Our Lady of Lourdes, Jamaica Plain, 8th Grade Graduating Class, 1926
Courtesy of Brian Reynolds – Aunt Mary McCoy, First Row, Left corner
FROM THE PRESIDENT
By Mary E. Choppa

Welcome back to a new year for TIARA!

I am pleased to tell you that your new board has already been hard at work preparing for the coming year. Thanks to Kathy, Tom and Jay for continuing to help us in the transition. You’ll meet the new officers in this issue.

It’s fitting that the theme of this quarter’s newsletter is “School Days.” TIARA’s meetings run on a school year kind of schedule (September through June). We do remain active in the summer with festivals and attending other events. But that is also the time we get together with our living relatives and sometimes chase down a few of the deceased ones.

This July was a milestone for my sister and her family back in Ohio. While I was home to help celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary, I had a full day to myself to do a little more research on the family. I spent several hours at the Youngstown Public Library looking up some obituaries. I also took some time to read local accounts of some things I was curious about.

Several years ago, I went to the Mahoning County Vital Statistics office to get a death certificate for my great grandmother Mary SULLIVAN WARD who died in 1927. Somehow I had written the wrong certificate number from an index and the clerk could not find the record. It wasn’t busy, so she allowed me to fulfill the dream of every genealogist: I was allowed to look through the certificates myself. I happened upon several certificates for members of one family. All of them had died of gunshot wounds. I never had the time to follow up on the story. The story was shocking and very sad. A man killed almost all of his family and was killed by the police in a shootout.

I also wanted to find out more about one of my few Boston connections. Patrick F. KELLY was born in Boston in October 1865, according to his death certificate and obituary. It turns out the poor guy died of a fractured skull from a fall at the county courthouse. The obit also noted that he had gone there to pay his taxes! By reading more of the paper that day, I found out that the winter had been very harsh with sub-zero temps and icy conditions. Poor Patrick Kelly.

So on behalf of the new board, we hope you had a relaxing and productive summer. I also hope that you’re ready to start the new “school” year with TIARA as we embark on some new adventures and continue with some old ones.
MEET THE NEW BOARD

MARY E. CHOPPA
PRESIDENT

Mary Choppa (the E is for Elizabeth) was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. After obtaining her MA in European History, she set off for the East Coast to seek her fortune in Boston. She has worked in the patient accounting field since 1984, currently at the Cambridge Health Alliance. She has served as recording secretary, vice president and president of TIARA in the past. She credits TIARA members for helping her not only with her Irish ancestry, but her Italian roots as well. Surnames: WARD, KEELEY, SULLIVAN, CONNOLLY, LAVELLE, KELLY, MURPHY, CLARKE, CIOPPA and FUSCO.

MARGARET SULLIVAN
CO-VICE PRESIDENT

Margaret R. Sullivan is a 6th generation Bostonian who began researching her family after hearing rumors of a Civil War ancestor. She has used research skills honed during the hunt for her own ancestors to conduct pro bono research to document police officers killed in the line of duty over two centuries. A frequent lecturer at genealogical societies and area libraries, Margaret worked in higher education for many years before becoming archivist to the Boston Police Department in 2008.

GREG ATKINSON
CO-VICE PRESIDENT

Greg Atkinson has been researching his family tree for more than thirty years here in New England and with the help of TIARA in Ireland as well.

His mother’s family’s Irish roots are in Donegal (WARD, MURRAY, MCGROARY and MAGUIRE) and Roscommon (LEONARD and KELLY). Many of his ancestors fled the 1847 potato famine and settled in the Blackstone River Valley of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. One branch even settled in Manhattan during the 1850’s. For Greg, learning about one’s family is learning how one’s own family connected historically with past times, places and other families and the many sets of circumstances that brought them together from all over the globe. That connection and knowing how important his own connection to TIARA has been to his discovery of these many connections has meant he wanted to give something back to TIARA. This is why he is now serving as a co-vice president; to ensure that others will find the same sense of connection he has by growing his family tree with the help of TIARA.

SUSAN STEELE
CO-RECORDING SECRETARY

During the summer of 1992, I signed on as an Earthwatch volunteer on an archeological dig in Killarney National Forest. This was my first trip to Ireland. After a week of sifting soil in a Bronze Age mine, I began my own “dig” for Irish ancestors. A dozen trips later and countless hours in both Irish and US repositories - I’m still “digging” for REARDONS, DESMONDS, MCSHANES and O’NEILLS.

TIARA has provided lots of guidance along the way – speakers, workshops and tips from fellow researchers. I met many of those fellow researchers by participating in volunteer projects. A TIARA presentation by Janis Duffy inspired me to volunteer for her Passenger Ship List Project at the Massachusetts State Archives. Janis also inspired me to take on my next volunteer job in 1998, co-editing the TIARA Newsletter with Carlyln Cox.

Volunteer work on the Newsletter and at the State Archives had to be squeezed in during time off from my “real job” – teaching first grade in Wayland. When I retired after thirty-two years in front of the class, I reversed roles and became a student - completing a Certificate in Public History at Northeastern University.

By the time I entered Northeastern I had become involved with a new volunteer task – TIARA’s Foresters Project. The Foresters Project provided the subject for several papers at Northeastern as well as providing a new “classroom” for a teacher who couldn’t really leave that role behind! During my six years of directing the Foresters project, I worked with over fifty volunteers who contributed thousands of hours. I set goals, assigned tasks and planned next steps. I also made friends, met people with connections to my family, gained computer skills, discovered new ways to organize materials, learned many genealogy tips and found enough confidence to make presentations in front of adult audiences. I learned so much from my “students”!
As a new member of TIARA’s Board I encourage others to volunteer. The benefits await you!

**PAMELA HOLLAND**  
**CO-RECORDING SECRETARY**

Pam Holland lives in Westford, MA, and has been actively involved in genealogy research for over ten years. While she has not yet discovered any Irish ancestry on her side of the family her husband, Ian, is 100% Irish. He came to the US in 1987 from Cork City to earn a PhD in computer science at Northeastern University in Boston. She is researching the following names in Ireland: HOLLAND and HAYES from the Cork City area of County Cork; KEARNEY and TOBIN from Skibbereen, Co. Cork; and MORONEY and O’GRADY from County Limerick. Her own maternal ancestry research is focused on Germany, England, New York City and Ohio. She is currently working on a research project documenting her connections to the Ritter family of New York City who arrived from Palatinate Germany in 1739.

Having achieved a master of computer science degree from Northeastern University, Pam’s first career was in the field of computer programming but she is currently fully occupied as the mother of a middle school student and a high school Senior. She devotes her summer months to training for the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) bicycle ride. This is her fifth year riding in the 160 mile 2-day event and she has raised over $22,000 for cancer research to date. She is active in her community, volunteers for the League of Women Voters of Westford, serves on the board of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and for the past 10 years has been the organizer of Destination Imagination in Westford for grades K through 12. Further pursuing her passion for genealogy, Pam also volunteers for the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) and is on the board of the Merrimack Valley chapter of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists (MSOG).

**GARY SUTHERLAND**  
**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Gary Sutherland has over 25 years of insurance experience and holds the prestigious designation of Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC), an honor attained by only 2% of all insurance brokers.

Gary is the founder of North American Professional Liability Insurance Agency, LLC (NAPLIA) and he oversees the operation and direction of all insurance offices. He has owned his own property management company, been a licensed property assessor, and held the position of National Sales Manager overseeing three national professional liability programs.

Gary grew up in Auburndale, Newton before moving to Mattapoisett at age 13 with his family. Gary has lived in Natick since 1982, serving as a town meeting member for 10 years, also serving on the school board and Natick High School PTSO as co-president. Gary is married to Patrice and has three grown children. Gary spends his free time researching family history and genealogy.

(L-R) Margaret Sullivan, Pam Holland, Susan Steele, Mary Choppa, Gary Sutherland (missing Greg Atkinson). *Photo by John Thompson*

**THE FORESTERS GO TO COLLEGE!**  
By Susan Steele, Member #1025

No, it’s even more impressive…the Foresters went to a university – the University of Massachusetts, Boston. On August 13, 2011, Kathy Roscoe, past president of TIARA and Susan Steele, Director of the Foresters Project, supervised the transfer of records of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters from TIARA’s office and offsite storage to the University Archives and Special Collections, Joseph P. Healey Library, UMass Boston.

TIARA members Carolyn and Charlie Jack dismantled shelving units while a very hard working crew of four “heavy lifters” (thanks to Cesar, Tony, Brian and Steve!) worked for eight hours moving over 450 boxes to their new home. UMass students, Jeremy and Wendell, joined the unloading crew - making the long run from the loading dock go smoothly. This move took place almost exactly six years after TIARA completed the initial move of records from the headquarters of the currently titled, Catholic Association of Foresters.

Readers of this newsletter will be well aware of the thousands of hours TIARA volunteers have contributed to the Foresters Project in the past six years. So much has been accomplished!
Thousands of records were organized. More than 27,000 names were indexed and placed on the TIARA website. TIARA’s “Request for Research” program sent out Mortuary Records for over 500 Forester ancestors. In excess of 20,000 Mortuary Records were digitized by the Genealogical Society of Utah and will appear on familysearch.org sometime in the future.

TIARA has confidence that Joanne Riley, University Archivist at the Healey Library, will continue to improve access to this unique set of records. TIARA volunteers will work with University Archives staff answering requests for research and inputting death claim data for years beyond 1935. There will be a period of transition while UMass sorts and shelves the collection. Those interested in placing a request for records should use the TIARA Index to begin their research. Instructions for contacting the University Archives are provided. See link on TIARA’s home page www.tiara.ie

Dear TIARA Friends,

I just wanted to let you know that we have begun organizing the 400+ boxes of Foresters records that Kathy and her intrepid crew delivered here last Saturday. I’ve attached two photos below. Dale and his crew have located and shelved boxes 1 – 156 - so we are now up and running for 1879 – 1935, ready to fulfill research requests as they come in! (The fancy box labels are the next step ;)

Our Archives staff met this afternoon with Systems Analyst Brice Stacey, who is working up the data entry system for the 1935 – 40 records. That is coming along very nicely, and I think that the end result will please Carolyn Jack, Susan and the volunteers.

We continue to be amazed and impressed by the quality and scope of the work that the TIARA volunteers have lovingly accomplished under Susan’s direction. We are looking forward to meeting in later September to welcome all those who would like to continue their involvement with the project. Onward we go!

Joanne Riley
University Archivist
Joseph P. Healey Library
University of Massachusetts Boston
WE ASK; YOU ANSWER

What did you do on your summer vacation genealogy-wise?

Attending any conferences this coming year?

Do you have any of those multiple-generations-in-one-photo photos that you would be willing to share with your fellow TIARA members? (We can scan them for you if you don’t have personal access to a scanner).

We always had big family get-togethers at Thanksgiving and Christmas. How about your family? Any interesting stories or photos?

You can submit your answers by snail mail to the TIARA office, or by email to newsletter@tiara.ie

THIS AND THAT

While exploring the Youngstown Daily Vindicator on a trip back home this summer, I found this illustration from 26 January 1926. The fine print states: “The increasing importance of air transportation is illustrated by this map. Black lines show regular air routes, the heaviness of the lines showing the density of the traffic. Dotted lines are routes used occasionally.” Mary Choppa, Member #1791

Here is a picture of a bank that was used at the Blessed Sacrament School in Jamaica Plain, Boston. My sister said it was used to raise money for the missions in the early 60’s. They had a penny parade in her class every day. If you put a penny in the slot, it would nod at you as if saying Thank You. They stopped using it by the time I went there. Brian Reynolds, Member #2182

ARE YOU HEADED TO BANTRY OR GLENGARIFF FOR PLEASURE OR GENEALOGY RESEARCH?

A GREAT PLACE TO STAY IN BALLYLICKEY IS THE ARAN LODGE B&B

By Pat Stano-Carpenter, Member #3255

Enough cannot be said about the Aran Lodge B&B and especially the hosts, Deirdre & Joe O’Connell. Five of us thoroughly enjoyed ourselves last November, 2010 and can’t wait to return. We received an enormous amount of help from the O’Connell family. They ensured that our trip to Bantry, Glengariff, and other surrounding areas to see the land of our ancestors and do genealogy
research was successful. We really appreciated all the help and joy we received. They ensured we had a wonderful time and helped make sure we achieved our many genealogy research goals. I'd be remiss if I didn't let you know that Deirdre was a travel agent and Joe worked for the Ordnance Survey before becoming hosts of the Aran Lodge B&B. They made it easy for us. As I said above, we can't wait to return. (Service = Excellent; Sleep Quality = Excellent; Cleanliness = Excellent; Free Parking = Excellent; Rates = Reasonable)

Aran Lodge, Ballylickey, Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland
tel: +353 (0)27 50378 Cell/mobile +353 (0)86 0631 361 email: bookings@aran-lodge.com

Do you have a lodging recommendation for your fellow traveling TIARA researchers? Let us know.

NEVER GIVE UP ... OR HOW CHIPPING AWAY AT A BRICKWALL FOR 40 YEARS BRINGS RESULTS
By Kathy Sullivan, Member #3009

My great grandmother, Laura Josephine (Shaw) O'Sullivan, was my only great grandparent living at the time I was born. I remember visiting her once, in a nursing home, when I was 4 or 5 years old, with my father and brother.

When I first started working on my family tree, I neglected Laura Shaw. I had very little information, except that she was born in December of 1878 in Montreal. Over time, I pieced together her story from various documents. She came to Boston in 1886 (maybe) according to her brother's naturalization papers. Her mother's maiden name was McCarthy, according to his marriage record. But there was very little to go on.

I tried the 1881 Canadian census on FamilySearch.com, but there were no Shaw families who fit what I knew. My cousin June's aunt had a family Bible. In the Bible it was recorded that Laura's parents were Joseph and Mary Shaw, her sister Josephine was born in 1876, Laura in 1878, Mary Louise in 1881, Edith Amelia in 1883 and James in 1886. They were all born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. I knew from her mother's death record that her mother was born in Ireland.

I found one census record that had possibilities. The father was Joseph Chauveau and the mother was Mary A. There were three daughters, Josephine, age 5, Mary E, age 3 and Louisa M., age 3 months. The father and children were listed as French, and the mother as Irish. It seemed to fit as far as the parents were concerned. Josephine would be correct, and Mary Louise could be Louisa M. But I couldn't see how Laura Josephine could be Mary E.

I put Laura aside for a number of years, until this past March when I was watching a repeat of Rosie O'Donnell on Who Do You Think You Are. It was being rebroadcast for St Patrick's Day, and I noticed she had some roots in Montreal also.

I decided to try looking for Laura again. I had a consultation at the Family History Library when I was in Salt Lake City in 2008, and they had suggested looking in the Drouin records by first name only with the year of birth. These records were on Ancestry.com now, and sometimes, if the priest didn't note the surname in the margin, they were indexed by first name only. I looked for records for Josephine Agnes, 1876, Montreal, Laura, 1878, Mary Louise, 1881 and Edith Amelia, 1883. No luck at all. I tried James, 1884 to 1886. There seemed to be some confusion about exactly when he was born. But none of the surname-less James were the right one. I continued scrolling, with the Chauveau census in the back of my mind, until I saw James Chauvin. On viewing the record, I found the he was baptized February 6, 1886 in Notre Dame, Montreal, the same church as Rosie O'Donnell's grandfather. His parents were Joseph Chauvin and Mary Ann McCarthy.
With a last name, I quickly found Marie Louise, baptized March 27, 1881, St. Joseph’s, Montreal and Emmilie Ida, baptized April 22, 1883, St. Brigide, Montreal; but no trace of Josephine or Laura. But with a last name, I located Josephine Agnes as Josephine Sophronie Chauvin, baptized on Christmas day, 1876, at St Bernard de Lacolle, Quebec, and finally Marie Elionore Chauvin, baptized at the same location in January of 1879. All five were the children of Joseph and Mary Anne (McCarthy) Chauvin.

While I haven't found a marriage record yet, with the help of Michael LeClerc at NEHGS, I found what appears to be the marriage of Joseph’s brother Louis, son of Antoine and Marie (Leveille) Chauvin, and Mary Anne's sister Ellen, daughter of Patrick McCarthy and Elionore Lynch of Ireland. Melina Chauvin, sister of Louis and Joseph, was the godmother of Laura’s siblings, Joseph, the first child, who died at the age of six months, and Edith (Emmilie Ida). Antoine and Marie (Leveille) Chauvin had thirteen children. Most of them moved with them to Malone, Franklin County, New York. Three of them died as infants in Canada.

Melina married another Louis Chauvin and stayed in Montreal. Louis and Ellen (McCarthy) Chauvin moved to the Schenectady area. Joseph and Mary Anne (McCarthy) (Chauvin) Shaw settled in the West End of Boston.

My great grandmother married Jeremiah O’Sullivan in May of 1897 at St. Joseph’s Church in the West End. Laura, who was deaf, lost her sisters Josephine, Mary Louise and Edith, as well as her mother, to tuberculosis between 1898 and 1903.

WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED

We were happy to hear from three members with their answers to the questions asked in our last issue.

How do your answers compare?

What’s your favorite place to research?

Favorite place to research is right here in Massachusetts...we’re fortunate to have many resources for births, deaths and marriages and many of those resources are online which also helps. Ed O’Connor Member #1814

After spending years of wearing out shoe leather at libraries and archives, I now find myself using the web on a regular basis: Ancestry, Irish census, Family Search, Irish Roots, and Irish Genealogy.ie are some of my favorites. (Could I put a plug in here for Thomas Dorsey? I found the information in two of his suggested books, Boston’s Immigrants: 1790-1880 and Priests and People in Pre-Famine Ireland 1780-1845 to be mind-boggling. These books gave new perspective to my research). Janice Kenney Fortado, Member #1095

My favorite place to research is the Dyer Memorial Library on Centre Avenue in Abington, MA. The Dyer is a fabulous facility for researchers with ancestors from the tri-town area of Abington, Rockland, and Whitman as well as for researchers from other local south shore towns. Its collections of genealogical and historical materials stretch from the time of the Pilgrims right up to today. You’ll find histories of many of the cities and towns of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850, old maps of the South Shore, complete collections of area town reports, an extensive collection of hundred year old business directories, old poll tax lists and historical copies of local newspapers. Every time I visit I find something new and exciting! The Dyer has a library subscription to Ancestry and the New England Genealogical Society but most importantly it has a knowledgeable and friendly staff. No matter where your Massachusetts ancestors might have originated, the Dyer Memorial Library is worth at least one visit during the course of your research. Call ahead for hours of operation or visit their web site. This gem of a facility might have the answer to the question you’re searching for, especially if your ancestors are from the South Shore. Jack Hannigan, Member #3310

Had any recent ah-ha moments in your research?

Yes! Two that stand out. Military papers that would give the place of birth for my 3rdggrandfather Michael CASHIN, born in 1782, were missing in London. The National Archives in Dublin recently updated its index of holdings and included filmed out-pensioner records from Kilmainham Hospital. Michael’s birth information was in the index item – Ballinakill, Laois!!!

Aha! I also had a serendipitous moment when someone I had never met sent me CARROLL information via snail mail (an Irish gentleman’s
summary of his families). The Carrolls were not mine. I was disappointed but read the names of the other families just because they were included in the five-page packet. I couldn’t believe my eyes when I saw a GALLAGHER summary and realized the family was mine. The author of the summaries stated that “Tommy, the youngest, went next door to Houndscourt, Limerick.” Aha! I had searched unsuccessfully for years in Co. Cork. No wonder I had never found any records as my direct line had moved next door to Co. Limerick. If not for the kindness of the person who sent me the Carroll information, I would still be searching in Cork with no results for my Gallaghers. (And last year I was able to visit the original family home in Co. Limerick). Jan

I have had so many ah-ha moments in the last 10 months I don’t know where to begin! The most important ah-ha moment came in September 2010 when I made a connection with an Irish third cousin, Gerard Kelly. We are both great grandsons of William Francis and Bridget (Burke) O’Brien. TIARA printed an article describing this ah-ha moment in its Winter 2010 edition, page 13. Because of this major ah-ha moment there have been a number of “mini” ah-ha moments since. Gerard has visited the Irish National Archives in Dublin and documented the baptism of both his great grandfather John and my great grandfather William. We have identified a previously unknown sister of our great grandfathers, Johanna (O’Brien) McCormack. We have traced Johanna’s son Thomas McCormack to Anaconda, Montana, where he followed his cousin William O’Brien working as a stationary engineer in the copper smelter. He married a widow with three children, helped her run a boarding house in Anaconda, and served as city constable in the mid-1930’s. We know that Johanna’s daughter Kathleen married William Costello and her two sons are still living and I have met one of them! I can’t believe that I have actually met a 2nd great grandson of my great grandfather. Jack

I’ve had many ah-ha moments in doing research these past 15 years or so, the most recent of which is a realization that my great great grandmother actually had a good reason for coming to western Massachusetts, specifically to Wilbraham....she actually had a sister who had emigrated before her a fact which has taken me quite awhile to learn....my great great grandfather O’CONNOR had a good job as a teacher in Ballyquin on the Dingle peninsula and really had no reason to emigrate......were it not for his untimely death at the age of 50, I’d probably be speaking with a brogue... Ed

Planning any research trips this summer?

Have not planned any research trips for this summer. Jack

My wife and I are headed to the “Irish Week of Welcomes” in East Galway shortly....her EGAN family is from that area...we hope to learn a lot about the area and more about the family history of her Egan line who emigrated from Kiltartan, Gort, Galway.. Ed (see next article)

In May I spent two days in Kildorrery, Cork, visiting with local people who had a great memory for local history, learning information about one of my extended families that the locals were willing to share only if I visited. (They would not put anything in writing). Then it was on to Dublin to look at parish films at the National Library (where you can now make copies) and films of House and Tenure Books as well as Kilmainham Hospital records at the National Archives. (And it was great fun to be there for the Queen’s visit and for Obama’s visit - to see and hear the reactions of the Irish). Jan

Met any living relatives as a result of your research?

Yes, I have met several living relatives both in Ireland and in the U.S. My favorite “line” is that I learn more about my family from living relatives than I could even learn from any records. Jan

In the past 15 years I’ve met more than one and less than 1000 living relatives....that’s the best part of the whole pursuit as far as I’m concerned...that and sharing what I’ve learned with other family members... Ed

I have met a living relative in California and my son James has met a living relative in Waterford County, Ireland.

My son James and his wife Sarah took a nine-day vacation to Ireland in February of this year. Gerard Kelly and his wife Emma were kind enough to have James and Sarah to their home for dinner. As I’ve said, Gerard is a 2nd great grandson of William Francis O’Brien and my son James would be a 3rd great grandson. James also met Gerard’s daughters, Alannah and Saoirse, also 3rd great granddaughters of William Francis.

In March of this year my two brothers and I made a trip to the Carmelite Monastery in Oakville California to meet our second cousin once removed, Father David Costello. Father David and his
brother, Father James Costello are great grandsons of William Francis O’Brien. Father David has been in the USA since 1960 but has served much of his priestly vocation at the Carmelite missions in Kenya and Uganda. We visited for hours exchanging family stories and figuring out relationships and then we all went out to dinner. It was a great family reunion!

In June of this year Father James Costello celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a priest in Bruff, County Limerick. I was unable to join in the festivities but Gerard Kelly was kind enough to forward on some pictures. These pictures along with a phone conversation I had with Father James make me feel like I have actually met him also and I am looking forward to my first trip to Ireland.

So, because of my ah-ha moment back in the fall of 2010 I have met a living relative in California and my son and his wife have met living relatives in Ireland. And Gerard and I have come to know much more about the extended O’Brien family in both Ireland and America. Jack

James and Sarah Hannigan with Gerard Kelly and his daughters Alannah and Saoirse.

Three Hannigan brothers with Father David Costello at the Carmelite Monastery in Oakville California.

Father David Costello, Gerard Kelly, and Father James Costello at the Golden Jubilee celebration.

Father David putting the 50-year mitre on his brother Father James’s head at the Golden Jubilee

Thanks to Jan, Ed and Jack, for their interesting and informative responses.

IRELAND “WEEK OF WELCOMES”
By Ed O’Connor
Member #1814

Jet lag notwithstanding, I had to write about our recent experiences at the inaugural Ireland “Week of Welcomes” which took place in East Galway June 27 – July 4.

The idea for the Ireland Reaching Out (aka IRO) Week of Welcomes was the brainchild of Mike Feerick, a local Galway resident and supported by David McWilliam, a well known economist and broadcaster in Ireland and a cast of hundreds. Before I forget to mention it, the Week of Welcomes (aka WOW) is on Facebook and does
have a website: www.irelandxo.org.

Family researchers with interests in Ireland can appreciate how difficult research can be from "across the pond" without knowing at least the county and better still the townland from whence our ancestors emigrated. Mike's idea was to reach out from Ireland to the descendants of those who emigrated from Ireland long ago. A pilot program would be developed using the knowledge of local Galway residents who live in the townlands, villages and towns in East Galway with the idea of inviting us to learn about our family history through the knowledge of the local community, which by the way included hundreds of volunteers.

Marge, my wife of more than four decades, had Egan family relatives who emigrated from Kiltartan, Gort, Galway more than 160 years ago to Greenfield then Northampton and then on to Holyoke and elsewhere. Now in the past week, we have returned to the very church where her great-great-grandfather, Garrett and family worshipped; to the land where Garrett tilled the soil as a tenant of Glebe lands (owned by the Church of Ireland) and to the walls and roadways built by Garrett and co-workers during the famine years as work projects sorely needed at that time. Although it appears that the Egan family is no longer there, Garrett, and family left a lasting impression of themselves there in that little area of East Galway.

We learned how to do further research in terms of where records might exist for that area and we also learned about the history of the area with visits to communities, churches, graveyards, and in my wife's case, the Kiltartan Gregory Museum which houses lots of memorabilia of that locality and of the local folks of the time including Lady Gregory who was a patron of William Butler Yeats and, in her own right, was a founder of the Abbey theater.

Each day brought a different focus, some local, some regional and some just purely entertaining, but all worthwhile. From the professional production of "Trad on the Prom" in Galway (with ties to Riverdance, Lord of the Dance and to the Chieftains) to the locally produced "Evening of music, song and storytelling" at Portumna Castle, our group was provided with a unique experience, one that we can only hope will be repeated in other counties of Ireland in future.

We did meet a group from Kerry who were interested in the process and we also met one individual from County Monaghan also with the same intent.

Every day of that week, our group was accompanied by the locals who had particular knowledge of the history of the area whether we were visiting the local cathedral in Loughrea, a medieval church, a graveyard, a ringfort, a round tower or a castle. In every case, the presentation was given without notes but with enthusiasm and a sense of energy, love and particular knowledge of the local area.

Sister deLourdes Fahy was our local guide and although she'd deny it, what she doesn't know about Kiltartan and the Gort area is just not worth knowing. She was and will continue to be a wonderful resource for Marge and me.

So there it is in a nutshell. If it's true that "time flies when you're having fun", we must have had a ball and we did. Hopefully, others with interests in other counties of Ireland will have that same experience. I for one can't wait for similar efforts in County Kerry and County Louth.

**HEADSTONES GO DIGITAL**

By Brian Reynolds, Member #2182

About a month ago, I mentioned family history to someone I had just met. They asked me if I was familiar with QR codes. I had no idea what they were talking about.

The lady told me that people have been attaching them to headstones in Japan. You take a picture of the QR Code with a smart phone. The phone software (app) will read the code and tell you about the person named on the headstone. It may include anything from an obituary to a photo of the person.

It was created in Japan in 1994 and is starting to catch on around here now. She showed me a magazine with one inside. QR Codes are a small symbol about the size of a postage stamp. They are square and made of thousands of various sized smaller squares.

I realized I had just seen one in a magazine the prior week. I really didn't give it any thought though.

Since then I have noticed them everywhere: magazines, coupons, the web. I can't believe how many I am seeing now.

QR codes are a new form of a bar code. Wikipedia says that a QR code is short for "Quick Response Code". Someplace else said QR code is
short for "Quick Read Code."

A similar technology is RFID (Radio Frequency Identification).

I did a search on the web for "QR Code" and "Headstone". Several articles came up. I found companies marketing them as "Living Headstone" and "Remembrance Codes."

I do not own a cell phone (there are a few of us). So since I am not up on things like this, I may not be explaining QR Codes accurately.

I did think it was worth sharing.

Here are are a couple of the web pages that I found:

"Living Headstone" by Quiring Monuments
http://www.monuments.com/livingheadstone

NPR
ALL Things Considered
http://www.npr.org/2011/05/30/136676964/technology-brings-digital-memories-to-grave-sites
http://funeralinnovations.com/remembrance
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWN6cqZl4N4

QR codes are appearing on (ready for this?) tombstones
http://blogs.twincities.com/yourtechweblog/2011/05/qr-codes-are-appearing-on-are-you-ready-for-this-tombstones.html


DATHI’S BOOK SHELF
By Thomas A. Dorsey, J.D., Ph.D.
Member #2695

The experience of the Civil War Irish soldier was an extension of his experience in the 1840’s and 1850’s. He was a poor immigrant subject to ethnic and religious discrimination fighting (literally) for a place in America. It remains unclear what the war meant to him or his family or what he derived from military service. The Irish had four reasons for being involved: (1) to preserve the union which gave him basic freedoms; (2) to earn pay and bonuses to support his family in the face of chronic unemployment; (3) to gain military expertise for the next rising in Ireland (a Fenian goal); and (4) to disprove the nativist propaganda about the “worthlessness” of the Irish. It soon became apparent that the price to pay for these goals was very high.

Books addressing the Irish experience from 1860 to 1865 are limited in number. Civil War authors focus primarily on battles or regimental histories, not on ethnic experience. Over 150,000 Irish served in the war and, at the general rate of loss, probably 30,000 died. The number of Irish regiments that made history are numerous and well recognized. The first Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Surgeon Bernard J.D. Irwin, was born in Ireland, as were 96 other medal winners. Nevertheless, of 65,000 books on the Civil War less than 50 look specifically at the Irish contribution. We will try to suggest some of the better volumes.

Green, Blue and Gray, by Cal McCarthy is a concise, informed recounting of the battle-by-battle progress of the war emphasizing the role of Irish troops. The author, a history and economics major from University College Cork with a B.A. and M.A., is very knowledgeable about the War, the strategy and tactics, and its technology. He has written two history books, the other on Cumann na mBan (Irish Women’s Volunteers).

McCarthy has no ax to grind and both Union and Confederate sides are fairly portrayed. The pain of Irish killing Irish is palpable. A good example is the ironically named Battle of Erin Hollow involving the predominantly Irish 10th Tennessee [later known as “the bloody 10th”]. On February 13, 1863 three waves of Union troops [many Irish] attacked up a steep hill and were slaughtered. On the third attack Confederate rifle fire ignited dry leaves in the hollow where many wounded Union troops still lay. As night was falling these men
burned in the widening fire. The scene was so horrible that all combat ceased and both sides moved in to rescue the wounded. The Catholic chaplain of the 10th, Fr. Browne, administered last rites along with several Union chaplains and the battle was left until a day after.

Even greater irony is found at Fredericksburg where Irish troops in the 24th Georgia mowed down the Irish Brigade and the 69th Pennsylvania in the battle of Maryes Heights. This battle was fought on the land of Colonel Marye, an officer of the 1st Virginia Infantry and a descendant of early Irish settlers. In 1847 he had sent all the corn grown on his fields to Ireland for famine relief. Now, 15 years later, the Irish he sought to save were dying where the corn was grown. For the Irish it truly was “the brothers war”.

Cal McCarthy’s book is well worth reading, particularly if you want to understand the chronology of the war and the role of the Irish on both sides.

The Harp and the Eagle by Susannah Ural Bruce is a broader study that looks at why the Irish joined the war effort. The author, an assistant professor at Sam Houston State University, mentored by Kirby Miler, examines the dual allegiance to both America and Ireland that drove Irish involvement. This is a probing book which looks at five stages in the Irish war experience. Starting with virulent anti-Catholicism (1700-1860), she addresses their passionate defense of their new country, the shock and horror at massive battle losses, growing opposition to the war, and their later use of the history of their war involvement as part of building the Irish-American identity. None of this was planned, consistent or without conflict and it took years to be integrated into Irish-American culture, as did the aftermath of the Civil War in America.

The book often recycles basic arguments to illustrate inconsistencies in the changing Irish viewpoint. Politically the Irish were Democrats but their early support for the Union backed a Republican cause. Huge Irish losses at Antietam and Fredericksburg soured their patriotism. Lincoln’s emancipation of the slaves clashed with Irish economic goals and, when he instituted the draft, it looked like a program to dragon poor urban Irish to replace huge losses. The resulting draft riots destroyed what little good will the Irish had established and their heroism in later battles was barely enough to maintain their growing reputation. The Irish suspected a hidden agenda, possibly involving British connivance, to force poor Irish to fight a Protestant war. The Catholic Church, led by Bishop Hughes of New York, supported this view and Union troop atrocities against the Catholic Church, reported in The Pilot, reinforced it.

In the spring of 1864 the reconstituted Irish Brigade lost 1000 men and officers, one-third of their numbers. The Presidential election was in progress and George McClellan was running against Abraham Lincoln who was battered from extensive defeats. The victory at Gettysburg, ironically due in no small part to the Irish Brigade, the 140th NY led by Patrick O’Rourke of Cavan, and the Irish of the 69th Pennsylvania at “The Angle”, saved Lincoln’s presidency and led to his re-election. McClellan’s defeat led to twenty years of Republican dominance and a step backwards for the Irish for decades. As late as 1894, nativists of the American Protective Association attacked the Irish war record, causing the creation of the Irish American Historical Association in New York City.

During the War, the 1863 New York City draft riots were the low point for the Irish. The Devil’s Own Work, the Fight to Reconstruct America by Barnet Schecter is a balanced history of the events. This book does not focus exclusively on the Irish but looks at the complex social and political forces that triggered the violence in New York City. Moreover, it follows these issues through the labor unrest of the 1870’s.

The book is a detailed chronology that begins in 1863 when Lee was in Winchester, VA, threatening Washington, D.C. The riot started July 13, 1863, ignited by a motley mob including a Virginia lawyer, a barber from the Astor Hotel, several Irish laborers, a grocer born in England and some Germans led by an escaped convict. Over three days they burned the Colored Orphan Asylum and the Second Avenue Armory, attacked the Tribune Building, killed nearly 500 people, and injured 73 soldiers and 105 policemen.

Eighteen African-Americans were lynched, five were drowned, and 70 were reported missing. Whole neighborhoods of black residents left the city never to return. Many of the recorded deaths were those of the rioters themselves. The riot was broken by metropolitan police (mostly Irish) and Union troops from the 12th U.S. Infantry. When it was over the entire affair was blamed on the Irish who had little means to defend their reputation. Despite the Draft Riots and Irish disenchantment the War went on.
These three books address the core of Irish experience during the War but several other books can expand your knowledge. *Irish Confederates; The Civil War’s Forgotten Soldiers* by Phillip Thomas Tucker is a short discussion that gives a different view of the War between the States. The author argues strongly that the Irish were well accepted in the South. There was little or no nativism, Irish had immigrated for decades, many were established businessmen, most major cities had large established Irish communities and some Catholic clergy felt that the South held the moral high ground. The author cites Grady Whitney’s *Celtic Ways in the Old South* to support his argument.

It is impossible to examine this subject without reading about the Irish Brigade and their famous general Thomas Francis Meagher. Cal McCarthy has covered the key battle experience of the Brigade but the reader may wish to read *The Irish Brigade in the Civil War* by Joseph G. Bilby. Bilby is a columnist for Civil War News and a veteran of the current 69th Regiment. The book exemplifies both the good and the bad elements of histories written by Civil War “buffs”.

The author has excellent access to the records of the 69th. He focuses heavily on the heroism of the Regiment and the sacrifice of individual men in battle, sometimes with excessive detail. Lieutenant O’Brien of the 88th is said to have been “… shot through the neck [and], when he tried to eat, food came out the hole in his neck.” O’Brien’s sacrifice (he lived) doesn’t seem to be enhanced by the grotesqueness of his wound. The book is also replete with photographs but because it is “self published” the quality of the reproductions are often very poor. Some photo editing would have enhanced the book.

*The Irish General, Thomas Francis Meagher* by Paul R. Wylie provides a deeper understanding of one of the true tragic heroes of the Brigade and the War. The life of “Meagher of the Sword” is Irish legend in a modern guise. Born in Waterford, a member of Young Ireland, a powerful orator, tried for treason, sentenced to die, pardoned and transported to a Tasmanian prison, he escaped to America, became a lecturer, then a newspaper editor, traveled to Central America, joined the 69th NY, raised a company which he commanded, fought in the War (Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville), became acting governor of the Montana Territory, and died under mysterious circumstances at Fort Benton on the Missouri River.

Over his life Meagher was castigated as a drunkard, a coward, a wastrel with public funds, and an indifferent husband, none of which was ever well established. His death occurred when, sick and badly run down, he was being hunted by two Indian agents trying to collect a debt. Like any larger than life figure he attracted controversy but Wylie, a retired attorney from Bozeman, Montana, does a valiant job of marshalling the facts and trying to provide clarity. Fittingly, Meagher’s memorial is an oversized statue in front of the Montana State Capitol. (There is another in Waterford, Ireland)

Finally, we should consider two other types of books; the Regimental History and the personal memoir. Regimental Histories are written as part of military history projects and are carefully vetted. If you wish to trace the day-by-day experience of an ancestor in a unit, they are invaluable. A good example is *The History of the Ninth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, June 1861 - June, 1864* by Daniel George McNamara (published 1899, republished 2000). This 550-page account contains officers’ action reports and personal correspondence. The introduction to the 2000 edition contains a very good set of pictures. It is one example of other first hand accounts and histories that are available.

Finally, there is the personal memoir, which may be a diary or a set of letters, often published by descendants. A good example worth reading is Irish Green and Union Blue: The Civil War Letters of Peter Welsh, Color Sergeant, 28th Massachusetts edited by Lawrence F. Kohl. The day-to-day view of the war by one man gives a very different perspective. Peter Walsh was devoted to his wife Margaret, his Church and his country. He wrote his father-in-law in Ireland to explain his commitment to the Union. He tried to maintain his original skills as a carpenter by building shacks and lean-to’s for officers (and himself). On May 12, 1864 he was wounded in the arm. Fearing the loss of his occupation he refused amputation and died of blood poisoning two weeks later. He endured fighting, separation, and misery to support his wife. His letters are a testament to the courage of an Irish foot soldier.

Equally powerful is *My Life in the Irish Brigade* by William McCarter, edited by Kevin E. O’Brien. McCarter was a private in the 116th Pennsylvania who was a keen observer and an eloquent writer. Born in Derry, Ireland about 1840 he was married and lived in Philadelphia when he enlisted. He was wounded in the arm on Marye’s Heights (Fredericksburg) but he survived the war due, in
part, to the intercession of Thomas Francis Meagher.

In closing this all-too-brief review three things have to be mentioned. First, a very good research guide is *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor* by Bertram H. Groene. Second, the recently published book *1861* by Adam Goodheart is well worth reading. And third, “Irish in the American Civil War” http://irishamericancivilwar.com/resources/books has a very good book list.

NEXT: Fenians.

Requests/inquiries to: dathi2010@gmail.com

**FINDING RELATIVES IN IRELAND**

Submitted by Cate Ryan, Member #2768

In 2004, I began planning a trip to Ireland as a retirement present to myself. As I had begun digging into genealogy, I went on a three week, solo trip, in May 2005 to look for my roots. All four great grandparents, who had passed away before my birth, came from Ireland, but I knew the origins of only two of them; my maternal great-grandmother came from County Tyrone and my paternal grandfather came from County Waterford. During the year I had written to genealogy societies and newspapers in the areas of Pomeroy, County Tyrone and Waterford City, Waterford. One such letter went to the Pomeroy Historical Society looking for my great-grandmother, Rosetta Hopkins, and possibly some information on her husband, Mathew Kerans (still my brick wall). The letter fell into the hands of a volunteer, Patricia, who emailed me that she had never heard of the name Hopkins in the area. So, I faced another brick wall.

In about two months an email came from Patricia, who had been to PRONI doing research for a client, stating she had found a record for my great uncle, Owen Hopkins. My great-great-grandfather had also been Owen, and my great uncle’s son was Owen. Whew!! When I informed Patricia that I would be coming to Ireland, she insisted I stay with her while I was in Pomeroy. Now I knew nothing about her other than she did genealogy - so in my mind she was already a great person!

I get off the train in Portadown and asked at the station for a “Patricia”. Lo and behold, she was exactly my age, had been a teacher like myself, was Catholic, and had been the family caretaker as I had been. What are the chances of that happening??

On the drive home, she said she had news. It seems she had gone on a bus trip with her church group and told her seatmate that she was expecting company from America looking for the Hopkins family. The woman said that would be no problem as they lived next door to her and the name for this generation was Kelly!!!! These were relatives of my great-grandmother’s brother, Owen (2nd). Patricia had directions, so the next day off we went on our adventure to find Peter Kelly, my third cousin, once removed, and his wife, Rose. Along the way we stopped to view the “Hills of Moymore”, take a few photos, and then enter the driveway of the Kelly family. Patricia stayed in the car as I eagerly rang the bell and found two very Irish teenagers opening the door. I told them who I was and why I was there. As the Irish are so hospitable, they immediately invited me in, but reported their parents were away for the weekend. So I gave them Patricia’s name and phone number, thanked them for their invitation, and took down their phone number.

Next Patricia and I went to the local cemetery and as we were looking for a Hopkins stone, the man across the street came over, asked what we are doing, and immediately helped us look. There it was: “Own Hopkins” - it took my breath away. Now this was the “third” generation Owen. We continued to the church for the 7PM Mass and during the sermon, the priest introduced the youth minister and, imagine this, she was a Kelly. After Mass I waited for her, told my story, and she called over a few other siblings - there are nine children in the family - all my third cousins twice removed. These were the siblings of the teenagers I had met that afternoon. We talked for over a half hour and took photos.

By the time Patricia and I got back into the car it was about 8:30P.M. and she told me Peter’s sister lived nearby and we would now go there. I was amazed and told her we certainly couldn’t go there unannounced at this time of night, but she said of course we could - this was done in Ireland. So off we went to visit my third cousin, once removed, Mary Kelly McCartan, her husband, Tommy, and their family. As I knocked on the door, not believing I was doing this, Mary opened the door, invited us in, and we had a grand time, or as they say in Ireland, “brilliant”. She and her family were lovely. They shared information about the family and about 11PM fixed us a beautiful meal. I was overwhelmed.

On Sunday, Peter and Rose Kelly came back from their weekend away. They called and made plans to come to Patricia’s Monday evening. In the
meantime, Mary McCartan had told us about another third cousin once removed, who lived on the old Hopkins homestead with his brother. Patricia got the directions and Sunday we were off again. It was quite a large property, a small house, a large barn, and somewhat run down. Patrick Grimes was very glad to have us, although he was very reserved. Imagine a stranger from the U.S.A. arriving at your door! He told me about a neighbor of the Hopkins (second generation), a Mr. Hopper, who still lived nearby. We didn’t stay long, but it was a thrill to walk on the land where my great grandmother had lived. Guess where we went next? Yes, Mr. Hopper’s house! Mr. Hopper, close to a hundred years old, told stories about my family. He, his son, and his grandchildren were charming and I had a wonderful time with them. Oh, I forgot a very important fact. I really couldn’t understand anyone! Patricia took notes for me and translated when necessary!!!

As to my research, I never found one iota of information about my great-grandmother Rosetta Hopkins or her parents. I did find births for her two siblings, Owen and Betty, and their families. I had brought with me a letter written my great uncle, Charles Kerans, of Danvers, MA written when he had visited the family in Pomeroy in 1893. Rosetta was his mother and she had lived with him in Danvers until her death in 1902, the same year he died. This was quite an introduction for everyone there as he told about his journey to Pomeroy, meeting Rosetta’s siblings, and having them say he looked like his Irish relatives. Along with that letter, there were photos sent from Ireland in the 1930s and I had hoped to be able to find the names, but no one could identify them.

When I was just about to give up on the company for Monday evening, at 10PM the doorbell rang and Peter and his wife, Rose, arrived with many photos and lots of information. I guess the Irish do visit late in the evening!! Patricia had put out a delicious table of sandwiches and sweets and we talked as if we had known each other for years. Once again, I had Patricia take notes for me, as I had difficulty understanding my County Tyrone relatives who talk very quickly and with that wonderful brogue. We all agreed that I should come again for a longer time.

For months after I came home, I would send Patricia an email asking her questions. Then, as I tried to read Patricia’s writing in the journal she wrote, I had a lot of trouble with her shorthand and wound up sending the journal to Ireland for clarification.

While I was in Ireland everyone was so wonderful and helpful. But, once I came home to Danvers, I really didn’t hear much from my newfound relatives again. I was very surprised as we had had such a great time while I was there. I sent family trees, called, and tried to keep in touch. Once Mary sent me photos and I have received a few Christmas cards. I know they are very busy and I was only in their lives for a minute. I do keep in touch with them every Christmas and I hope to return. I’m now on Facebook with Peter’s daughter, Anita, and hope to keep that friendship growing.

And then there’s my special friend Patricia. She was, and is, such a dear. I couldn’t have asked for a better friend, travel companion, and a genealogist who had sought out addresses and information before I arrived. She waited on me hand and foot, drove me to Belfast to spend time at PRONI, to Armagh for some sightseeing, and on a very, very rainy day to the Beleek factory. We became lifelong friends and I will always be indebted to her for all her help. Actually, I think she knows more about my Hopkins family than I do. But, most of all, I am proud to call her my friend.

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Right Company, Wrong War
Submitted by Marie Ahearn, Member #0097

Shortly after the American Civil War Commemorative Issue newsletter (Vol.28, No.2) was mailed, I was volunteering at the TIARA office when Susan Steele, the Foresters Project Manager, said something that stopped me in my tracks. Wheaton Wilbar, a Foresters volunteer and a mailing committee member, had asked Susan on the day of the mailing if I was sure the picture of Co. K that appeared in the Civil War issue was actually a photo of a Civil War company.

Later that day, I emailed the photograph of Co. K to my oldest brother, a Civil War buff for over fifty years. I asked him the question that Wheaton had posed to Susan. His analysis of the photo follows:

... those uniforms look like the 1890s to me - some things which I don’t think were used in the civil war:

1. All the troops are wearing leggings, not common till late 19th cent, and which I don’t ever recall seeing in photos of the civil war.

2. The belts the men are wearing have holders for cartridges, not appropriate for muzzle loaders in the civil war. Ammunition was usually in a box with a strap.
3. The hats, too, I think are later than the 1860s, especially the campaign hat worn by the officer on the extreme right in your picture. That’s a “smokey bear” style which I don’t think existed in the civil war. (I had checked the hats at a Civil War website and some soldiers did wear “slouch hats”. Unfortunately, the information did not indicate which soldiers wore them.)

4. Finally the officers’ tunics seem to have concealed buttons - also not common in the civil war.

Someone with expertise might be able to identify their firearms, though the “trap door” rifle that was infantry issue in the late 1890’s was almost identical in overall shape to a civil war muzzle loader, and I can’t tell the difference from your picture. Just for kicks I did do a quick “google” on 8th regiment co K in the Spanish American war and came up with this:

http://www.spanamwar.com/8thmasscok.htm

They (Co. K) were from Danvers and did see service in Cuba (but after the war). Most useful, the web page has a picture at the top, it’s smaller than yours but if you blow it up the officer sitting on the left front is almost certainly the same [man] standing with the sword in the left front of your picture. Overall their uniforms seem to be the same as your picture.

There were several relatives (including a Collins) in Co. K during the Spanish American War period so that may have been why the photo was kept in the trunk with my great grandfather’s Civil War and GAR memorabilia. I’ll never know. But, what I DO know is that from now on, I’ll only be using photographs that have been labeled by family members!

SCHOOL DAYS

Here are the submissions we received for our School Days theme. Enjoy!

Barbara Lee Winchenbach, school photo, 8th grade Nevin School, South Weymouth, Massachusetts, 1925.

My mother, Barbara Lee Winchenbach, was born at Somerville, Massachusetts, 14 August 1912. This class photo is from her 8th grade class at the Nevin School, South Weymouth, Mass.; it’s a postage stamp-sized photo in a small folder with photos of some classmates. Unfortunately, I have no color photos of her beautiful red hair as a girl or young woman.

After graduating from the Nevin School, Barbara went on to Weymouth High School, where she met her sweetheart and future husband, James A. McAleer. They were married at the historic Old German Church 14 August 1933, on their mutual 21st birthday, after Jim’s graduation from Harvard in 1933.

Barbara had a good job as a secretary at the Congregational House on Beacon Hill, Boston. The young couple decided that she would keep her job in Boston during the depression years, so the young lovers were separated when Jim went to Cornell University for graduate school. They were later reunited in “For Lovers” Virginia, where Barbara became homemaker and mother of three. The family moved to Rock Island, Illinois; Schenectady, New York; and Larchmont, New York. She participated in Garden Club, Bridge Club, and League of Women Voters in these communities. Barbara and Jim retired in their beloved Virginia, and she died there 22 Dec 1982.

Winchenbach—that’s not an Irish surname, is it? My mother always said she was not Irish, and refused to cook corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick’s Day, not even for her beloved Boston Irish-American husband. My father was James A. McAleer, descendant of Patrick McAleer of Drumnakilly, Termonmaguire, Tyrone, and other Boston Irish ancestors. My mother’s paternal ancestors were predominately German, from Waldoboro, Maine. Her mother and her
grandmother were both orphaned and adopted, and through research I have found several Irish ancestors. Barbara’s great grandfather George Cole was from Dublin; her second great grandfather John Phillips, was from parish Donagh, Monaghan; her 4th great grandfather Thomas Little was born in county Antrim. And dear mother, I am still looking. Barbara’s red hair was definitely half Irish.

Beth McAleer TIARA, Member #2300

My mom, Elizabeth Ward Choppa, was born 8 July 1923. This picture was taken on her first day of school in 1929, so the story goes. She went on to become a child’s nurse after high school. For a time, she worked at the Sarah Fisher Home in Detroit, caring for orphaned children.

My dad, Dominic Choppa, was born on 27 May 1923. This is not a school picture, but I imagine he’s close to school age here (maybe a year or two younger).

My parents married in 1947 and together they cared for many foster children before my brothers and sister and I came along. “Betty” was a stay-at-home mom who taught the neighbor kids and my siblings in a sort of pre-kindergarten way. Even after we were all grown-up, she took care of a neighbor’s kids who still refer to her as Grandma Choppa. She was terribly proud when my sister’s three children came along. My sister never had to use a daycare service with Betty and Poppy around. I find these pictures so endearing as the little girl and boy who cared for so many other little ones during their lives.

Mary E. Choppa, Member #1791

allowed to enter first grade with my brother. I was one of five children under five including a set of twins, but I was the "true" Irish twin with a brother 11 months older whom I loved dearly.

On my brother's first day at St Stephen’s School in Framingham, Grammy walked my brother to school and I tagged along. We were milling around the schoolyard until it was time to say “good bye” and join the first grade line. I was thrilled when Sister also grabbed me for the line up. I remember thinking how lucky as I could go to school and not have to stay home with the babies. Then my Mayo born Grammy reverently said, "Oh Sister, she has another year before she can go to school" and pulled me out of line. I was so upset and cried as we walked home, thinking that Grammy destroyed my chance to go to school. Fortunately, mom had enrolled me in a local kindergarten, which started the following week!

Pat Gibbons Kuehne, Member #3191

One of my greatest joys in life is learning, so it’s no surprise that I was devastated when I wasn’t
Janis P. Duffy, Class of 1970
Cardinal Cushing Central High School
South Boston, Massachusetts

From Brian Reynolds: Pictures of my family in school (left and above), check out my sister Kathy with the glow-in-the-dark rosary beads.

TIDBITS

Free Irish Genealogy ebooks:
http://freeirishgenebooks.blogspot.com/

NARA Waltham Open Saturdays:
October 1, 2011
November 5, 2011
December 3, 2011

ANCESTRAL ARTS WORKSHOP

Susan Steele, Carlyn Cox and Cate Ryan will be hosting an "Ancestral Arts" workshop at the TIARA office on Saturday, Nov. 5th from 10:30 - 3:00. It will highlight crafts projects that incorporate family history. Space is limited so signup early by emailing recsec1@tiara.ie or send a quick note to: TIARA, 2120 Commonwealth Ave, Auburndale MA 02466

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

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

TIARA UPCOMING MEETINGS
Saturday, October 1 at National Archives, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham
Business meeting at 1:30, lecture at 2 p.m.
Directions at http://www.archives.gov/northeast/boston/
Walter Hickey on USCIS- Genealogy Program: "A Files" and More
Saturday, November 19 at 12 noon at Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA
Luncheon and Lecture - this is a ticketed event.
Registration form is in the newsletter.
Directions at http://www.wayside.org/directions
Author and storyteller Kevin O’Hara on *A Lucky Irish Lad*.

Friday, December 9th, 2011 at 7 p.m. at Boston College Fulton Hall  Speaker to be announced

Friday, January 13, 2012 at 7 p.m. at Boston College Fulton Hall
Marian Pierre-Louis bio at http://www.fieldstonehistoricresearch.com/about.htm
*Discovering Immigrant Voices through House History Research*

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**OTHER EVENTS**

Legacy Family Tree 2012 Genealogy Cruises

Massachusetts Society of Genealogists
Middlesex Chapter
October 8, 2011 1:30pm-4:00pm
Framingham Public Library,
Framingham MA
Laura Prescott, *Treasures within the Ivory Tower: Finding Family in Academic Archives*

Massachusetts Society of Genealogists
November Date and Place to be Determined
Annual Meeting

December 10, 2011 1:30pm-4:00pm
Middlesex Chapter
Location to be Determined
Dick Eastman, *The Family History World in 10 Years Time: Changing Research Trends, a changing audience and being “online all the time” with handheld devices*

January 14, 2012 1:30pm-4:00pm
Seema Jayne Kenney, *Assistance with Microsoft Word when writing your family history*
Anna Clare Fogarty, my grandmother’s sister, was born in February 1878 in Salem, MA. There were ten red-haired Fogarty children; Annie was the youngest of the six surviving children. Quiet and camera-shy in her later years, Annie is pictured with her classmates and her teacher at the Bentley School in Salem. The girls were probably in the eighth grade which would date the photograph to sometime in the 1890s when leg of mutton sleeves, nipped-in waists and high button shoes were the fashion for both students and teachers. Annie is third from the left (including the teacher) in the middle row.

The Bentley School, according to information on their website, spsbentley.salemk12.org, was originally named the East School for Girls (est. 1827) - the first public school for girls in Salem. In 1845, the name of the school was changed to honor the Rev. William Bentley, a strong supporter of public education and a school committee member, who had lived in Salem from the late 18th century until his death in 1819. There is still a Bentley School in Salem but the building in this photograph now houses condominiums.
This photo was taken at an elementary school in Watertown, Massachusetts. My mother, Ruth Ann Murphy, was born in 1911, and she is four from the right in the front row. Carol Callaghan, Member #1159

My uncles, James Norbert Reardon and Charlie Francis Reardon are in the front row, fourth from the left and second from the right respectively. Known collectively as "the twins" they asserted their individuality. Here Jim wore long pants and Charlie has knickers or were they "plus-fours"? This photo was taken in the mid-1930s perhaps, as they were getting ready to leave Immaculate Conception Grammar School in Malden, Massachusetts. Susan Steele, Member #1025
The Reardon twins went on to Malden Catholic, St. John’s Prep and Holy Cross College. Note once again the subtle differences in clothing choices, Jim has the striped tie and Charlie the plaid. Susan Steele
While researching my husband’s family, I went to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Grammar School. I inquired as to pictures that might be available and a lovely nun directed me to a storage closet in their cafeteria. There were two large albums of classes starting in the 1890's. Almost every student in every picture was identified with a key. I was able to find pictures of great-aunts and uncles at the age of 13-16, that no one else had. Marilyn Mahoney, Member #2566

Our Lady of Lourdes, Jamaica Plain, 1927 8th Grade Class.
We heard from Ellen Mariano, Member #3458, regarding the Danvers Elementary School photo that appeared in the March 2011 newsletter:

I think the boy front row, 2nd from left could be my Grandfather Charles A. Marr although it looks like he is marked as Ernest E. Charles was b. in Danvers, 8-14-1878 the son of Alberto Marr and Sarah Frances
Cross Marr. I only have pictures of him when he was 50 or older, it certainly looks like it could be him and the years would be right.
John Guppy #22 would probably be John Allan Guppy b. 11-25-1876, s. of Luther and Sophia and would be a 1st cousin, once removed of Charles’ 1/2 sister Lelia Francis Guppy Phippen, b. 11-5-1866.
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