

Local Resources For Family History; County Cork

By James G. Ryan

Cork is the biggest Irish county and is about three times the average both in area and population (now about 480,000 people). Cork city is the second city in the Republic and there are twenty substantial market towns serving the prosperous agricultural sector, many of which also host significant food and healthcare industries. Common names include Barry, O'Callaghan, Buckley, Casey, Collins, Crowley, Daly, Fitzgerald, Hogan, Keane, Kelleher, O'Connell, O'Keefe, O'Leary, O'Mahony, O'Driscoll, O'Riordan and Sheehan. Of significant relevance to emigrant history is that it is the location of Cobh (once called Queenstown) which was the major Irish emigration port to North America.

Cork has all of the major national records: Civil records from 1864; Griffith's Valuation listing of land occupiers in 1851-3; 1901/11 census returns as well as Church records of most denominations. These were the subject of a previous article in *Irish Roots, Tracing Your County Ancestors* series (issue no 89). This article deals with the more specialised local repositories and organisations within the county that are of potential value in your family history research. These can be a goldmine for research on local families. Their staff or members know the county history and culture; and also the events and

organisations that may have generated records. Local people are also more likely to donate some types of materials to these organisations rather than to the major national repositories. They will almost all have material that is not available in National Repositories, and an increasing amount of their holdings is available on-line. Some of these local sources include:-

Public Libraries And County Archive

Cork has 2 Public Library systems (for the city and the county) and both have local studies sections. The Cork City Library Local Studies department is in the Central Library and holds a wide range of material relating to the

history, folklore and culture of Cork city and county. This includes books, newspapers, periodicals, manuscripts, maps and photographs. Details can be seen at www.corkpastandpresent.ie/localstudies/

Cork County Library

The local studies section of this library (located at Carrigrohane Rd. in Cork City) also has an extensive collection of local newspapers, journals, books, manuscripts and maps. Some of the collection is on-line and the holdings can be seen at www.corklocalstudies.ie/. They will also answer questions on a wide range of topics related to local studies and genealogy. Queries should

Five Strategies For Getting Back To The 1700s

By Dr Maurice Gleeson

Irish genealogy suffers from a paucity of records before 1800. They start to get thin as you go back before 1850 and they become sparse once you get into the 1700s. As a result, many people get stuck on many of the ancestral lines in their family tree around the 1800-1830 timepoint.



It is possible however by using DNA to break through this barrier, find the relevant records, and push an ancestral line back an extra generation, possibly more. On one occasion, I was lucky enough to get back an extra five generations (see my article in the Autumn 2018 edition of *Irish Roots*). So, you never know your luck!

Here are 5 strategies for optimizing your chances of pushing an ancestral line back into the 1700s.

1) Characterize Your MDKA

First and foremost, you need to characterize your Most Distant Known Ancestors (MDKA) on each of your ancestral lines, as best you can. Standard records (many of which are available online) will get you so far, but you may have to include speculative information about your MDKA's approximate year of birth, possible birth location, and possible siblings (based on their children's birth information, for example). Irish Naming

Convention can help identify speculative names for their parents – the father's parents' first names could have been passed down to the first son and the second daughter, whilst the mother's parents' names would have been passed down to the second son and the first daughter. [1] This is merely a rule of thumb and it does not work in all families, but if you can prove that it is true on one side of the family, it is probably true on the other side too. At the very least, characterizing your MDKA gives you specific names and locations to look out for when you are comparing information with your DNA matches.

2) Analyse Clusters of Shared Matches

Whatever method of clustering you use (manually on Ancestry, the Leeds-Collins Method, or EJ Blom's fabulous autoclustering tool on MyHeritage, Gedmatch or his own GeneticAffairs website), these clusters (also called networks) of Shared Matches can be a very useful way of allocating your matches to

specific ancestral lines, confirming what you know or suspect from your own documentary research, and filling in blanks in your family tree. [2] They also put you in touch with other researchers who may have important (rare) documentation related to the specific ancestral line you are investigating.

The theory is that all members of a cluster of Shared Matches descend from a common ancestor. I like to create a Descendancy Chart in an Excel spreadsheet showing the line of ascent from each match in a cluster back to the common ancestor. I also try to create a Shared DNA Matrix of how much DNA all the people in a cluster share with each other, which in turn allows me to do a sense-check: is the amount of DNA shared compatible with the reported relationships? This Descendancy Chart and DNA Matrix is in effect a modified McGuire Chart – just a lot more compact and much easier to create in an Excel spreadsheet. [3] However, the DNA Matrix can only be created

DESCENDANCY CHART				
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	Marie Jane Dockery c1840 &	HT O'Carroll 1868 & Elizabeth Spearin 1871	Lily O'Carroll 1902 & Jack Gleeson 1898	A: Dad c1930
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	James Dockery 1831 77?	Margaret T Dockery 1862	William H Gibson 1906	B: female 1940 ... 122cM (23)
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	Jennie L. Dockery 1843 & John W Coppage 1837	Catherine Coppage 1875	Henry Driscoll 1906	C: female c1935 ... 23cM
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	Jennie L. Dockery 1843 & John W Coppage 1837	Mary Coppage 1871 & James O Avery	Jenny Louise Avery 1894 & Raymond A Gilda 1893	female 1918 female c1945 ... 43cM
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	Jennie L. Dockery 1843 & John W Coppage 1837	Mary Coppage 1871 & James O Avery	Jenny Louise Avery 1894 & Raymond A Gilda 1893	female 1918 I: male c1945 ... 41cM
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	Catherine Dockery 1847 & John Gibney 1841	Elizabeth Gibney 1893 & Walter Phemester 1891	male Phemester? c1520	F: male c1950 37cM
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	Catherine Dockery 1847 & John Gibney 1841	James Gibney 1879 & Bridget McDonnell 1882	male Gibney 1921	female c1955 G: male c1985 30cM
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	Catherine Dockery 1847 & John Gibney 1841	Mary Gibney 1873 & Edward Doyle 1858	female Doyle 1915	H: male c1950 ... 27 & 0cM (MH,A)
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	Catherine Dockery 1847 & John Gibney 1841	Rose Gibney 1884 & Thomas McKenzie 1880	female c1925	female c1960 I: female c1985 ... 47,47,28cM (23,MH,A)
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	Catherine Dockery 1847 & John Gibney 1841	Rose Gibney 1884 & Thomas McKenzie 1881	female c1925	J: female c1965 ... 107cM (23)
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	Catherine Dockery 1847 & John Gibney 1841	GIbney	?	K: male c1950 ... 63cM (23)
Hugh Dockery c1800 & Joan Simpson 1801	Catherine Dockery 1847 & John Gibney 1841	GIbney	?	L: female c1955 ... 59cM (MH)

The Descendancy Chart & Shared DNA Matrix for my Dockery cluster

Shared atDNA Matrix (from multiple 3-way comparisons)												
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
A	ALL	122	23	43	41	37	30	27	47	107	63	59
B	122	23							35	21	15	
C	23		A	X	X	X	X		0			
D	43		X	A	X	0	0		0			
E	41		X	X	A	0	0		0		X	
F	37		X	0	0	A	X		0			
G	30		X	0	0	X	A		X			
H	27							MH,A	121			184
I	47	35	0	0	0	0	X	121	23,A,MH	1581	30	121
J	107	21								1581	23	204
K	63	15			X				30	204	23	
L	59							184	121			MH

A Question Of Genealogy Nicola Morris



with

Dear Nicola,

I am searching for my husband's great, great grandfather, Thomas Morrissey who as far as we know was born in Down. We don't know where in Down he was born or the church. Thomas Morrissey, born 5 May 1824 in Down, Catholic Religion and he immigrated to the USA in 1851. Unfortunately, on the immigration document it doesn't say where in Ireland he was from, it just says "Ireland".

He married Mary Gereghty and his first born son was named Thomas. Thomas died shortly after birth and he also named his second son, Thomas. So the name Thomas was an important name to him. His first daughter he named Catherine. This is just a guess on our part but perhaps Thomas' parents were also named Thomas and Catherine. How do I proceed only knowing the above information? I am hoping that someone doing a Morrissey genealogical search whose family was from Down can connect our Thomas to their family. Thanking you in advance for any information you can provide.

Sincerely,

Linda B. Morrissey,
Cheshire, CT.

Dear Linda,
Thank you for your query. The surname Morrissey is not that common to county Down. Using a survey of surnames published in Griffith's Valuation, which dates from the mid 19th century, there were three Morrissey households documented in Co. Down, while the majority of the name appears in the south east, around the county of Kilkenny. If Thomas' siblings or parents were still alive and living in Co. Down after his emigration, they may appear in Griffith's Valuation, which is freely available to search online at www.askaboutireland.ie The surname Morris is much more numerous in Co. Down.

The three Morrissey/Morrissey households were found in Co. Down in the civil parishes of Kilmood, Drumballyrone and Killyleagh. None of the households

were headed by a Thomas or Catherine Morrissey.

The civil parish of Kilmood corresponds with the Roman Catholic parish of Newtownards, but the registers only date from 1856. The civil parish of Killyleagh corresponds with the Roman Catholic parish of Kilmore, but the registers only date from 1837 for baptisms. The civil parish of Drumballyrone corresponds with the Roman Catholic parish of Annaghlonge, but the registers only commence in 1834 for baptisms. If Thomas Morrissey was born and baptised in one of these parishes in 1824, no record of his baptism survives. If Thomas' father was also Thomas, I have not found any references to land records for Thomas Morrissey or baptism or civil marriage records that identify children of a Thomas Morrissey in Co. Down.

I would recommend that you continue to search US records for more information about Thomas' origins. His death certificate may state his parents names. A newspaper obituary or headstone may provide a more specific place of birth in Ireland. Did any other Morrissey families settle in the same area, they may be related to Thomas and details about their origins might point to his place of birth in Co. Down?

Yours,

Nicola Morris

Dear Nicola,

I just received my copy of Irish Roots and have been inspired to write to you for some guidance. I am hoping you can help me find out what happened to one of my maternal grandmother's younger sisters, Jane Lynch. I would like to know if she married; if she emigrated where did she go, or if she stayed in Ireland, when and where did she die.

Jane Lynch was born 27 March 1880 to Michael Lynch, schoolmaster from Rathea, Co. Kerry, and his first wife Ellen Walshe. In the 1901 Census, Jane was a visitor at the home of Patrick and Mary Kirby in Ballyduhig. Jane's profession is listed as teacher. In 1911, Jane, 31 years old, was living in Killorglin, Co. Kerry, with her older brother Patrick. Jane Lynch then just

disappears! Where did she go? I'd appreciate any help you can provide or advice you can offer on how I can find out what happened to my great aunt Jane Lynch. Many thanks in advance!

Joanne Dillon
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Joanne,
Jane Lynch does not appear as a National School Teacher on the 1905 list, recently published by the National Archives of Ireland. She may not have pursued a career as a teacher after 1901. Have you tried searching for newspaper death and funeral notices and obituaries for all of Jane's siblings and her parents? Newspapers sometimes referred to the surviving siblings of the deceased, which may help to determine whether Jane was alive and a married name, if married or a location, if she was overseas. If there was a family burial plot, it may be worth searching for evidence of her burial. If Jane attended to the death of her father, step mother or siblings, she may appear as the informant on their death certificates.

I hope that this helps.

Nicola Morris

**NEED SOME
HELP FROM
NICOLA
WITH YOUR
RESEARCH?**

**EMAIL YOUR QUERIES FOR
PUBLICATION TO :-**

editor@irishrootsmagazine.com

(Please keep as concise as possible)

Nicola Morris M.A.G.I. is a director of Timeline Research (www.timeline.ie). She has appeared on numerous episodes of Who Do You Think You Are? in both the UK, Ireland and US and was one of the presenters on the first series of RTE's Genealogy Roadshow and more recently as the historian on The Great House Revival.