



The Irish Ancestral RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

2120 Commonwealth Ave.
Auburndale, MA 02466-1909

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Shipping and Sorting Room, Boston Mat Company, 1918
(Photo Courtesy of the Peabody Institute Library, Peabody, MA)



The Irish Ancestral Research Association
2120 Commonwealth Avenue
Auburndale, MA 02466-1909
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
On The Job: Records of Ancestors		
Who Worked in Public Service	Page	3
Unexpected Discoveries in a Land		
Agent's Letters	Page	6
The Gene Pool	Page	8
Genealogical Gems in Town Books	Page	9
Genealogy in Unexpected Places	Page	10
A Leatherworker's Story	Page	11
Dathi's Bookshelf	Page	14
Celtic Connections Conference	Page	17
The Photo Connection	Page	18

President's Message

Mary Choppa #1791

We're looking forward to a great year for TIARA! As we celebrate the next 30 years (TIARA turned 30 in 2013!), we'll be keeping some traditions alive and starting some new ones.

Your new board has kept busy this summer. Once again, we have a great group of folks planning TIARA's future. Greg Atkinson has moved into the position of Co-President and Kathy Sullivan has taken on the responsibilities of Vice President. Returning for a second term, Susan Steele and Pam Holland are handling the duties of Recording Secretaries, and Gary Sutherland works diligently as Corresponding Secretary.

Charlie Jack continues as TIARA Treasurer. Carolyn Jack, our former webmaster, has started as Co-Treasurer.

Pat Landry has switched from Membership to Webmaster. Pat Deal has taken on the role of Membership chair. Eva Murphy is continuing as Volunteer chair and Joan Callahan is our Library Chair. Virginia Wright is our fearless Newsletter Editor and Brian Reynolds continues as our Audio-Visual Recorder for the monthly meetings.

All of these folks, along with past presidents Janis Duffy, Sheila Fitzpatrick, Marie Daly, Kathy Roscoe and Bernie Couming have given their time and talent to TIARA this past year and will be doing the same in the coming years.

We are very excited about our new meeting location. After a long association with Boston College, we're moving to Brandeis University. Thanks to Kathy Sullivan and her team for finding the new meeting space.

We hope you will be participating in all or (continued on page 19)

In this issue (continued)

Upcoming TIARA Meetings	Page	18
Welcome Home ...Again	Page	19

On the Job: Records of Ancestors Who Worked in Public Service

Margaret R Sullivan #2444

Did you have an ancestor who worked in the public sector? Choosing public sector jobs was a common practice among Irish-Americans. Consider the types of records and information you might find for ancestors employed by towns, cities, counties, and states. Whether you are descended from a legislator or a lamplighter, you can document your family story by using public employment records. Increasingly, documents of government agencies can be found on Internet Archive (www.archive.org) and are at your fingertips even if you cannot travel to your ancestor's hometown. I have used municipal and state records to identify date and place of birth, parents, spouse, children, cousins, as well as, photographs, signatures, and tales of heroism and scandal. The specific examples given here are from the city of Boston.

Before you look for your ancestor's records, you need to know what government body created the records. Jurisdiction is everything; and, borders can move. Boston annexed the neighboring towns of Dorchester, Roxbury, West Roxbury, Brighton, Charlestown, and Hyde Park in the 19th and early 20th centuries. When joining Boston, Charlestown moved from Middlesex to Suffolk County and Hyde Park from Norfolk to Suffolk County.

What records were created and which records survive, vary by town and era. Earlier records could have been collected in one large ledger by the town clerk. Later records might be by agency or department; and, by the late 19th century, you might find individual cards on each employee. Your ancestor's town or agency might still have the personnel record for your ancestor.

What might you find? There may be a variant spelling of your ancestor's name. Most likely you will uncover a middle initial, which might help you distinguish your John Murphy from those many other Murphys. Perhaps your ancestor's signature is on file.

Records tend to be more detailed as we move into the 20th century and might include: place of birth, date of birth, home address and later changes to the address as the employee moves, reference to military service, possibly next of kin or change in next of kin, e.g., a mother's name crossed out and a wife's name added. Some agencies kept photographs or detailed physical descriptions, including height and weight, hair and eye color, and distinguishing marks.

I have found information on absences especially useful. Workers had to justify their absence and were not necessarily paid for sick days. Each winter one can find documentation of "La Grippe." Huge numbers were sick in 1918 with influenza, or out to care for a sick relative. A notation that an employee was given 5 days unpaid leave to attend his sister's funeral in Oswego, New York might help you find a long lost branch of the family. Injuries sustained on the job resulted in still more documentation and often actual physician's reports.

Many public employees had prior military service, details of which might be noted in their personnel or pension file. You might also find a reference for a leave of absence for military service that could help you locate military records. The 1920 annual report for the Boston Public Library records the return of Miss Edith Guerrier and notes her 1917 departure for military service and the place she lived during her military service. By the Second World War, there was detailed information on service, rank, unit, and even the serial number that will help you to access military records. Towns might give priority for employment to veterans, or the state might pass legislation giving veterans preference. When Boston had to fill more than a thousand jobs after the 1919 police strike, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts insisted that absolute preference be given to returning war veterans, whether or not they were Boston residents, as required by the city statute.

The most interesting part of records might be the application. Applicants indicated their years of schooling and sometimes the name

of the school – another place to look for records. There may be a mention of previous employment and answers to questions about skills. Can you ride a horse? Can you ride a bike? Can you drive a car and/or a motorcycle? Can you type? Can you do electrical work? You might find job references from a previous employer, a politician, or a priest.

There might be personal questions on health and habits. Take these with a grain of salt. I have never seen an applicant who did not note he was of sober habits and either abstained from alcohol or only occasionally took a drink.

Once you have identified your ancestor as a public employee, look at places that he or she may have left other records. Are there documents that show your ancestor's signature? Is there a photograph, or reference to travel? Look beyond records created by your ancestor's agency. Follow the money. Look at records of the town meeting, board of aldermen, city council, or state legislature that controlled budgets, policy, and pensions. The 1840s records of your local sheriff may have been tossed a century ago, but if your ancestor drove a wagon to Vermont to bring back a prisoner, the bill he submitted for lodging and oats for his horse is probably still with the county clerk.

What qualified your ancestor? Public service jobs are generally not well paying but they are steady and reasonably secure. Some positions require an academic background or a license that could produce additional information or photographs. Many Boston area teachers from the 20th century attended Normal School or a Teacher's College. Some women teachers worked in their professions only briefly before marrying and raising families, but their records are there.

The yearbooks of the Boston Normal School, later called Teacher's College of the City of Boston, have been digitized by the University of Massachusetts at Boston, the public university that replaced Boston State. Yearbooks might include photographs, home addresses, and clubs and activities, enough in-

formation to begin tracking the correct family in the census.

Yearbooks also offer information and photographs of faculty. Sadly, some books include a detailed **in memoriam** section for members of the class who died before graduation. Hard copies or digitized versions of yearbooks are available.

Most public service jobs did not require a degree. But, why was your ancestor chosen for a secure job as a lamplighter or a sanitation worker? In difficult economic times more was required than dependability. Municipal positions were sometimes offered to leaders of new immigrant communities. Be alert for family connections, including siblings, family members of different generations, and those connected by marriage. Sometimes public service was a family affair.

Public employees might publish a yearbook at their own expense. Internet Archive is a great source for this. Boston police created such a book in 1901 with photos of officers along with date and place of birth. One of the officers was born at sea, and no doubt, his descendants are still searching for his birth certificate. Two great-uncles of President John F. Kennedy are profiled in that 1901 yearbook, as well as the great-uncle of former Irish President Mary McAleese.

Which political party did your ancestors belong to, and which candidate did they support? Were they delegates to a convention or participants in a torch light parade? Were they promoted or fired when a new administration took office?

Public employees might belong to professional associations, unions, benevolent societies, sports leagues, or charitable groups which left their own set of records or were written up in the papers. Was there a benevolent group for sick or injured members of your ancestor's department? If so, they had meetings, membership cards, or applications, records of dues, and officers and elections. They may have held fundraisers. Was there a summer baseball team? A whist party cov-

ered in the social news of the local paper? A “time” for a friend in difficulty?

Newspapers are an underutilized source of information on public employees. They print news of appointments or tales of heroism and scandal. They report on job openings and transfers, speculate on candidates for openings, and the fortunate person who got the job. Papers loved to print photos of anyone in uniform, including police and fire-fighters, especially stories featuring animals or young children. Any street sweeper might become a hero when he stopped a runaway horse. Public employees were also involved in local visits of dignitaries or celebrities, parades, festivals and celebrations. The local papers would cover all these events.

Begin with digitized newspapers and check you ancestor’s full name, with middle initial. Also, try last name and name of department. If you find a story in a digitized paper, note the date and check the microfilm of that town’s other period newspapers that may have covered the story in more detail. Your ancestor may have had to give testimony, clean up after a disaster, or prepare for a parade or a visit by a dignitary.

Scandal was bad for your ancestor but can be a great source of information for you. Sex, bid rigging, theft, and election shenanigans would all make the paper and might even be the topic of public hearings. The worst cases might lead to criminal charges. Happily, court documents are well preserved.

A public employee might be the subject of special legislation that covers only that employee, a so-called “red headed Eskimo” law. Check town meeting minutes and records of the state legislature. Pensions might be the result of legislative action that named your ancestor.

The type of records an agency can or will release varies. Name, dates of service, and possibly salary would usually be shared without question if the information is readily available. But, individual personnel records are not public records. Sensitive information such as disciplinary history or health records might

be included in a personnel record, and recent changes in law might make some agencies hesitate to share items they would have shared even a decade ago. Some agencies will share records with a family member of the deceased employee. When requesting a record, state your relationship to the employee.

How can you access these records? First, do your homework and have specific information on your ancestor, with full name and middle initial. Narrow the approximate dates of service. These can be gleaned in detail from city directories or broadly from census records. Then, determine whom to approach for the records. If the records are in a historical society or library, you are in luck, because the staff is there eight hours a day specifically to serve you. If the records are with the agency, remember that they have a day job and your genealogy quest is not in their job description. Ask nicely and in a way that is most accommodating to them. Review the agency website. If an email address is offered, use it and include full identifying details for your ancestor, but not your ancestor’s entire life story. Include all contact info for yourself – phone, address, and email. If the website does not indicate a contact person, send your inquiry to the public affairs person, who will likely forward it to the right place.

The links below reference thousands of 19th and 20th century City of Boston Employees

Many Boston records, including municipal registers, annual lists of city employees with their home addresses, and reports for the Boston Police, Fire, Library and Water Works Departments. Documents for towns annexed to Boston are also here.

<http://www.bpl.org/govinfo/online-collections/regional-boston-and-massachusetts/>

1901 Boston Police Yearbook

<http://www.archive.org/stream/officersmenstati00tapp#page/n3/mode/2up>

The Boston Fire Historical Society listing of all employees since 1711.

<http://www.bostonfirehistory.org/>

Massachusetts Acts and Resolves, which may include information on pensions or special acts for individual public employees:

<http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/oversight-agencies/lib/massachusetts-acts-and-resolves-1692-to-1959.html>

Yearbooks of Boston Normal School and Teachers College of the City of Boston:

<http://openarchives.umb.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15774coll8/id/289/rec/9>

The Internet Archive

The *Internet Archive* is an important resource for genealogists. The site was founded in the late 1990s with the intent to archive everything with a focus on the content of websites. Since then, the *Internet Archive* has included over 350 billion current and former website pages after incorporating another web site archive called: The Wayback Machine.

Internet Archive has also added many other resources including over 4 million scanned books (90,000 genealogy titles), over a million videos and movies, almost 2 million audio files, and a variety of other materials.

Genealogy resources include numerous published family genealogies, census records from 1790 to 1930, passport applications to 1905, passenger lists, yearbooks, public records of states and municipalities, and texts on genealogical matters dating back to the 1800s.

Genealogical researchers can use the Internet Archive as a jumping off point to affiliated sites such as Open Library, Open Content Alliance, and Open Education Resources.

Internet Archive adds material constantly. It is available on the Internet free of charge. The site is indexed and fully searchable. A browse feature is also available for texts, audio, video and movie sections. The URL for the *Internet Archive* is: www.archive.org

Unexpected Discoveries in a Land Agent's Letters

Eileen (Curley) Pironti#2788

My great-grandfather James Edward Conlon was born in Minnesota, but his two older and three younger siblings were born in Massachusetts. This piqued my curiosity, so I asked several relatives if they knew why the Conlon family moved to Minnesota. They had been told that James Edward Conlon's parents, James and Eliza (Tracey) Conlon, left Boston with several families to acquire land in the Midwest, but little else was known about their time in Minnesota. An unlikely set of documents helped me gain a better understanding of what may have played a role in their decision to return to Massachusetts after only a few years.

According to James E. Conlon's 17 December 1905 marriage record, he was born in Adrian, Nobles County, Minnesota. I searched for information on Adrian and learned that Bishop John Ireland of St. Paul, Minnesota purchased approximately 55,000 acres of land near the town of Adrian in 1877.



Bishop Ireland helped establish the Catholic Colonization Bureau in 1876 and the Irish Catholic Colonization Association (ICCA) in 1879. The purpose of these organizations was to encourage Catholic immigrants living in eastern cities to relocate to the Midwest, and to assist them with the process. Based on this information, it seemed likely that my ancestors participated in the colonization of Nobles County, Minnesota.

I found information in Boston-area newspapers such as the *Pilot*, a Boston Catholic

newspaper, and the *Boston Traveller*, about a group of Boston families who were relocating to Minnesota in the spring of 1880. The 3 April 1880 edition of the *Pilot* newspaper reported that twenty-seven families from Boston left for Minnesota on 29 March 1880. This article also named the head of each family, including my great-great grandfather, James Conlon. I then found a listing for the Conlon family in the 1880 U.S. Federal Census, as well as the 1880 Agricultural Census, in Little Rock Township, Minnesota, located seven miles south of Adrian. The final two documents I located were James Edward Conlon's birth and baptism records. It is noted on his birth record that he was born on 14 October 1880 in Little Rock Township, Minnesota, not Adrian as listed on his 1905 marriage record.

At this point in my research, I felt that I had found a wealth of information regarding the Conlon family's arrival in Minnesota and their life in Nobles County through the fall of 1880. However, I still did not know why they returned to Boston just a few years later. Knowing that James and Eliza Conlon returned to Boston within a year or so of their son's birth in 1880, I felt that it was unlikely I would find any more documentation related to their time in Minnesota. I decided to look for additional information on the ICCA to gain a better understanding of the services provided to the colonists. Over the course of my research, I learned that around 1877 a Catholic priest named C.J. Knauf was assigned to the Adrian area to act as a parish priest for the colonists, as well as a land agent for the ICCA. He was responsible for collecting payments from the settlers, and also for reporting back to William Onahan of the ICCA on the status of the various properties. Father Knauf was listed on my great-grandfather's baptism record, so I knew that my ancestors interacted with him while they resided in Minnesota. I contacted the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis Archives to inquire about any items in their collection pertaining to Father Knauf. They informed me that they had among their holdings correspondence between Father Knauf and William Onahan dated 1880 through 1891. Since my family resided in Minnesota for on-

ly a short time, I doubted that these letters would contain information on James Conlon. However, I still requested copies of these documents with the goal of learning more about the ICCA.

As I read through Father Knauf's letters, I was surprised to find a reference to my family. In a letter dated 17 October 1882, Father Knauf wrote to William Onahan about a farm available for sale. He talked about the current worth of the farm, and provided information about its location and the quality of the land. He informed Mr. Onahan that the property "belonged to a Mr. Conlon who left for Boston last winter a year ago. He promised to pay to you, but I doubt very much, if that he did." This letter not only gave me a wonderful description of the property, but also provided information on when my family returned to Boston. The fact that Father Knauf assumed that my great-great grandfather never sent a payment to the ICCA also intrigued me.

I did not find any other references to my family, but Father Knauf wrote to William Onahan about another Boston colonist named Martin Galvin. While searching Minnesota newspapers for information on my ancestors, I read about the severe weather conditions that occurred in Nobles County the winter following my great-grandfather's birth. Father Knauf's letters provided insight into the difficult conditions the colonists in the Little Rock Township/Adrian area faced that winter. Father Knauf reported in one letter that some of the colonists had failed to properly insulate their homes, and were now suffering from the cold weather conditions. In another letter, Father Knauf wrote to William Onahan on behalf of Martin Galvin to receive a partial refund for interest that had been overpaid on his property. He made it clear in his letter that this matter should be addressed as quickly as possible, since Martin Galvin, like a number of other colonists, had run out of fuel and had no money to pay for it. Later that winter Father Knauf reported to William Onahan that a number of colonists appeared to be unhappy with their situation, and were thinking of leaving the area. He noted that he hoped they would

change their minds by the spring. Based on the information in these letters, it was likely that James and Eliza Conlon felt that the conditions in Little Rock Township were too harsh for raising a young family, which led to their decision to return to Boston.

It was an unexpected surprise to find a reference to my ancestors in Father Knauf's correspondence. It was a valuable reminder to me that researchers should never overlook a record source simply because they feel it would not pertain directly to their own research.

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Pilot newspaper, available on microfilm at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, MA.

U.S. Census Office, nonpopulation census schedule, Minnesota 1860-1880, agriculture, Martin-Nobles County, Minnesota, microfilm 1597, r.6B, frame #486, St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1977.

1880 U.S. Federal Census, household of James Conlon, Little Rock Township, Nobles County, MN, Roll: 627; Family History Film: 1254627; Page: 233A; Enumeration District: 195; Image: 0469, digital image [<http://www.ancestry.com>].

James Edward Conlon baptism record, 1880, Saint Adrian Catholic Church, Adrian, Minnesota.

Certificate of birth, James Edward Conlon, Nobles County, Minnesota, filed 20 December 1880.

William Onahan Papers, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis Archives, Minnesota.

Curley, Eileen. "An Invitation to the Land: Reconstructing James and Eliza Conlon's Migration to Minnesota," *American Ancestors Magazine*, vol. 12.3, 2011, pp. 29-32.

Find Out More

Another phase of Bishop Ireland's colonization project is covered in the book Forgetting Ireland (Connelly, Bridget, St. Paul, Minn.: Borealis Books, 2003). The bishop's initial efforts involved the relocation of Irish immigrants suffering social and economic hardship in eastern US cities. By early 1880 the poor districts in western Ireland felt the effects of the 1879 crop failure. Bishop Ireland was asked to help relocate fifty families from the Connemara area of Galway. In June of 1880, these families left from the port of Galway on the first leg of their journey to western Minnesota.

Bridget Connelly descends from one of these families. She had no knowledge of this family history until an unknown cousin from Ireland showed up at her brother's farm and told him the story. She researched the colonization experiment and the stories that emerged when most of the Connemara families left the land.

The Gene Pool

Marie Collins McCarthy # 2112

A number of years back, my husband Frank and I invested in a small condominium in Naples, FL to be used by the family as a winter retreat. Like all the other senior citizens, we were "standing" in the pool making conversation with our neighbors and meeting new people from many states. One couple we met, Cornelius (Connie) and Betty Mahoney, were from the south shore of MA.

After introductions, Connie told us that he had first cousins named McCarthys. He then asked what my maiden name was. I replied "Collins." Connie responded that his first cousin, Barbara McCarthy, was married to a John Collins from Jamaica Plain. Lo and behold, his cousin Barbara was married to my first cousin Jack. Twenty-five years later, we remain very good friends. The moral of this story: "You never know who you'll meet standing in a swimming pool in sunny Florida."

Genealogical Gems in Town Books

Marie Ahearn #0097

Hidden away in local libraries, town archives and historical societies are many books printed by local governments. Often these books, bearing cumbersome titles, are overlooked or ignored by researchers. One such book is Report of the Committee Appointed to Revise the Soldiers' Record, Danvers [Mass.], Published by the Town, 1895

The first half of the book provides information on the men from Danvers who served in the Civil War. In addition to the military service, most entries have brief biographies. Place of birth, names of parents, name of wife, names and birth dates of children, occupation, and residence (in 1895) are included in the book. My ancestor, William Collins, listed his birthplace, wedding date and my great grandmother's name. More family information was provided in the entries of his brothers, Henry and Thomas.

An entry for a veteran who completed the full questionnaire looked like this:

FOX

Lawrence, m[ustered] 22 July, 1861, Co B, 17th Inf, dis[charged] 3 Aug., 1864, ex term:

m[ustered] 15 Aug., 1864, Co C, 17th Inf; credited to Salem; dis[charged] 11

July, 1865, ex. Term. Wounded in the knee, Wisefork[Wyse Fork], N.C.,

1865, confined in regimental hospital in 1862 at Foster.

b.Roscommon Co., Ireland, 1821, son of Michael and Hannah (Burns) Fox; m. 1846 in Ireland, Bridget McDermott; m 2d in Ireland, 1852, Bridget Welch. Ch: Sarah J., b. 18 Oct., 1847. Michael, b. 26 Sept., 1849. Mary, b. 28 Oct., 1854. Annie E., b. 15 Nov., 1856. Lawrence, b. 15 Nov., 1858. Patrick, b. 17 Mar., 1861. John, b. 12 June, 1867. Wm.; Mgt.; Mgt. M; Wm. J. Resides Tapleyville [part of Danvers]. Shoemaker.

Another entry, THOMAS HARTMAN, was b. Scotland in 1805. He had previously served in the English army for 21 years attaining the rank of sergeant. Two of his adult sons are also listed as serving during the war.

Thomas's service was short-lived. He was mustered 22 July 1861 and his death was listed as 5 July 1862 at Danvers. Thomas's age on the death record was 69, which may explain why his age at enlistment - "58" - was in quotes.

Reading through the pages of military service, I found two brothers, BENJAMIN and RICHARD FULLER, who gave the Isle of Tristan da Cunha as their place of birth. A quick trip to the internet informed me that the island is one of the most remote and sparsely populated locales in the world. How did these brothers, born on an island in the South Atlantic, end up in Danvers? Apparently, American whalers were prevalent in the waters around the island in the 18th and 19th century; and, one of the founders of the first settlement (1810) was from Salem, MA.

Whatever happened to EDWARD DARLING? He mustered on 1 Oct. 1862 into Co K, 8th Inf along with my great grandfather. The only other information about Edward is that he is listed as deserting 28 Dec. 1862 at Newberne, NC.

Think of the research possibilities provided in this report for the descendants of these men.

In addition to the record of service, the committee report contains a photograph of the "Rebellion" Monument in front of the town hall. The names of the soldiers and sailors who died during the war, which are inscribed on the monument, are listed in the report. There are historical sketches of the "military organizations" in which Danvers men served. The names of the soldiers and sailors buried in Danvers (up to 1895) are listed by cemetery.

The Appendix of the Report also has the names and information of Danvers men who served during the Revolution, as well as, sketches of units in which they served. Mention was made of Danvers soldiers who fought in King Philip's War, the French and Indian War, Shay's Rebellion, the War of 1812 and the Mexican War.

Thankfully, there were men who realized how important the records of the soldiers and sailors would be to future generations. It was well stated on p. vi of the Report of the Committee:

“A feature of this report is the preservation of the family records of our soldiers. Here we may have made some errors and crave your indulgence, but that in generations to come, the same honor and veneration will be paid to the men of 1861 as is now paid to the heroes of 1775 is undoubted, and our descendants and successors will thank us for placing on record some account, however fragmentary, of the families and lives of the soldiers.”

Genealogy in Unexpected Places

Patricia McHugh #3509

Ever since my husband and I have been married, the closest we lived to his family in Fall River was a distance of approximately thirty-five miles. Also, my husband worked about fifty miles from our home, so for the longest time he didn't feel very connected to the town where we live. It was during this early part of our marriage that my father-in-law mentioned to us that he remembered 'cousins' by the name of Nolan who lived in Connecticut back in the 1930s and 1940s. However, he did not remember the name of the town or how he was related to them.

When both my in-laws passed away, my mother-in-law's baking recipes came into our possession. They were hand-written in a journal style notebook that was cloth-bound with well-worn corners. One night while flipping through the pages of recipes, we came to a different section in the back of the book. It was her Christmas card list from 1938! And yes, there was the address of the Nolan Family in Taftville, Connecticut. With that information we were on our way to discover how the Nolan 'cousins' were related to my husband.

The next day we drove to Taftville and stopped at the cemetery office of the local Catholic cemetery. We were given a printout of all the Nolan burials along with the plot

and lot numbers. It was at the second stone that we read the name, "Sarah McHugh, wife of William Nolan." So, the Nolans were from my father-in-law's paternal side. But that information didn't explain completely how the Nolans were related because we had never heard of 'Sarah McHugh.'

We came home and called my husband's first cousin, Madelyn, who has worked on the family tree, too. Madelyn was able to tell us that Sarah was the child of Peter McHugh, great-uncle to my father-in-law. But Madelyn never had heard any Connecticut stories. She thought that the family had stayed in Fall River after Peter died in 1873 when Sarah was very young. So, when did this branch of the family leave Fall River and move to Connecticut?

We checked the census records and found the family in Taftville in the 1880 Federal Census. Peter's widow had remarried, but wait...Sarah had two siblings who were born in Fall River—children we never knew about. We found their birth records in Massachusetts and they were Peter's children. There was Sarah's sister, Elizabeth, who was buried in the same plot in the cemetery as Sarah, but what happened to the brother named Joseph McHugh?

To find that answer we went to the library in Norwich, which has the City Directories for the Norwich/Taftville area. We discovered that Joseph had moved from Taftville to New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1905. There, he married Sarah Gibbons in 1906 and by 1910, they had moved to Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Nine years after that Joseph and Sarah moved to Cumberland, Rhode Island. The couple never had any children and Joseph died in 1945. Joseph and his wife, Sarah, are buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Cumberland, RI. This is the parish in the next town to us, but the one to which my husband and I belong. We often drive by Joseph McHugh's final resting place. My husband has had 'family' nearby ever since we have lived here, and we learned all of this because my mother-in-law, husband, and I shared a taste for sweets.

A Leatherworker's Story

Susan Steele #1025



John Hoar has appeared in these pages before. When I was writing my “Foresters Findings” column back in Spring 2010, I wrote about Foresters Project volunteers

Marie Ahearn, Bob Cavanaugh and Cate Ryan who noticed the MCOF insignia on a headstone while transcribing stones in Old St. Mary’s Cemetery in Danvers. My column told how those four letters “MCOF” led to the discovery of many details about John’s life in his Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters Mortuary Record. One of those details was an address for John’s mother in Country Cork: Lissard, Ballinamona, Burnfort, an area just south of Mallow. Another detail was John’s occupation.

John Hoar’s MCOF application stated that he was a leatherworker in Peabody. He lived along the railroad line in the Tapleyville section of Danvers. John gave information about his family. He had one brother, no sisters, and his father was dead. His father and siblings were enumerated but not named. His “Intimate Friend” (a person who was already a member of the Foresters) was named - Patrick Linehan.

When John Hoar joined the Foresters in 1892, he named his mother, Helena Linehan, of Cork, Ireland as his beneficiary. At the time of John’s death, more information was given. Helena was Ellen Burns Hoar Linehan (maiden name and surname from second marriage.) In Power of Attorney documents contained in this Mortuary Record, Ellen named another son, Maurice Hoar of Danvers. Ellen stated that Maurice should have one half of the beneficiary amount after funeral expenses were paid. The rest of the beneficiary amount was to be sent to Ellen and her dependents, three Linehan children

of Ellen’s second marriage: Michael, Denis and Cornelius.

I had done some searching for John Hoar’s family in Ireland but was interested in learning more about his family in Massachusetts. I looked for John’s brother, Maurice, in Danvers. The TIARA website and The University Archives & Special Collections, UMass Boston website both allow searches for Forester deaths from 1880 – 1935. The UMass website provides the flexibility of searching with several preset parameters including Forester Court, town of residence and place of birth. Maurice did not appear in any Foresters list.

Maurice was listed in the Danvers City Directory in 1893. Maurice Hoar “section hand” was boarding at 35 Chestnut Street. Patrick Linehan, “section hand” was listed as having a house at 35 Chestnut Street. This is certainly the Patrick Linehan who was cited as sponsor on John Hoar’s MCOF application. An obituary for John Hoar named Patrick when it stated that John Hoar’s remains were brought to the home of Patrick Linehan on Chestnut Street. Patrick Linehan and Maurice Hoar worked for the railroad. There was also City Directory material that suggesting that John Hoar may have worked for the railroad prior to his employment as a leatherworker. I was to learn that the railroads were an important ally to the leather industry.

The term “section hand” defined Patrick Linehan and Maurice Hoar as railroad workers. Unfortunately, the railroad was also the cause of John Hoar’s death. John took the train from his workplace in Peabody to his lodgings in Danvers. The train he took on September 30, 1892 was not scheduled to make a stop at Danvers Junction, the closest spot to John’s residence. According to John’s obituary, many people made a practice of jumping off this train as it slowed going through the junction. Unfortunately, John fell under the wheels when he jumped.

Learning about John Hoar who lived in Danvers and “commuted” to his job in Peabody, made me take a closer look at other members of the Danvers Court. I found Thomas

Linehan, occupation: Morocco Dresser. Thomas was the brother of Patrick Linehan. When he filled out his application, Thomas Linehan stated that he had three brothers and four sisters who were living. At the time of Thomas's death these siblings in Ireland and in Danvers were named. There were four siblings in Danvers, Thomas' brother Patrick and three sisters, Lizzie, Nellie and Margaret. The MCOF application stated that Thomas was born in Carrignavar, County Cork. Carrignavar is south of Burnfort, the place named as Ellen Hoar Linehan's residence.

After Thomas' death, his Massachusetts family published a "Card of Thanks" in the Danvers Mirror newspaper. Sisters Lizzie, Nellie and Margaret expressed gratitude to the Danvers Court and to the workers at American Hide and Leather, most likely the company that employed Thomas.

I had found two Danvers families who had immigrated from townlands within a close radius of Mallow. Marie Ahearn had mentioned that there were a number of Mallow families in the Peabody area that were known to have worked in the leather industry. My UMass website sort by court / residence had not revealed any other Mallow families in Danvers so I looked in Peabody, the home of the leather manufacturers.

There were a number of members of Emerald Court and its sister court, St. Teresa's who listed Mallow, County Cork, Ireland as their place of birth. My initial search on the UMass website resulted in nine hits. This was information for only eight individuals as one woman was listed twice. Women are often listed multiple times - under maiden and married names. Then using birthplace "Country Cork" as a search term, I looked for Foresters in Peabody and surrounding towns. I became familiar with the names of townlands surrounding Mallow and looked closely at places cited for County Cork Foresters. My initial list of eight expanded to 23. I compiled a spreadsheet listing these Foresters. Family members who didn't have a Forester Mortuary Record but worked in the industry were added to the list.

When I examined those who had Mortuary Records, I found many men who gave leather industry jobs (tanner, morocco dresser and currier) as their occupations. I followed one of those families from Mallow in records from the late 1800s through the early 1900s. In the 1900 census for Peabody, John and Julia Callahan lived on Union Street. John, age 34, was a morocco shaver who immigrated in 1887. His brother, Michael, age 22, a morocco tanner was living with John's family. Michael immigrated in 1896. Also listed on Union Street were three curriers, one morocco staker, three morocco tackers, one morocco labourer, and two shoe finishers. On that page alone, there were 11 Irish born workers in the leather industry living on Union Street.

It was time to learn more about this industry that had employed so many Irish immigrants. I enlisted Marie Ahearn and Bob Cavanaugh to accompany me on research trips to Peabody. Bob and Marie lived in the area and had ancestors who worked in the leather industry. My first outing was to the Leatherworkers Museum. Visual displays gave a good overview of the industry and the workers. Both the visual and written information clarified many leatherworker terms. For example, I learned that Morocco leather was leather made from goatskin - a "morocco dresser" tanned the leather. A "currier" applied the finishing techniques (including color) to the leather.

We also made trips to the Ruth Hill Library & Archives of the Peabody Historical Society and the Peabody Institute Library. Research in those places contributed to a chronology of leather history. The Peabody leather industry's period of growth began in the 1840s with the coming of railroads to Peabody. Growth continued with the addition of new machinery and new methods for tanning. During this period, Irish immigrants escaping famine conditions arrived in Peabody. As the industry expanded so did the immigrant workforce.

A census of industry in 1855 showed many tanneries, currying shops, morocco shops, a patent leather factory, and shoe manufactur-

ers. By the 1900s, one of the largest companies, AC Lawrence, employed over 3000 workers at a peak period. There were 91 leather establishments employing over 8,600 workers in 1919. That same year Peabody was declared the “Leather Capital of the World”!

A number of my identified Mallow families had arrived during the expansion years of the leather industry. When Michael Callahan immigrated in 1887, this was during the period of huge expansion for the companies like AC Lawrence. It seems likely that his brother Michael’s departure from Ireland in 1896 was a case of “Kinship Migration” – older brother John letting younger brother Michael know of job opportunities in Peabody.

The leather industry dominated other manufacturing concerns in Peabody and Irish immigrants were the largest group of foreign-born workers in 1910 with almost 1500 members. Many employees lived within walking distance of the companies. Workers rented housing – often in areas where there were other leather workers from the same country of origin. There were neighborhoods called Dublin and County Cork. The 1900 Union Street census area was in the “Dublin” neighborhood. This may have been a general reference for Irish in the area or it may have represented the home of some of the Callahans’ neighbors. John Hoar and Thomas Linehan were representative of the workers who lived outside of the central Peabody area. The railroads that were used to carry the raw goods and finished products of the leather industry carried workers to neighboring towns.

The Leatherworkers Museum, the Peabody Historical Society and the Peabody Institute Library provided material that helped me envision the lives of these laborers. There was much documentation of daily lives in the workplace. I learned of workplace schedules and workplace hazards including lists of monthly injuries. I found names of workers in company newsletters such as those of AC Lawrence. These newsletters told of grievances, promotions, company activities and

outings. Sometimes I was able to identify a member of the families I was studying. The photo found in the Peabody Institute Library identifies the son of Castletownroache immigrant, John D. Manning. Twenty-one year old William F. Manning was employed at Boston Mat Leather Company. The label on the photo states, “W. F. Manning, 1918, knows his leather.” The photo includes images of William and five other men. It shows leather being inspected and wrapped for shipping, time cards, and a number of other details of workplace life.

If your ancestor worked in an industry, I encourage you to explore the unique sources of information that can be found in Foresters records, industry museums, local historical societies, and libraries. These sources can add details that will help construct a more complete picture of your ancestors’ lives. Together with more familiar sources such as: census records, city directories, vital records, passenger ship lists, naturalizations, and newspapers, these records can give us information about birthplace, motivation for migration, residences here, family relationships, social and religious group membership and workplace conditions.

Sources

Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters Mortuary Records, University Archives and Special Collections, Healey Library, University of Massachusetts Boston

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

Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters Mortuary Records. <http://tiara.ie/forest.php>

Peabody Leatherworkers Museum

Peabody, Massachusetts

<http://www.peabodymuseums.org>

Ruth Hill Library & Archives, Peabody Historical Society & Museum, Peabody, Massachusetts

http://www.peabodyhistorical.org/library_archives.asp

Eben Dale Sutton Room, Peabody Institute Library, Peabody, Massachusetts

<http://www.peabodylibrary.org/history/index.html>

DATHI'S BOOKSHELF

Thomas A. Dorsey, J.D., PhD #2695

Cromwell's departure from Ireland began the second phase of the invasion that led to the **Cromwellian consolidation** of the remainder of the country. On May 26, 1650 Henry Ireton, Cromwell's son-in-law and second in command, became Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Ireland commanding the armies with the task of subduing the western half of the country. Ireton's campaign, continued by his generals, lasted nearly 24 months until May 1652 and was followed by a year of guerrilla actions. The next decade encompassed (1) the imposition of legal and social strictures, (2) the land confiscations, and (3) the settlement period before the Restoration.

In Cromwell in Ireland, James Wheeler sets out the Irish position clearly. (Colonel Wheeler is an associate professor of European History at West Point.) The Irish forces were strong (13,000 troops) but divided geographically and politically into four groups. Ormonde directed the remnants of the Coalition forces amounting to 2000 troops near Limerick, Castlehaven had 2000 troops in western Munster, Clanricarde commanded 3000 men in Connaught, and Bishop Herber MacMahon, representing the religious faction of the Coalition, directed 6000 veterans in Ulster. The Ulster forces had been formerly led by Owen Roe O'Neill.

The Irish generals were opposed by seasoned Parliamentary officers Charles Coote, Thomas Dillon, Thomas Hewson, Lord Broghill, and Henry Ireton. The English were tightly knit by battle and religious beliefs. The Irish were divided politically between Royalists (Ormonde), Anglo-Irish landholders (Clanricarde and Castlehaven) and the Ulster landholders now led by Catholic clergy. The Earl of Clanricarde (Ulick Burke) and the Earl of Castlehaven (James Tuchet) two of the oldest members of the Irish Peerage fell out after the Battle of Tecroghan. Burke's staunch royalist politics and his eventual replacement of Ormonde prolonged the friction among the Irish parties.

Despite internal conflicts, the Irish had the possibility of external support. Micheal O'Siochru's discussion of "Foreign Interventions" in God's Executioner offers new information on Continental involvement. France and Spain were fighting Hapsburg Germany. As a result, they could not afford to start a separate conflict with England. However, despite his odd status in Europe, Charles IV, the Duke of Lorraine, was not constrained from getting involved. The Duchy of Lorraine was claimed by Austria and France and three invasions by France had forced Charles into exile in Brussels.

Without a duchy to rule, Charles adopted a career as a military contractor and amassed a huge fortune banked in Switzerland. Since 1641 he had been interested in Ireland and in a delicate dance with Charles II, during the spring of 1650, he offered to supply troops and arms for Ireland. Negotiations faltered over collateral for the loan, which at one point included the City of Galway and its ports. The proposal broke down abruptly when Lorraine's agents withdrew from the discussions leading Clanricarde to doubt both Lorraine and his resources.

Lorraine's involvement was also derailed by three engagements which sharply impaired the Confederates prospects. In mid-June of 1650, at the Battle of Scarrifholis (in Donegal), Bishop MacMahon lost 2000 men to Coote who had flanked the main body of Irishmen. The resulting rout saw another 1000 killed in the pursuit. A few days before at Techroghan (near Trim) Castlehaven, who was attempting to relieve the castle along with Clanricarde, was repulsed by a superior Parliamentary force. The fortress surrendered and Clanricarde announced that he would no longer endanger his troops for the benefit of Leinster Catholics. Finally, the need to garrison Limerick and the lack of funds to pay troops was endangering Waterford which was undefended. Ireton promptly marched on the city and demanded its surrender. Mayor Thomas Preston, a Royalist, complied immediately and surrendered all ammunition, artillery and ships to Ireton in return for generous terms.

These continued losses brought Ormonde's relationship with the Bishops to a head. After some negotiation they asked him to resign as Lord Lieutenant and depart Ireland to join Charles II in France. The request was reinforced by the threat of excommunication of any soldier serving under Ormonde. Given this *fait accompli*, Charles II appointed Clanricarde as Ormonde's replacement and the Butler family left Galway for France on December 11, 1650.

Military engagements were in a hiatus from September to November because Ireton, confronted with moving into Connaught, had not developed a strategy for advancing. His failure to move on Limerick in the summer of 1650, when the city was unprepared, had lost him an advantage. Thus three major objectives – Limerick, Athlone and Galway – still remained to be taken before the conquest concluded. Ireton decided to move on Athlone so as to establish a direct line of advance between Dublin and Galway. However, his delay had allowed O'Neill to reinforce Limerick and Clanricarde to strengthen Athlone. On reaching Limerick Ireton tried offering good terms for the city's surrender but was refused. Surprisingly, the English then decided to abandon the siege and moved to winter quarters.

The English troops were exhausted after 18 months of fighting. Worse, there were no food supplies since both sides had destroyed the crops in many counties. The English commissioners in Dublin estimated that eighty percent of the best land had been made uninhabitable. Around 37 percent of all English troops sent to Ireland had died, mostly from disease. In the summer of 1650, plague was estimated to be killing 1300 persons a week in the Dublin area. Ireton needed 12,000 to 18,000 men and £2.5 million to continue the campaign. Parliament delivered 12,000 matchlock muskets, 23,000 sets of clothing, £196,000 in cash for pay, and millions of pounds of wheat, oats, salmon, and cheese. (Wheeler, p. 195)

Meanwhile the Marquis of Clanricarde, an Old English Catholic in the Irish Peerage, assumed leadership of the Coalition and as-

sembled 3000 men to defend Connaught. His task was daunting since he had no finances, the rest of Ireland was lost, and he had no armaments, cannons or food. Catholic Europe was embroiled in war (see above) and had no money or material to spare. However, the Irish were not conquered. The occupation of cities and towns did not protect the English from tory (from the Irish *toraiigh* "a hunter") attacks in the countryside. As a result, the winter of 1650-51 became, in Wheeler's phrase "a savage war of peace" with guerrilla raids and English reprisals wasting the countryside and exhausting limited Irish resources. Threatened with the loss of their religion, their land and their lives, the Irish fought on because they could not consider giving up. Worse, they had no one to whom they could surrender.

In May 1651, Ireton began his attack on Connaught, Claire and Limerick. He commanded 35,000 troops opposed by about 30,000 Irish soldiers scattered in tory bands and isolated strongholds. Coote finessed Clanricarde by rapidly marching southeast from Ulster, skipping the likely target of Sligo and moving directly to hit Athlone. Clanricarde was drawn north, out of position, and ended up chasing Coote south. At the same time Ireton moved to the Shannon near Killaloe and, cutting through undefended bog land, managed a crossing in small boats. Once across the river Ireton constructed a bridge for his troops putting pressure on the Irish forces, under Castlehaven who withdrew from Killaloe.

Athlone, with Coote on one side and Hewson on the other, surrendered. This created a direct route into Connaught from Dublin for reinforcements and supplies. Ireton immediately attacked Castlehaven's force of 2000 and, as Clanricarde hesitated to attack Coote, he proceeded to Portumna and Loughrea and forced their surrender. At this point Clanricarde's own units deserted him leaving him with Leinster and Ulster Irish troops. He retreated towards Galway which allowed Coote and Reynolds to join their forces outside Loughrea.

Ireton then marched down the west side of the Shannon to Limerick. On June 14 1651, he surrounded the city with 28 siege cannons and called on Hugh Dubh O'Neill, now commanding the city, to surrender. His offer was rejected. This attack caused Lord Muskerry in Kerry to bring 3000 men north towards Mallow hoping to disrupt Ireton's supply lines. This move was anticipated by Broghill, who attacked Muskerry at Mallow with 1000 troops, routing his force and driving him back into Kerry. This defeat and English occupations of smaller population centers, saw most organized Irish units disband to fight as Tories leaving only Sligo, Galway and Limerick standing alone.

The siege of Limerick lasted from June to October 1651. The siege began with the capture of a small fortress by a Colonel Tothill who executed the entire garrison, leading Ireton to court-martial him. During the balance of the summer Ireton's men did not fare well. Over 2000 English troops died of plague and O'Neill sallied outside the walls inflicting real casualties. However, residents of Limerick also suffered from plague, aggravated by a lack of food, and an estimated 4000 Irish troops and civilians died. When the city surrendered in the fall there were no horses left inside the walls. (When we visited King John's Castle in Limerick we saw excavations of plague victim burials from 1650.)

As the siege continued O'Neill tried to conserve resources by expelling city residents but the first 40 evacuees were killed by Ireton's troops. Without relief the city became divided with O'Neill and the clergy (threatening excommunication) in favor of holding out and the City Council and Mayor Fanning favoring surrender. The resolution of Limerick's plight had been made more difficult by bad blood between the remaining Irish commanders. Clanricarde and Castlehaven, felt they had been "slighted" by O'Neill because he compared their hesitancy to act to that of Ormonde. The factional bickering resulted in further inaction and no relief was attempted.

The end was chaotic. On October 23, Colonel Fennel (who had tried to betray the defense of Clonmel) seized several cannons and took

control of one gate of the City. The earlier division of opinion resulted in Fennel being backed by the City Council. The turning point, however, may have been the news that Cromwell had defeated the Scots at the battle of Worcester bringing the royalist cause to a final end. Ireton actually distributed broadsides about the victory for the Limerick residents to read. Without any hope of relief from abroad O'Neill surrendered on the 28th of October.

The terms of surrender were harsh. Parole was granted to 1300 Irish soldiers who decamped to Galway but 22 leaders and clergy, including O'Neill, were denied quarter. The condemned list, drawn up by Ireton, included the Bishop of Emly, two former mayors, Geoffrey Barron, a former MP, and Hugh O'Neill. They were all executed, except O'Neill, whose sentence became muddled. Either Ludlow interceded or Ireton withheld execution but O'Neill was temporarily spared. Then Ireton died suddenly on November 26 while touring the troops and O'Neill was sent to London accompanying Ireton's body. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London and was saved from execution by the Spanish ambassador who argued successfully that he was a Spanish citizen and not subject to British law.

Ireton was replaced by Edmund Ludlow who proceeded to blockade Galway with limited success. The port side of the city could not be closed off and there were 2000 troops in the city garrison. An additional 3000 troops in North Galway and Mayo under Richard Farrell could not be brought into play and Clanricarde, whose intransigent royalist views alienated many, could not raise additional troops. The Ulster forces refused to serve and the Leinster troops were pinned down by Broghill. Winter was coming on and plague was still rampant. Clanricarde wrote Ludlow requesting a conference "... for the establishment of the repose of the nation." He was summarily rejected. Ludlow demanded the immediate and individual surrender of each remaining commander in the country without condition.

During the summer of 1652 various actors on the Continent, including the Duke of Lorraine, were making efforts to relieve Ireland. Lorraine had offered to take the title "Lord Protector of Ireland" in exchange for putting all his resources to work but Clanricarde refused to concede any allegiance to Charles II. Viscount Muskerry, a close confidant of Clanricarde's, tried to negotiate separately with Lorraine. As late as January, 1653 rumors of Lorraine's defense of Ireland were current but in February the surrender of the island of Inishbofin off the coast of Galway was seen as the terminal blow. The governor of the island, Colonel George Cusack took 1000 troops to Flanders to serve under the Duke.

Like any conquest, the end was not neat. Persistent tory activity across the island bedeviled the Parliamentarians, particularly in Leinster and Ulster. The conflict caused a huge expansion of Cromwell's spy operations said to be the origin of the British Intelligence Service. Battles and guerrilla raids continued through 1653 accompanied by vicious reprisals. Five hundred commoners in Kerry and 4000 men, women and children in Wexford were indiscriminately slaughtered. The treatment was so bad that prominent Protestants criticized the reprisals.

In the final analysis, Ireland was decimated. Over 53,000 military men were exiled to

Europe as mercenaries, 50,000 women and children were sent into slavery and an estimated 800,000 died of famine, plague or reprisals. Both O'Siochru and Wheeler suggest three major outcomes of the conquest. First, the Old English Catholics were disenfranchised and reduced to the peasantry. Second, the native Irish people and their culture were finally demolished. Finally, the nascent promise of a Catholic Coalition was permanently ended. Even the Scots suffered when Cromwell's success allowed the Protectorate to subdue them in the same way as the Irish.

The consolidation of the Conquest was simply the first step in the torturous suppression of the Irish. The period from 1653 to 1665 led to the Act of Settlement (1662), the exile of the Irish to Connaught, and the redistribution of land and estates to the Adventurers, army veterans and others. This period is a depressing one in Irish history and a break to consider a number of loose ends is in order. The questions of genocide and ethnic cleansing, Cromwell's later history, and other strange twists and turns are part of this tale that should not be overlooked. It may provide a welcome break from the relentless suppression of the Irish people.

NEXT: The Once and Future Cromwell.

[Comments/requests](#) to:

dathi2010@gmail.com

Celtic Connection Conference

August 25-16, 2014

La Cava Center, Bentley University, Waltham, MA

TIARA in partnership with the Irish Genealogical Society International will hold a Celtic Conference at the La Cava Center, Bentley University, Waltham, MA.

- A great opportunity to hear lectures by experts on Irish topics: Culture, History, Music and Genealogy.
- Conference rate accommodations available at both the Holiday Inn and Marriott Courtyard, Waltham MA.
- Space will be limited.

Watch for further details at: www.tiara.ie

The Photo Connection

Susan Steele #1025

The effect on visitors was immediate...“Stop, I need to take a closer look!” A photo display advertising the Mass. Memories Road Show greeted those who entered TIARA’s tent at the Irish Cultural Centre’s Festival in June. The 1939 photo of Roxbury’s Emerald Isle Orchestra was the subject of many comments.



Older folks remembered going to dances in Dudley Square well into the 1960s. Some recognized band members in the photo. Those too young to remember the Roxbury dance halls, picked out other details – the two girls who must have been sisters (They were.) My nephew, a musician and member of several bands, commented on the inscribed accordions and the group’s slogan “For Music That Satisfies – Call Prospect 1046-J.”

Other photos, including ones supplied by TIARA members, also elicited careful study. All of the photos have been digitized and are part of the Mass. Memories Road Show Collection at UMass Boston. You can browse this collection of over 4000 photos at www.massmemories.net. Clicking on the photo brings up a description of the picture. The details that accompany the band picture are:

The Emerald Isle Orchestra: Tom Senier, Joe Fahey, Dick Hannaway, Jack Storer,

Unknown, Johnny Conners, Fitzmorris Sisters, Back row unknown (1939)

Contributor: Frank Storer (ID# 103)

“Played mostly at Winslow Hall, corner of Warren Street, over the old Waldorf, and Mal’s Drugstore. They were one of the many Irish dance orchestras that performed in the numerous dance halls and ballrooms located in the Dudley Square area of Roxbury during the 1920s through the late 1960s. See You at the Hall: Boston’s Golden Era of Irish Music and Dance by Susan Gedutis (Northeastern University Press, 2005) brings to life the rich history of that era”

Just think of all the possible connections one might make with information like this!

On Nov. 16th you will have an opportunity to add your own photos to this growing collection at the Mass. Memories Road Show: The Irish Immigrant Experience. Share your “Irish connection” photos!

**Mass. Memories Road Show:
The Irish Immigrant Experience**
Saturday, Nov. 16 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
The Irish Cultural Centre of New England
200 New Boston Drive, Canton MA
More Information: www.massmemories.net
Questions: massmemories@tiara.ie

Upcoming TIARA Meetings

Friday, Sept. 13, 2013 7:30pm at **Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm G3**. Speaker: Lori Lyn Price *Bring Your Ancestors to Life – Connect Via Social History*.

Friday, Oct 11, 2013 7:30pm **Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm. G3**. Speaker: Judy Lucey *NEHGS’ New Acquisition – The O’Dwyer Collection*.

Saturday Nov. 9, 2013 at the **Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA**. Luncheon Banquet. This is a ticketed event. Details to follow

Friday, Dec. 13, 7:30pm at **Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm. G3**. Speaker TBA

"Welcome Home" ...Again

Mary-Alice Wildasin #2833

"Welcome Home." These simple words, spoken by Joe Kennedy, evoked untold emotion for us during our first trip to Callan, County Kilkenny, Ireland in June 2009. Joe, a local historian, uttered these words to us when he came to meet us for the first time at the cottage we had rented. However, let me go back to the beginning of our ancestral search.

Many of you may remember reading the article, "Welcome Home" that my mother, Danielle Doran, wrote a few years ago about our search for my 3rd great grandfather, Patrick Doran. Our search led us to Callan, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland. After the article was published in the TIARA newsletter, we sent a copy of it to Joe Kennedy in Callan as he was mentioned in the article. In 2007, Joe and the Callan Heritage Society had published a book: Callan 800 (1207-2007) History & Heritage. The book was a limited edition of 800 numbered copies. No reprints would be allowed. The book sold out in 3 days.

We were able to buy one of the books from a possible cousin in the States who had bought 40 copies! Not long after Joe had read the TIARA article he asked Mum if she would be interested in developing her article into a chapter for a follow up book to the Callan 800. My mother, a brilliant writer, was thrilled!

For the past 3 years, Joe has been working on Callan 800 (1207-2007) History & Heritage. Companion Volume. My mother worked diligently on her chapter. She wrote about our search, our brick wall, and about our breakthrough in Salt Lake City on a TIARA trip in 2007. She covered the family immigration to Canada and then into Maine.

Joe had asked her to include an account of my grandfather, Joe "Papa" Doran, as Joe Kennedy had met him on his two trips to Callan before Papa passed away in 2010. So my mother added details of my grandfather's life growing up in Bangor, Maine. He remembered when being Irish was not a good thing

- he would see signs in stores: "Irish need not apply." She wrote about his civilian and military careers and the Doran tradition of working for New England Telephone. (While she wrote, I did the editing and emailing back and forth to Ireland.)

The new book consists of 19 chapters written by scholars, historians, and genealogists. Books like this are not published every day. To speak for my mother and me, it has been an honor to be a part of this piece of Callan and Ireland history.

We are donating a copy of Callan 800 (1207-2007) History & Heritage. Companion Volume to the TIARA library.

President's Message (continued)

some of the events we're planning. September will be our first meeting at the new location. In addition, we'll be taking TIARA "on the road" to the New York State Family History Conference in Syracuse. October marks our return research trip to Dublin. TIARA will have a booth at the Back To Our Past Conference as well. November is the annual banquet and the Mass Memories Road Show!

We're also planning for our first Celtic Connections Conference to be held August 2014. We're very excited about partnering with the Irish Genealogical Society International of Minnesota. Save the dates of August 15 & 16, 2014 and stay tuned for more details.

So fasten your seat belts, it will be a busy year!

Next Issue

Did you discover a new ancestor or a family story from a picture? Share a photo of your ancestor(s) and tell the story behind the photo. Where did you find the picture? How did you identify the person/people in the photo? Write a **photo** themed article or one of Irish or genealogical interest for the next issue of *your* TIARA newsletter. Send it to newsletter@tiara.ie. Submissions for the Winter 2013 Issue are requested by November 1.



The Irish Ancestral Research Association, Inc.
2120 Commonwealth Ave.
Auburndale, MA 02466

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DATED MATERIAL

Upcoming Conferences, Workshops and Events

Family Research Day Mini-Conference

Sept. 14, 2013, 9am-12:30pm, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Lynnfield, MA
Speakers: Norm Warren (from Ancestry.com) and Lori Lyn Price.
Email registration to: Familyresearchday@gmail.com

New York State Family History Conference

Sept. 20-21, 2013, Holiday Inn and Conference Center Syracuse/Liverpool,
441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY
<http://www.nysfhc.org/>

National Archives-Boston Workshop

Oct. 1. 2013 2pm, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA
“What’s NOT Online! Researching Family History with Original Records of the National Archives at Boston” Free. Registration requested: boston.education@nara.gov or 781-663-0130

Mass Memories Road Show: The Irish Immigrant Experience

Nov. 16, 2013 10am – 2pm, Irish Cultural Center of New England, 200 New Boston Drive,
Canton MA