration in Charlestown, which was lighted by Sergeant DeCota and Miss Catherine McSweeney who was to be his bride. Then, on July 3, 1919, an article under the "Bunker Hill District" heading described the shower thrown by friends of Miss Catherine McSweeney, followed on July 22, 1919, by an announcement of his receiving the Croix De



Guerre from the French Government for his heroism at Verdun, as well as his participation in the battles of Belleau Woods, Chateau-Thierry and the Argonne Forest. Finally, on July 28,

1919, was the announcement of his marriage to Miss Catherine McSweeney on the previous evening.

In 1921, their first child was born, a son named James Joseph, (1921-2015) who was to become my father. By 1924, they had moved to Brookline, where Joe worked for the

DPW, first as a mechanic, later as a foreman. The couple had 3 more children: Mary Theresa (1922-1991); Catherine Marie, (living); and Joseph Francis III (1932-2004). Joe joined the VFW, where he later became Commander, and appeared in several more newspaper reports in this role.

In the Depression years, like everyone else, he had difficulty supporting his family. At one point, he took a job in a mill in Lawrence MA. After only a few days on the job, he was injured in an accident whose details I have been unable to discover, broke both legs, and was essentially disabled for the next two years. Kate became his caregiver, and "therapist" while raising three children, and somehow keeping all of them fed, etc. I think she was as much of a hero as he, during those years. I've no idea how they survived, but they did somehow, until he eventually returned to working for the DPW. In fact, he worked for Brookline for the remainder of his career, and only moved to Roslindale in the 1960s. They appear to have lived a quiet, normal, uneventful life, working, raising children, being grandparents and role models.

He died in the Veteran's Hospital in Boston on March 30, 1977 and is buried at Walnut Hill Cemetery in Brookline. Catherine lived until March 1, 1988, and is buried with him in Brookline. They live on in my heart and memory, and in that of other descendants. My children know of his heroism, and I hope to instill that in my grandchildren as well.

President's Message (continued)

So here is where you all come in... we need help to fill these positions! Without your help we may not have a newsletter and may not have a fully functioning Board. We need you to step forward. Please be assured that you will have the assistance of others already working for TIARA. If you are hesitant about involvement, get in touch with any of us (all our emails are on the front page of the TIARA website) and ask questions. It's Your TIARA!

A World War One Family

Susan Steele #1025

The photograph of Isabel McShane and Charles Reardon (see cover page) had a place of honor in my mother's room. It was her parents' wedding portrait. After my mother's death, I acquired the framed photo and gave it place of honor in my home. I began to research the story behind the photo.

My grandparents' wedding took place in Malden, Massachusetts on March 4, 1918, so I had assumed that my grandfather was wearing a World War One service uniform. Information obtained from my grandfather's obituary and veteran's headstone stated that he served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Service Signal Corps.

TIARA member, Virginia Wright, gave me the email contact for the Military Archives Supervisor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Military Division in Concord. This was where I would obtain WW1 service records. My request was answered promptly. I received scans of cards detailing Charles Reardon's service from enlistment on Dec. 4, 1917 to discharge on Jan. 3, 1919. He had spent his beginning months as a private training at aviation schools in Texas and Georgia. In March of 1918, he was commissioned as a lieutenant and must have had a leave long enough to get married before he resumed duties at aviation training fields in Texas, Washington, DC and Arkansas. He did not go overseas and was honorably discharged on January 3, 1919.

Charles' younger brother, Philip, was also in the service as well as Isabel's brother, Richard McShane. Three members of the extended family were away from home. What was life like for those left behind?

My World War One family research coincided with a Foresters Project presentation I was preparing with Virginia Wright. We were documenting women's roles during the war. Our examination of Foresters' records and additional research helped shed light on the ways women and other family members contributed to the war effort.

Before and after her marriage, Isabel McShane lived at home in a large household that included her parents, her brother, two sisters, and various relatives. Isabel's mother, Catherine Desmond McShane managed the household. Outside the home, Catherine was a member of the Assumption Court of Foresters and an active member of Immaculate Conception Parish.

Virginia and I had read Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters reports on activities during the war. Early in 1917, Foresters statewide leader, Dr. Helen McGillicuddy, organized the Woman's Preparedness Society. Twenty thousand women joined that Society. They raised thousands of dollars to purchase material for surgical gowns and dressings. The society also participated in food conservation exhibits. Dr. McGillicuddy was a prime example of the many activist women who organized volunteer efforts throughout the war. Her leadership inspired calls to action at Foresters headquarters in Boston and in many local courts.

As a member of the Foresters and her parish, Catherine would have been involved in Preparedness Groups. Forester courts and parishes worked with Civilian Relief and with the Red Cross. This work prepared women to be "Kitchen Soldiers" conserving food needed for the troops, observing "Meatless, Wheatless and Porkless" days and planting gardens to increase food supplies.

I examined many editions of Malden and other newspapers from 1917 to 1919. Wartime news stories and city volunteer efforts occupied front pages and were spread throughout the editions. There were specific appeals to women - contests for bread making and preserving of fruits & vegetables. The Foresters and other groups sponsored food conservation demonstrations. Recipes were provided and were printed in newspapers. Patriotic appeals such as the slogan "Serve by Saving" were part of a nationwide campaign run by the United States Food Administration. All ages were included in food conservation activities. There were stories about workshops teaching girls and boys how to can food and articles about a garden tended by Malden grammar school students.

Many high school students were involved with Red Cross activities. One article boasted that Malden High placed first in a Massachusetts tally with over 4000 bandages made. The Malden High valedictorian's speech praised the volunteer efforts of students. Girls Catholic, the school that Isabel McShane's younger sister attended, was noted in a Malden Evening News article describing a sewing club working on clothing articles for war refugees.

Some high school and older girls joined the ranks of women filling jobs such as those at the Malden's branch of Boston Rubber Shoe. Several of Charles Reardon's sisters were employed there. The Boston Rubber Shoe products included the "Pershing Boot" named after the general and created in large numbers for the troops.

The Malden newspapers also told of men's work. In addition to the listing of the names of Malden men as they joined the service, there were letters of wartime support from citizens including the McShanes. There were also weekly lists of organizations and citizens purchasing Liberty Bonds - the financial avenue for citizens' support of the war. There were numerous stories about parish groups, civic organizations and individuals who organized drives to purchase bonds.

These were just some of the activities that helped me understand what life may have been like for families like the McShanes and Reardons during the war years. World War I affected family life in many ways, and in turn there were significant ways family members contributed to the war effort.

Sources:

Massachusetts Military Service Records
Office of the Adjutant General
Archives-Museum Branch

91 Everett St, Concord, MA 01742

Email: ng.ma.maarnng.mbx.museum@mail.mil

Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters Records

Archives & Special Collections, Healey Library
University of Massachusetts Boston

<http://blogs.umb.edu/archives/collections/foresters/>

Research in the Registry of Deeds in Dublin

William Roulston

I remember the day well – 30 April 2004. I had travelled back to the family farm in the townland of Gortavea by the banks of the River Foyle in County Tyrone, for my brother's wedding on the following day. When I arrived I was shown a bundle of documents that my father had brought back from the solicitor's office in Strabane where he had been on some routine business earlier in the week. We had not previously been aware of these items and what we found was genealogical gold. Two items in particular were of immense significance for us.

The first was the will made by my great-great-great-grandfather Robert Rolleston (as he spelled his surname). It was dated 16 July 1847 with a codicil of 18 November 1853. (A full transcript can be read at <http://www.cotyronaire-land.com/wills/rollestonrobert.html>.) The will named his four sons. We were already aware of three of them: Thomas (my great-great-grandfather), James and William. The fourth was Hugh Love – Love being the maiden name of Robert's wife Mary – who, according to the will, was on the island of Antigua in the West Indies, though for what reason we have yet to discover; subsequently, he returned to County Tyrone, married, and then emigrated to Australia.

Robert's will also included the name of his brother, Rev. Thomas Rolleston. This was a major step forward for we had not been aware of this family relationship before. Thomas was a minister in the Church of Ireland, serving a number of parishes in the dioceses of Derry and Raphoe over the course of his career. We were also able to trace a record of his education at Trinity College Dublin from where he graduated BA in 1809. In the TCD matriculation album his father was named as James 'Rolston' who was designated 'generosus' or gentleman. So now we were able to go back a further generation in the family tree.

The second of the two major finds from the bundle of documentation recovered from the solicitor's office in Strabane was even earlier

in date. It was the original lease for the farm in Gortavea and was dated 31 January 1835. The lease had been issued to Robert Rolleston by the 2nd Marquess of Abercorn, whose family had owned Gortavea and the surrounding townlands since the early seventeenth century. It was a pre-printed document with gaps for personal names and place-names, which were filled in by hand. The question that we were now asking ourselves was: how long had Robert been in occupation of his farm in Gortavea prior to 1835? This was where the Registry of Deeds was able to provide the answer.

The Registry of Deeds

The Registry of Deeds was established by an act passed in the Irish Parliament in 1707. The aim of the act was to provide one central office in Dublin 'for the public registering of all deeds, conveyances and wills that shall be made of any honours, manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments'. In other words, documents relating to the transfer of title to land could be registered. The legislation that created the Registry of Deeds, which opened in 1708, was part of the Penal Laws that were designed to preserve the privileged position of the Anglican elite by restricting the rights of Catholics.

To begin with the Registry was principally used by middle and upper class members of the Church of Ireland, though this does not mean that persons of other denominations and from further down the social scale will find no mention in it. A popular misconception of the Registry of Deeds is that it is of little value for those researching families below the level of the elite. In fact, a significant number of deeds concern or make reference to tenant farmers, merchants and tradesmen. Having said that, it must be acknowledged that large swathes of Irish society, for both economic and social reasons, will generally not be found in the Registry of Deeds. Furthermore, it must also be understood that the registered deeds represent only a fraction of all the deeds executed.

In terms of their genealogical value, the registered deeds provide the researcher with names, addresses and occupations of the parties involved. Sometimes several generations

of the one family can be found in a single deed. In addition, the names, addresses and occupations of those who acted as witnesses will be recorded, and sometimes even the names of the occupiers of adjoining properties. In the course of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries the Registry of Deeds became increasingly popular and by 1832 more than 500,000 deeds had been registered there.

The registration process can be summarised as follows: a deed was drawn up between two or more parties; one of those parties felt that it would be advantageous to register the deed in the Registry of Deeds in Dublin; a copy, known as a memorial, of the original deed was made and this was taken to the Registry of Deeds; here the memorial was copied into a transcript volume by a clerk. The transcript volumes – large and cumbersome books that have been referred to as ‘tombstones’ – are available for public inspection. The memorials were retained and these are stored in the vaults at the Registry of Deeds.

Each registered memorial was numbered. In the indexes to the deeds, the volume and the page are also given. For example, the reference 18.236.8764 means that this particular deed is on page 236 of volume 18 and is number 8764. This referencing system was used until 1832. After that the individual reference includes the year in which the deed was registered.

Two indexes are available to the researcher: the Index of Grantors and the Lands Index. Prior to 1833 the Index of the Grantors gives the surname and the Christian name of the grantor, the surname of the grantee and the volume, page number and deed number. There is no indication of the location of the property concerned. After 1832 the Index of Grantors includes the county in which the property is located (though this is not necessarily the same as the county in which the parties resided) and the full name of the grantee.

The Lands Index is arranged by county, with one or more counties per volume. The entries are arranged alphabetically, but only with re-

gard to initial letter. Each entry gives the surnames of the parties, the name of the denomination of land, and the volume, page number and memorial number. There is a column for the name of the barony, though this is not always filled in; occasionally the name of the manor or parish in which the property is located is given here. After 1828 the Lands Index is subdivided by barony.

Deeds relating to corporate towns (that is, towns that had received a charter of incorporation which, among other things, allowed them to two members to the Irish House of Commons in Dublin) are indexed separately from the rest of the deeds for a particular county. Frequently the index will provide a more precise location for a property in a corporate town than for a rural landholding, including for example the name of the street, or the names of the occupiers of neighbouring tenements.

Since the 1830s the Registry of Deeds has been located in a large Georgian building in Henrietta Street, Dublin. The main entrance for vehicles is off Constitution Hill. The Registry is open to the public free of charge each week from Monday to Friday, 10.00am to 4.30pm. Visitors sign in at the reception desk and then make their way to the top floor of the building where the indexes and transcript volumes are available for inspection. Visitors can make notes from the volumes, but photography is strictly forbidden.

It is possible to order a copy of a memorial of interest. Copies cost €20 per deed irrespective of how many pages are contained within it. It takes approximately five working days to receive in UK/Ireland, longer for deeds posted overseas. For more information go to <http://www.prai.ie/registry-of-deeds-services>.

Microfilm copies of the indexes and memorial volumes are available through the LDS and other archives, such as the National Library of Ireland and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Recently FamilySearch has begun releasing digitised versions of these microfilms on its website. See <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/185720>. A Registry of Deeds Index Project has been running

for a number of years and so far this has created over 224,000 index entries from over 25,000 memorials. See <http://irishdeedsindex.net>.

The range of documents registered

A broad range of documents concerned with the transfer of legal title to land were registered. The principal categories are highlighted below.

Sales/leases

The legal jargon used in the deeds means that it is often impossible to identify an outright sale of a piece of property. Furthermore, many 'sales' were conveyances of property held under long-term lease. Much more common than deeds relating to the sale of property are deeds concerning the leasing of land. Leases for lives (in other words, a lease that would not expire until individuals specifically named in the deed had died) are particularly valuable as the named 'lives' were often family members.

Some Irish landowners made greater use of the Registry of Deeds than others. For example, for the manor Ardstraw in County Tyrone, possessed by the McCausland family in the early eighteenth century, there are over a dozen registered leases from the 1720s containing the names of about 100 tenant farmers. Others, however, rarely used the Registry of Deeds to record transactions with their tenants. In fact, for some major estates there are no registered leases for the eighteenth century.

Marriage settlements

A marriage settlement was the agreement made between the families of the prospective bride and groom prior to their wedding. The main aim was to provide financial security to the wife should she outlive her husband. The information in this type of deed varies, but can include the names and addresses of a large number of people from the two families involved. Occasionally the more detailed settlements include lists of names of tenants living on the lands of the groom's family. For example, the marriage settlement of 1734 involving Lord Mountjoy included a list of tenants on his Newtown Stewart estate in County Tyrone.

Mortgages/rent charges

In the era before banks were widespread, mortgages were commonly used as a ready means of raising capital, particularly by merchants engaged in trade and those seeking to buy land. Rent charges were annual payments issuing from nominated lands and were used to pay off debts or provide for family members without an adequate income.

Bills of discovery

Bills of discovery were issued against Catholics holding lands on terms forbidden under the Penal Laws. The Protestant filing the bill was able to claim the lands affected. In many cases the bill was filed by a Protestant friend of the Catholic in order to pre-empt a less sympathetic discovery.

Wills

A large number of wills were registered. A will was usually registered if there were concerns that it was going to be contested. Abstracts of over 2,000 wills registered between 1708 and 1832 were published in three volumes by the Irish Manuscripts Commission: P. B. Phair & E. Ellis (eds), *Registry of Deeds Dublin: Abstracts of wills (1954-88)*.

Robert Rolleston's deed for Gortavea

Research in the Registry of Deeds did indeed provide us with the answer to the question of how long Robert Rolleston had been resident in Gortavea prior to 1835. Furthermore, we also discovered where he had lived prior to his move to this townland. Looking through the lands index, a deed concerning the townland of Gortavea where the parties were named as Hamilton and Rolleston was identified. The full reference to his deed was transcript volume 859, page 311, and memorial number 5733111. The next step was to lift volume 859 down from the shelves and turn to the relevant page. The deed was stated to be 'an indenture of assignment' and it was dated 25 February 1830. The parties of the deed were named as:

- 1) Jane Hamilton of Gortavea, widow of James Hamilton, farmer
- 2) John Hamilton of Loughash, eldest son of James and Jane
- 3) Thomas Hamilton of Gortavey, second son of James and Jane

4) Robert Rolleston of Gannaghan, County Tyrone, farmer

The witnesses were named as William Hatrick of Creaghcor, gentleman, and William Glasse of Strabane, gentleman and attorney at law. Under the terms of this deed the Hamiltons transferred their property in Gortavea to Robert. It was not an outright sale for the land in question was owned by the Marquess of Abercorn and the Hamiltons were simply tenant farmers. However, in a sense the Hamiltons were 'selling' to Robert the right to occupy their farm. The Hamiltons did not travel far from Gortavea for they simply moved across the River Foyle to County Donegal and took up residence on a farm in the townland of Maymore – less than a mile as the crow flies from Gortavea – where their descendants continue to farm to this day.

Thanks to the discovery of this conveyance in the Registry of Deeds we learned that Robert Rolleston had been resident in Gortavea for just under five years prior to being issued with a lease in 1835. We had also discovered that he was 'of Gannaghan' in County Tyrone at the time he acquired possession of this farm. But where was Gannaghan? There was a clue in Robert funeral card, which still survives. This stated that his body was to be removed to Castlederg for burial on 21 January 1854. A little over a mile south of the town of Castlederg is the townland of Ganvaghan – strictly speaking three townlands named Ganvaghan Hemphill, Ganvaghan Kyle and Ganvaghan Semple. Some further research identified a Roulston farm in the first of these in the early nineteenth century, which, based on other findings, was probably occupied by Robert's brother.

Ganvaghan is nearly 20 miles from Gortavea. What had prompted Robert Rolleston, who, in 1830, was in his late forties, to make this move? This has still to be fully established, but it seems that he was a younger son and the relocation to Gortavea provided him with an opportunity to acquire a farm of his own. A year or so before her death in October 2007 I drove my octogenarian grandmother to the old Rolleston farm in Ganvaghan. Little remained from my great-great-great-grandfather's day, but, still, it allowed us to become

acquainted with a landscape he would have known intimately.

Conclusion

These forays into my own family history have demonstrated something of the value of the Registry of Deeds in uncovering details about my Roulston forebears. Had it not been for the Registry of Deeds we would not know when the family first moved to Gortavea and neither would we know where they had lived prior to this.

For over fifteen years I have been bringing groups of researchers to the Registry of Deeds as part of the Ulster Historical Foundation's family history conferences. In the nature of things, some people spend a rather frustrating day there, finding little about their ancestors. On the other hand, others make significant breakthroughs, uncovering new family lines that open up further avenues of research. One lady even spotted a framed copy of a deed relating to her ancestors on the stairs of the Registry of Deeds.

Although the layout of the building can be confusing, the arrangement of the records may appear somewhat haphazard, the transcript volumes undoubtedly heavy and cumbersome, the handwriting often testing, and the legalese frequently bewildering, the Registry of Deeds is unlike any other archive in Ireland. While access to its resources is possible through other means – and increasingly so via the Internet – it is still well worth a visit during a research trip to Dublin, if only for the experience of having used it.

Dr. William Roulston is Research Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation and has a PhD in Archaeology from Queen's University Belfast. He is a Member of Council of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland, a Member of Council of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. He is the author of [Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors](#) (Belfast, 2005), [Restoration Strabane, 1660-1714](#) (Dublin, 2007), [Three centuries of life in a Tyrone parish: a history of Donagheady from 1600 to 1900](#) (Strabane, 2010), [Abercorn: The Hamiltons of Barons Court](#) (Belfast, 2014) and [Foyle Valley Covenanters](#) (2015).

Website Updates

Virginia Wright #2480

Historic Catholic Records Online Project

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston (RCAB) and the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) have partnered to create an online searchable database of millions of sacramental records of 154 parishes covering 84 towns in the greater Boston area. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Sacramental Records (1789-1900) will be a significant resource for those researchers whose ancestors were located in this area before 1900. This ongoing project will take several years to complete.

The majority of the database will be sacramental records of Baptism and Marriage, with the records of the sacraments Holy Communion, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick included when available. Now online in browsable only (not indexed) format are the records of the Boston parishes that represent some early Catholic immigrant groups in the Boston area. They include Holy Cross Cathedral, Holy Trinity (German), Immaculate Conception (Irish), and Our Lady of Victories (French Canadian). Recent additions to the database include the records of Sacred Heart, St. Cecelia and St Joseph parishes in Boston, St. Teresa of Avila in West Roxbury, the mission of St. Johns, New Brunswick (1816-1819) and Providence, Rhode Island mission (1828-1830). Scanning of the records will continue and once all the sacramental registers of a parish are digitized, they will be made available online. Name searchable records will be available later this year only for NEHGS members. The records are browsable by non-members but a free online registration is required.

The Catholic Records database is accessed at <http://CatholicRecords.AmericanAncestors.org>. Scrolling down under the project logo on the left (the image of St Brigid of Ireland) are three links: 'Sign up free to see parish records', 'how to browse records' and 'support this project.' Clicking on the 'Sign up free to see parish records' will bring you to the page where you can create a guest member account or log in with your NEHGS account. The 'How

to browse records' link will bring you to an instructional video that will facilitate your browse-searches, since locating records in this database can be different from parish to parish and volume to volume of a given parish. The 'Support this project' link will bring you to a page where volunteer or monetary support can be given. Since the progress of the Historic Catholic Records Online Project depends on how quickly it is fully funded, NEHGS has created the Historic Catholic Records Fund with a goal of \$1 million to support the preservation, digitization, and indexing of the church records. Volunteer support is also requested for scanning and indexing the records.

The CatholicRecords.AmericanAncestors.org website also details the history of the Catholic Church in Boston and eastern Massachusetts. A timeline and map show the parish growth in Greater Boston from the earliest records through 1900.

PRONI Historical Maps Application

The Public Record of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and the Land and Property Service (Ordinance Survey and Spatial NI) have collaborated to digitize and make available on line a range of historic ordinance Survey maps held in the PRONI archive for the six counties now part of Northern Ireland. The following maps from the 6" County Series mapping are available on the Historic Maps application:

1. Edition 1 (1832 – 1846)
2. Edition 2 (1846 – 1862)
3. Edition 3 (1900 - 1907)
4. Edition 4 (1905 – 1957)
5. Edition 5 (1919 – 1963)

Also included are the 6" Irish Grid (1952 – 1963) and 1:10,000 metric Irish Grid (1957 – 1986) map. Four modern maps are also available as selectable base layers. When using the PRONI viewing program, the selected base layer is displayed and one may select from various overlays. The base layers are:

1. OSNI Basemap of Northern Ireland - a composite of various OSNI map data sets providing a clear presentation of larger features such as 1:50,000 vector (linear drawings) and large-scale

data. For example, on this base one sees roads, buildings, elevation contour lines, names, and water bodies. This map strikes a balance between excessive detail that might obscure items of interest and elimination of fine details that might be important locators.

2. An OSNI Aerial Imagery - mosaic of Northern Ireland containing detailed images, distortion corrected, of direct overhead aerial photography of the six counties. This imagery does not continue into the Republic of Ireland. Combined with the other data, it allows a user to see what diagrammed renderings in the other maps look like as actual visuals.
3. An ONSI 10K Raster which is derived directly from the OSNI branded large-scale database. It is a standard map with clear, detailed graphics and text information on roads, buildings, fields, administrative boundaries, water features, and vegetation. This is further overlaid on this same base layer by contours at 10 meter height differences.
4. ONSI 50K Raster is the same set of features as the 10K but at a 5 times greater level of detail. Thus, all the items in the 10k are shown in much greater precision. This level provides more detail, but it may create a crowded view when used to compare with other layers. If that is the case, the view can be decluttered somewhat by going to the 10K raster.

Other modern data sets may be overlaid by user selection. These datasets are always visible when selected no matter which map layer has been selected. When unselected, these items do not appear on the map display. These additional datasets are:

1. County Boundaries
2. Current Townland and Parish Boundaries
3. Points of Interest – landmarks, schools, important government and

church buildings, graveyards, hospitals, etc. Mouse over the POI and click for an annotated explanation of it.

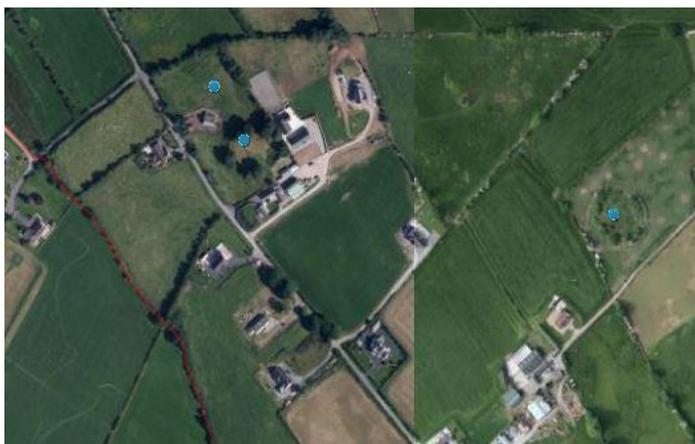
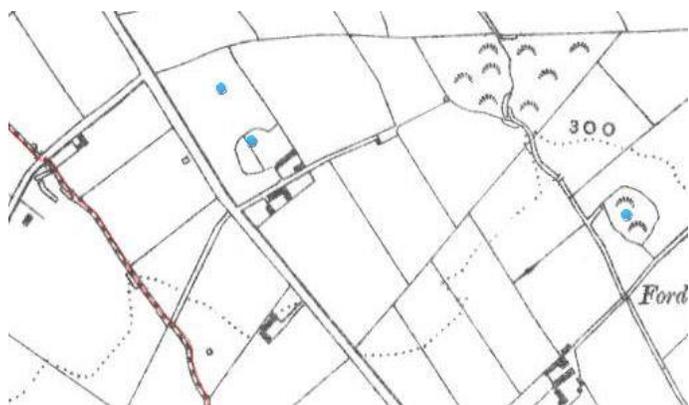
4. Historic/Archeological Sites and Monuments – Mouse over and click for explanation.

This PRONI tool allows the user to hone in on a specific area and then investigate what it looked like (on a map) over the years. And most important, you can see what it looks like now in case you plan to go there. The PRONI website recommends the new user to read a bit on how the map application works before starting to use it, and that's a good idea. Selecting the '?' icon in the upper right of the window will give information on using the PRONI Historical Maps app and a link to a more detailed user guide with sample screenshots and explanation of key functions.

Once the application starts, the user selects one of the four base maps to use. The app allows you to also select the other maps and datasets you want to overlay. The selection and study tools for this are activated by clicking on an icon in the upper right of the window.

Of special interest is a tool that allows the user to put up an historic map as an overlay, and then slowly fade from the historic data to the base map allowing a very useful visual comparison of the two. This can also be done with two of the historic maps.

In the following illustration, four images from the tool show the same somewhat triangular lot in the townland Tievecrom in the southern part of Armagh. The first image is the Edition 3 historic map of the area. The second has slightly faded in the Aerial View base map. The several buildings added on this lot in the time from the early 20th century to the present time begin to be visible. The third has brought in the aerial map more fully. In the final view, the historic map is completely hidden. To access the slider tool, the down arrow to the right of the historic map of interest was selected and then the Transparency option from the drop down list was chosen. By dragging the tool slider back and forth, one can



make the two maps fade into each other as quickly as desired.

In this example, the boundaries and points of interest overlays were selected. Cairn and rath monuments are the small dots above and left of the buildings. There is a second ring fort near the right edge of the images. Clicking on the monument symbol will identify and provide information about the point of interest.

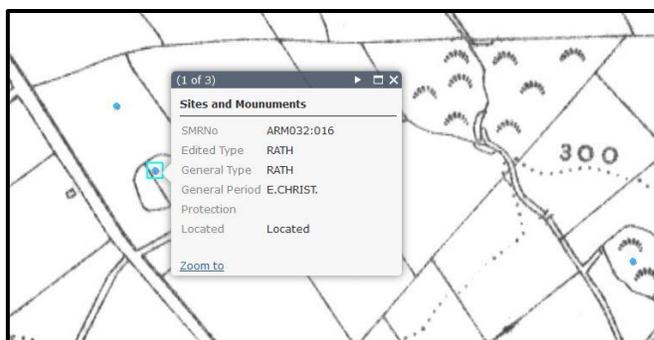
A second tool called “sweep” allows the user to sweep a vertical bar across the map display, with one map to the left and the second map to the right. This creates an interesting animation of the maps morphing from one to the other.

A user may select one, a few or all of the overlays, but they will not ALL be displayed. The historic maps will be shown newest to oldest, and only the newest will be displayed. The fade and sweep tools will only work from the newest historic map selected to the next oldest historic map selected. The secret is to only select the maps you wish to work with and deselect the rest. If you only select one historic map, you can then compare it with a modern base map (also selected) as shown in the example.

This discussion is far from a complete tutorial, but it should serve as an indication of what this new PRONI service can do. Wouldn't it be nice if all mapping agencies provided a tool like this?

The PRONI Historical Maps application is accessed at:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-proni-historical-maps-viewer>.



Identification display for selected site or monument

The Mysterious Thomas Tuffy

Thomas Toohey #2705

My parents were great storytellers. They knew hundreds of stories and loved to tell them. When they passed away, I collected their stories in a two-volume book entitled Images of other Lives. As I recorded these stories, I read them to others in the family who suggested improvements and additions. After several re-writings, I published them for family members.

There were, however, fragments of stories that were not included in the book. The details of these stories died with the older generation. These stories needed to be investigated but in the 1980s and 1990s, I did not have the research skills to complete the task. This article describes one of the stories that I studied in recent years.

Thomas Tuffy

Those of you who know me well know that although my name is "Toohey" my ancestors were known as "Tuffys" (Ó Toghda). When my great Uncle Johnny Tuffy came to America from Sligo, he worked for the Fitchburg Railroad. The paymaster gave him his pay in an envelope marked "Tuohey" and told him that it was his American name. From that time forward all my American Tuffys became either Tuohey, Toohey or Touhey.

The Tooheys in my branch of the family were very clannish and gathered frequently to drink and tell stories about "the olden days." Their biggest annual gathering was on July 4 when they met at our family cottage at Sadawga Lake, Vermont. Most of the Tooheys lived in western Massachusetts but a few came from Boston and New York.

I remember well the gathering on July 4, 1963. Several relatives had recently died and the visitors from the cities wanted to know the circumstances of their deaths. The locals filled them in on these details and the conversation transgressed to a general discussion of how several other relatives had died. My Uncle Joe mentioned an Owen Rooney who had starved to death in the famine and everyone sadly nodded his or her head. Then my father,

not wanting to be outdone, said, "And then there was the Thomas Toohey (Tuffy) who was hanged..." Joe quickly jumped in to say, "We don't talk about that!"

Naturally, I was curious about my namesake but members of my generation were expected to be silent and not ask questions. Later I asked my father about Thomas but he would not tell me anything saying, "We don't talk about that!"

Fast forward forty years and I had almost forgotten my father's reference to the Thomas who was hanged. About twelve years ago, I attended a TIARA/NEHGS conference at NEHGS in Boston. The lectures were wonderful but my best discovery of the day occurred after the formal program. I went into the rolling stacks of books in the back of the first floor at the society to look for local histories of Ireland and I found the books about Sligo. Among them was a book entitled Olde Sligoe by J.C. McTernan. I flipped open the book and found a page that listed all the people who were hanged in Sligo in the 19th Century. One of those listed was a Thomas Tuffy who was hanged in 1835!

There were few details about Thomas in the book but the next time I went to Ireland I went to the National Library in Dublin and found microfilm of the Sligo Journal newspaper from 1835. The details of the story follow:

From the newspaper I learned that Dudley Hanly and Thomas Tuffy were neighbors in Rathlee, County Sligo. On May 23, 1835, Dudley left his home on his horse cart with five sacks of potatoes to sell in the town of Ballina about fourteen miles away. After selling his produce, he returned late at night along the coast road. While traveling through the townland of Castleconnor, Dudley was attacked by several men who pelted him with rocks. Dudley was battered and bleeding but he managed to keep aboard his cart and drove his horse forward toward the safety of his home. When he reached Quigaboy in County Sligo his horse was tired so he stopped to rest.

Unknown to him his assailants were in pursuit and they attacked him again. This time he saw who they were. They were Thomas

Tuffy, his teenage son Denis and a neighbor, Owen Healey. At Quigaboy, Thomas grabbed another rock and plummeted Dudley with it about the head. He would have finished him off but James Strain and Robert Smith who lived nearby heard the commotion and interrupted the assault. The attackers escaped by jumping over a wall and running away. Hanly's horse bolted and ran up the road dragging its cart. Dudley fell from the cart a short distance away.

When the horse arrived home without its driver, Dudley's wife and daughter hurried down the road to see what happened. They found him barely alive in a ditch by the side of the road. His daughter reached him first and heard him say that he couldn't believe that the Tuffys would do such a thing to him. He mumbled a bit for a few minutes but passed away as his wife arrived on the scene.

Mrs. Hanly reported the murder to the police and they investigated. They interviewed her, her daughter, Mr. Strain, Mr. Smith and Paddy Connaughton who had been on the road that night. The Tuffys and Healy went into hiding but before long the authorities found them and arrested them for murder. They also suspected that Connaughton was involved but they could not pin anything on him.

A jury was impaneled on July 23, 1835 and the trial held. After a short deliberation they found Thomas and Owen guilty of murder but recommended that Denis Tuffy be given leniency because of his age. On July 24th the judge sentenced Thomas and Owen to be hanged. Their sentence was carried out in the courtyard of the Sligo Gaol on July 27th. Five thousand spectators observed the hanging and the press reported the graphic details of the deaths. Thomas and Owen were buried in the jail graveyard and Denis was set free.

Five years after the hanging my great-great grandfather Patrick Tuffy married a Mary Hanly in the nearby townland of Lacken. Patrick died in 1847 during the famine but Mary and her children lived on in Cabragh, a townland that adjoins Rathlee. Another Dudley Hanly took over the Hanly holdings and continued to have conflicts with the Tuffys. He

brought my great-great grandmother Mary Tuffy and my great grandmother Catherine Tuffy to court on two occasions in the 1870s for disputes over land use but to my knowledge the two families never came to blows again.

When my grandfather, Thomas (Tuffy) Toohey, a 2nd generation product of a marriage between a Tuffy and a Hanly, immigrated to America, he brought the story of his namesake with him. While he evidently told the story to his children, he also cautioned them to keep it to themselves.

About ten years ago I attended a lecture given by the genealogist Marcia Melnyk. During her presentation, Marcia challenged us to save our family stories and prove them true or false. She rightly observed that the facts of our ancestors' existence were becoming more readily available every day but the stories were going into the ground with every death. Genealogists are good at collecting the facts of their ancestors' existence. These facts are like their bones. Their stories capture their flesh, their character and their spirit. We remember and honor them by saving their stories.

Next Issue

Has **DNA** testing been part of your genealogy research? Has it helped chip away at a brick wall? Connected you with kin or located a specific area of origin for an ancestor? Have you joined a surname group? Share the story of how DNA has helped your research and write a DNA-themed article for the Summer Issue of the TIARA Newsletter.

Do you have a research tip or a new resource to share with TIARA members? Submit your **nugget** of information to the newsletter.

Please send submissions to the newsletter to newsletter@tiara.ie. Submissions for the Summer Issue are requested by April 30, 2017.

The Heart of TIARA – Our Members

Pat Deal #3076

During the recent move from our old TIARA office we had the task of going through old files to determine what we should bring to the new location. In this process we were pleased to see that we still had original records on the founding of TIARA in 1983 and many membership lists from those early days. Another pleasant surprise was to recognize several names from those early lists who are still members of TIARA. Our Board voted to honor these early members by commissioning a unique TIARA lapel pin to present to them along with a certificate of recognition.

At the annual banquet in November we were able to recognize 10 long term members including founding members: Marie Daly, Sheila Fitzpatrick and John Saunders. In all, either at the banquet or through the mail we have honored the following forty members who had joined TIARA by 1990: Marie Ahearn, Marie Green Bryant, Patricia Burke, William and Mary Lou Cahalane, Robert Cavanaugh, Gerard Collins, Patricia Concannon, Eugene Courtney, Duane Crabtree, Phyllis Doherty, Janis Duffy, Joseph Graham, Martin Grealish, Margaret Hayes, Jim Holmes, John Hoye and Audrey McCarthy, Margaret Jenkins, Frank and Regina Kennedy, Cornelia Cassidy Koutoujian, John Lahiff, Judith Lang, Jean Lavigne-Kelley, Sheila Hubbard Macauley, Jim and Evelyn McElroy, James Murphy, William O'Meara, Mary Quinn, Barbara O'Brien Schweizer, Grace Simmons, Samuel Towne, Richard Tucker, Joseph West and Cynthia Winterhalter.

The certificate read: *“On behalf of TIARA we are pleased to present you with this recognition of your long term membership. Your ongoing interest in your Irish heritage or research is reflected in your loyalty in our organization. Your participation over the years is at the heart of TIARA and we want you to know how much it is appreciated. We hope that TIARA continues to be part of your life as you have been a part of the growth and vitality of ours.”* We heard back from several members who wrote about their TIARA memories or experiences.

Maureen (Mary) Quinn: *“I have many fond memories of the many meetings I used to attend at BC. They were always a great source of information. I especially enjoy the TIARA newsletter. The articles are always interesting and I look forward to receiving it.”*

John Hoye: *“I was very active many years ago and TIARA was very helpful in my quest for ancestors in the pre-computer days. Two trips to Ireland with TIARA were both very enjoyable and helpful with my research on ancestors.”*

Peggy Hayes: *“For many years I was able to attend meetings and even stayed at a Boston hotel for a conference. Your newsletter keeps me in touch with current events. So much easier to research my roots with a computer but I did enjoy digging in the cellar at City Hall.”*

Janis Duffy: *“At the December meeting I was presented with the certificate and TIARA pin. It is beautiful and is a nice gesture and I sincerely appreciate it.”*

John Lahiff: *“I would like to say ‘thank you’ for the TIARA pin I received recently. T’was unexpected and a pleasure to receive. Thank you and TIARA for what the organization is doing for Irish genealogy.”*

Joe West: *“I received your recent TIARA mailing and was quite thrilled to see that I am considered a long standing member...where have all these years gone. I feel very honored for the recognition.”*

Connie Koutoujian: *“I am delighted with my recognition pin and expect to wear it often.”*

Frank and Regina Kennedy: *“TIARA has been a major contributor to its field of Irish genealogy over many years. We extend our thanks to all the members who have done so much to make TIARA the successful organization it is today.”*

Our members, whether new or long term, are truly the heart of TIARA. As we continue to plan the future of TIARA, we hope to continue to recognize our loyal, longtime members.

Using irishgenealogy.ie.

Mary D. Coyne #3777

It pays to hang around the TIARA office because you pick up some useful information. Pat Deal told me about the site www.irishgenealogy.ie where you could search and see the original civil records for Irish births, marriages and deaths. I immediately investigated and found records that I had paid substantial money for at an earlier time. This set me off on several quests with great success.

You may narrow your search by specifying the Registration District for the county of interest. Sometimes these districts overlap two counties. There is a good map for determining Registration Districts at

<http://i.findmypast.com/websites/us/images/irish/ireland-vectmap10-fullpage.png>

The records cover all official records of Births: 1864 to 1915

Marriages: 1882 to 1940 (in progress – back to 1845)

Deaths: 1891 to 1965 (in progress – back to 1864)

After proving that you are not a robot and providing a name, you can choose your type of record. The results for the civil records will list the name, year, and registration district. If the complete image of the page is available, the word “Image” in brown font will appear at the bottom. Sometimes it will be just the numbers 1, 2, which means that there are two images. After clicking you will see the complete page where you must search for the name. This image can be printed (be sure to check ‘fit image to page’ on your printer screen.) or you can do a screen grab (shift-command-4 on Mac) or use the snipping tool on a Windows PC.

If the record is older, the image may not be available. In that case, the search page will state the name as well as other important information you will need to send for a record. These will be either the Group Registration ID, or a combination of Quarter, Volume and Page Numbers. If you want to order a certified copy of the record, it will cost €20. However, you can obtain a photocopy of the specific record

(not the whole page) for only €4. There is a required form to either fax or post to the Office of the Registrar General. Pay by credit card unless you have a checking account in an Irish bank. You may choose to receive your photocopy by either post or email. I chose email and the response was within about 10 days.

When I first went on the site, I easily found the form for the €4 copy but over Christmas the site was changed. At the start of your search, a second HELP window may open next to the search fields. If you click on “I want to get a copy of a certificate”, it will lead you to the form. You may also download a copy of the request form from the TIARA website if you cannot find it on irishgenealogy.ie.

Irishgenealogy.ie contains indexes and some images of Roman Catholic registers for Dublin City, the diocese of Kerry, and the diocese of Cork and Ross; the Church of Ireland registers for Dublin City, Kerry and Carlow; and, the Presbyterian registers for the Lurcan parish in Dublin. This site also connects with the 1901 and 1911 Census, Soldiers wills, and other sources such as property records, migration records, graveyards, etc.

Upcoming TIARA Meetings

Friday April 14, 2017 - 7:30 PM

Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm. G3.

Speaker: TBA

Friday May 12, 2017 - 7:30 PM

Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm. G3.

Speaker John Schnelle.

Boston-based Irish genealogist John Schnelle has a passion for land records, maps, and rural agriculture. He will describe his 'Townland Translator Database' - a tool intended to help make sense of Ireland's land valuation records.

Friday June 9, 2017 - 7:30 PM

Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm. G3. Speaker: TBA



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DATED MATERIAL

Upcoming Conferences, Workshops and Events

NERGC Conference 2017 “Using the Tools of Today and Tomorrow to Understand the Past”

MassMutual Convention Center, Springfield, MA

April 26-29, 2017

<http://www.nergc.org/2017-conference/>

FGS 2017 National Conference “Building Bridges to the Past”

David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA

August 30-September 2, 2017

<http://www.fgs.org/cpage.php?pt=43>