



Newsletter No.15

May 2011

Greetings to all Members,

What a wonderful summer we have had. Winter is now upon us and what better time to stay inside put on the heater, make a coffee and *try* to catch up on recording our genealogy finds.

How many of you have, or have started, to write up the memories you have regarding the ancestors you knew. I know I have been saying I must get on to that some time.

A young lass (b.1988) contacted me by e-mail a couple of weeks back and I was able tell her about having meet her GGG-Grandfather. I was about 7 years old at the time. She found me through a listing I had put on "Rootsweb" mailing list in 2002!

In this newsletter we have a lovely article Noleen McCathie has shared with us. Many thanks Noleen.

The "Irish Interest Group (Waikato)" will have a stand at the next "Family History Fair" which is to be held at Claudland's Event Centre, Hamilton on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th of August 2011. If you go to the NZSG web-site there is a link on the front page. Click on the link to get all the information. Call and say Hi! when you are there.

Have you had any luck with the Irish Wills on line from the PRONI web-site? Isn't it great that you can download some of them direct with no cost? Each time I go to the site there are more available.

Happy searching,
Margaret
Convenor



IRISH INTEREST GROUP (WAIKATO)

Next Cottage Day

Saturday 11th June 2011

10.00am — 3.00pm

15 Cranbrook Place, Rototuna, Hamilton

11.15am: Web updates & Computer Tips

1.15pm Sharing your finds and brick walls

There will be plenty of resources available

Door fee: \$3.00

Bring your own lunch. Tea, Coffee & Juice available

For further details contact: Margaret

(07) 854-0866

nzsgirishwko@actrix.co.nz

Dates for where we will be in 2011

Sat 11th June, Cottage Day

Fri 26th & Sat 27th August, Family History
Fair, Hamilton

Saturday 12 Nov, Cottage Day

Are these dates on your calendar?

Pity Poor Patrick from Noleen McCathie

Patrick REED, my gt gt gt grandfather, arrived in Australia on the convict ship *Guildford* in 1818. A native of County Meath, Ireland, he was born, according to his Conditional Pardon, c1790, the son of a farming couple, James REED and Ann RILEY. Patrick was convicted of house robbery at the Dublin County in June 1817, and given a sentence of life. In 1822, Patrick was sent to Port Macquarie, and in the 1828 Census was shown as a labourer to John PENDERGAST at Lower Portland Head. It was here that he met John's third daughter, Bridget, who was only sixteen at the time. In 1827 Bridget and Patrick's first child, a son, had been born and was christened James after Patrick's father in Ireland. Bridget and the baby were then living with her elder brother, James PENDERGAST, and his wife. In the following three years, two more children were born to Bridget and Patrick - Ann in 1829 and Bernard in 1831. Their births were recorded under the name of PENDERGAST as Bridget's father refused to give her permission to marry Patrick. Finally however, on the 31 October 1831, when young James was four years old, the couple were able to wed with "Permission of the Governor".

On 7 November 1829, Patrick purchased ten acres of land, complete with crops, in the Parish of Cornelia, from John McCANN. who issued the following receipt - *Hawkesbury River Nov 7 1829. Recd from Patk. REED, the sum of 53 sterling, Fifty three pounds sterling, being the payment of a piece or parcel of land, and also the crop growing thereon, I hereby make over unto the said Patk. REED, and his heirs, or assign for ever, my full right and power of the said land, and crop growing thereon I have set my hands and seal this Twentyseventh day of November, 1829. Witnesses (signed) Jeremiah SULLIVAN. Thomas CRUMPTON. (signed) John McCANN.*

In the years that followed the purchase Patrick worked hard on this land. A greater part of it was swamp, which he drained, and he also fenced a large proportion of it. One can only imagine therefore, the shock and horror Patrick felt when, in 1838, he was advised that the land was Government property and that it was to be auctioned at a price of £5 per acre plus costs/fees of £5, making a total purchase price of £55.

That year, Patrick petitioned the Governor-In-Chief, Sir George GIPPS - *The humble Petition of Patrick REED most respectfully and herewith - That your Petitioner resides in the Parish of Cornelia, County of Cumberland, that he is married, and has six children dependant upon him for support. - That your Petitioner on the 7 November 1829, purchased from one, John McCANN (a copy of whose receipt is annexed) Ten acres of land, with the crop growing thereon, for the sum of £53 sterling, situate in the said Parish of Cornelia, bounded by the Hawkesbury River in the front, on the upper side by the land granted to Edward YARDLEY, and on all others by Government*

Land, being about nine (9) miles above Wisemans, and opposite Land granted to ADLAIN or ALLEN. - That when your Petitioner purchased the above Land, the greater part of it was a Swamp, which he has drained, and also fenced part of it. - That your Petitioner is now informed that this Land is Government property, he therefore most humbly prays that Your Excellency will be pleased in consideration of the expense he has been put to with draining, fencing and cultivating it, to permit him to purchase the same at the price fixed by the Government Regulations viz. Five Shillings per acre.....

Patrick heard nothing more on the matter over the next three and a half years, and in July 1842, he again petitioned the Governor, increasing his monetary offer - *27 July 1842. Cornelia, near Windsor.*

Requesting reduction in price of Land, obtained from John McCANN

In June 1838, I presented a Petition to His Excellency, the Governor, praying to be allowed to purchase of the minimum price about ten acres of Land purchased by me from one John McCANN. On the 31 December the same year I received an answer from your office No. 38/1398, stating that the Land would be put up to auction at the rate of Five Pounds per acre, this as yet has not been done, and the Land in question still remains in my possession.

It is now about 13 years since I first purchased it. It was then a complete swamp. I have drained part of it, and cultivated and fenced in also part of it, and were it not for my exertions the Land would be valueless.

I am a married man, having eight children to support, and as in the first instance I purchased the Land, under the impression that McCANN was the bona fide owner thereof. I humbly trust His Excellency will be pleased to reduce this price fixed by him and permit me to purchase at the rate of One pound Five shillings per acre - I beg leave to add that the Land has been measured.

The answer he received from this second letter must have left poor Patrick dumb-founded -

Inform him of the sale of the land by auction in themanner after due advertisement to PENDERGAST. If he has sustained damages in this matter his remedy must be against McCANN, who proceeded to sell him a property in which he had no legal title.

It was then that he learnt that **his brother-in-law had purchased the property.**

Patrick and Bridget went on to have 15 children whilst living at Portland Head, with their last child, Charles, being born in 1857 when Patrick was 65 and Bridget was 48. They lost two daughters - Ann in 1849 and Jane in 1851, both girls were buried at St Josephs, MacDonald River.

With such a large family to support, it is reasonable to assume that Patrick was never able to buy his own farm, having lost the one that he had "bought" from John McCANN. Patrick REED died at Cockfighters Creek, Wollombi, on 27 September 1872 and is buried in the cemetery there. Following her husband's death, Bridget went to live with her daughter, Sarah, at Inverell, where she died on 28 August 1885 and is buried in the Inverall cemetery.

Acknowledgements to : David Nicholas, Kerry Vance, Dennis Gosper and Beryl Whatson.



THE SENILITY PRAYER

“Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked, The good fortune to run into the ones I do like. And the eyesight to tell the difference..... !



New Resources

BOOKS:

Barefoot and Pregnant? Vol 2.

By Trevor McClaughlin. Irish Famine Orphans in Australia

Pioneer Catholic Woman of NZ.

Early Irish Woman in NZ



“Wanted”

Items for the newsletter.

Did you enjoy reading Noleen’s story about one of her ancestors ? ? ?

Do you have a short story, a letter, a book review etc, that other members would love to read which we could include in the Newsletter. If it is not your own item please include the source and make sure we can reprint it.

Remember... Genealogy is all about sharing.

Publication of 1926 census to require legal shift

THE GOVERNMENT intends to press ahead with the publication of the 1926 census although it would be in breach of the 100-year rule which governs all such information, Minister for Heritage Jimmy Deenihan has said.

He said publishing the census would need a change of legislation but he had received “widespread approval” for this.

The 1926 census could contain information about people who are still alive which might be embarrassing to them, which could include information about children “born out of wedlock”, the extent of their literacy or mental capacity or any diseases they might have had.

The Minister acknowledged this but said sensitive information about those still alive could be redacted.

“It should be possible to protect or to ensure that some information that is sensitive may be withheld,” he said.

The 100-year rule was included in the Statistics Act 1993. The publication of the 1901 and 1911 censuses online has been a huge success with millions of hits on both websites. The Government is keen to include the 1926 census as part of a programme it hopes will draw tourists to Ireland looking for their roots.

Mr Deenihan said he was keen to publish the information this year in advance of “the gathering”, a planned event which is seeking to attract thousands of people with Irish connections to come “home” next year.

Speaking at the 75th anniversary of the Irish Genealogical Research Society, Mr. Deenihan said Ireland’s archives were “almost our most important resource” as it showed where the country had come from and who we are.

The research society archives were set up in 1936 in response to the “loss of national memory” which occurred during the shelling of the Four Courts in the Civil War which wiped out all the censuses from the

first half of the 19th century.

Based in London, it has the largest collection of Irish genealogical books and manuscripts in private hands.

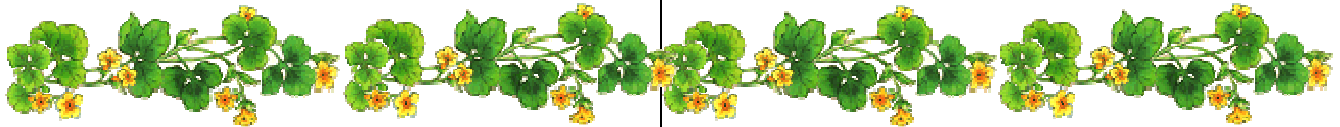
The society is hopeful it can digitise its archives and make them available to the public.

Source: IRISHTIMES.COM
Saturday, April 2, 2011



Each Poet with a different talent writes,
One praises, one instructs, another bites.

By Wentworth DILLON.
Earl of Roscommon



BELTANE

The word Beltane means “fire of Bel” the Celtic god of light. This festival is traditionally celebrated on May 1. In ancient times, the druids would drive the cattle of the village between two ceremonial fires as a purification ritual. Although not as common today. Beltane festivals are still celebrated in many Gaelic communities, with the largest held annually in Edinburgh, Scotland

