

Autumn/Winter 2018

Genealogy.ie Magazine

**Case Study: Seeking
Nora Lynch**

“Visitation of God”

He Went to Perth

(Spoiler Alert: It is not in Australia)

**Portrait of a Local
History Researcher**



Céad Míle Fáilte

That means a “Hundred Thousand Welcomes” in Irish.

Our company, **Genealogy.ie** – **Ireland’s Family History Specialists**, has been going from strength to strength. Over the last few months we have completed quite a few commissions from many corners of the world, from Canada to Australia.

We understand the feeling of exhilaration if a new fact or snippet of information is uncovered. Recently we were able to find where the Irish ancestors of an American customer came from. You can read her response in this magazine. And then we managed to do the same thing for another customer!

We always like to receive feedback from our clients – and have been heartened by the many kind words that you shared with us.

We post daily updates on our Facebook and Twitter accounts. If you don’t yet, why not follow us? See for details below. We have also continued to post articles on our website, of which you – as a subscriber – are notified. And then there is of course this magazine. This is already the fourth instalment of our magazine.

We have put together a mix of articles, which we hope you enjoy reading.

Jillian

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He went to Perth!

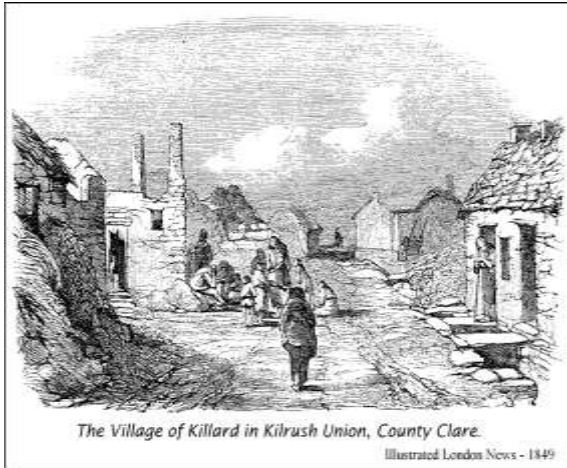
The family story is that in the 1840s Michael Hassett went to Perth from a small rural farm near Ennis in County Clare. It was always assumed he sailed off to Australia to seek his fortune. We searched high and low for him on passenger lists and trawled through Australian records and whilst we found some potential candidates, we were able to quickly rule them out due to the age or birth place.

We decided to go back to the information we could firmly establish and start again. We know he was the third son and was born circa 1825. We know he left in the 1840s. We firstly tried to see what clues the family left us and to understand the wider historical context.



Hassett family memoirs share some insights into the times, “Mary Hassett tried to help the family finances by having a milk round in Ennis. She carried her cans of milk, on foot to the town, and, after having sold the milk, did her shopping, and, when she got home, had a breakfast of wheat, soaked overnight and heated next day to a kind of porridge. One morning, she had just settled down to her breakfast, when a woman appeared in the doorway, and asked for her charity. Mary replied that she had not much, but that the woman was welcome to half of what she had for breakfast, and the offer was gladly accepted. When the meal was finished, the woman rose to depart, but before leaving remarked “I have come south from the valley of the black pig, and all the way I could see a black cloud over the country. It will come here. I cannot keep it from this house, but it will fall more lightly on it than on its neighbours.” In the following weeks, in the three houses nearby, a parent died, and in one house, both parents died.”

Painting in National Gallery of Ireland by Augustus Nicolas Burke, Connemara Girl.



Clare Historian, Dr Ciarán Ó Murchadha wrote in his book *The Great Famine: Ireland's Agony 1845 – 52*, "As The Great Famine catalogues its monumental record of abject suffering, it emerges that Clare suffered excessively. Tellingly, the first identified victim of starvation in Ireland during The Famine was a widow near Dysart and the last recorded starvation death, in April 1851, was a man in Ennis. A reporter in West Clare in 1846 wrote how locals "died as the birds do when the frost comes", while coffin-less burials were widespread and dead children were brought to burial in panniers slung on donkeys."

It must of being extremely bleak and difficult to survive, thus leading Michael Hassett and so many others to the route of emigration. And we then found records for 'The Petworth Committee'. With thanks to the work of Francis Leeson we learnt of an unexpected source for information on emigrants from north Munster to Canada during the 1830s and 1840s contained in the

Petworth House Archives at Petworth, Sussex. This is because Petworth was the principal seat of Colonel George Wyndham (1787 - 1869), natural son of George Wyndham (1751 - 1837), 3rd Earl of Egremont. The 3rd Earl, a successful stockbreeder and enlightened landlord - for those days - had, in his eighties, set up the Petworth Emigration Committee in order to assist the near destitute inhabitants of parishes wherein he had a landed interest to start new lives in the colonies. Between 1832 and 1837 many hundreds of emigrants had sailed for Canada in specially chartered ships, and where the Committee's own agent, J.U. Brydone, had responsibility for seeing them settled into homes and jobs.

After his father's death in 1837 Colonel Wyndham began a similar movement from the family's estates in Clare and neighbouring counties under the auspices of the Ennis Emigration Committee. The surviving documentation for this covers the period 1839 - 1847, during which there were five main emigrations, in 1839, 1840, 1841, 1846 and 1847, though the parties were split among several vessels sailing at intervals over a period of months on each occasion (so far as can be ascertained), with Limerick used as the port of embarkation.

The scheme was promoted by advertising bills such as the following:



When we delved into these records we found under this scheme, Michael Hassett, in 1847 from Muckerish left with many others for Perth in Canada. With this information, we were able to trace his life in Perth, Canada and not Perth Australia. Reminding us of the importance not to make assumptions!



Portrait of a Local History Researcher



Michael van Turnhout was born in 1968 in Tilburg, The Netherlands. He was educated here as well, at Tilburg University, where he completed his Master's Degree.

In those days, The Netherlands still had compulsory military service. However, for those who were not looking forward to the life of a soldier – and prepared to serve a few extra months – it was possible to do something a bit more interesting. Michael applied for and got a position as Second Lieutenant in the S2 Section of a brigade staff. S2 means military intelligence! In practice, it was a lot of pouring over maps.

This completed, he met Jillian in Brussels, during a birthday party of a mutual friend, on – of all days – Valentine's Day. As the saying goes,

one thing led to another, and a few years later Michael found himself living in Ireland.

Michael had always had an interest in history and read everything there was to read about his new adopted home country. First there was History with a capital H: from the stone age which has left beautiful remains like the tombs on Newgrange (as old as the Egyptian pyramids), via the Celtic Kingdoms and English occupation, War of Independence to modern Ireland. But thereafter, Michael got interested in history with a small h, in what was immediately around him. There is so much history in Ireland: in his local area, there are stone age tombs, remnants of the pale boundary (the medieval English colony), centuries old mansions and much more.

After joining the local history society, Michael decided to submit an article for the annual publication. And has he been successfully published for three years running now.

Local history helps with your genealogy research. It provides a background and colour to the story of your family. It also helps explaining why certain things happened, when they happened and gives context.

One client has a well-to-do ancestor who died at a fairly young age. We could not find a death certificate. Michael's research found that exactly at that time there was a cholera epidemic in Ireland and in the townland of this ancestor. Although not proven, this might well have been the reason for his premature demise.

Michael has also researched histories of houses and villages. Although the chances that we find your ancestor's house is small, we can give you an impression of the kind of house he or she would have lived in and give you a feel for the village and surrounding area. Ancestry should be about more than a list of names and dates. The life of your ancestors is a story, worth telling. Local history research can help filling in their story.

The logo for Genealogy.ie, featuring the word "Genealogy" in green and ".ie" in orange, all enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Seeking Nora Lynch

Our challenge was to establish where in Ireland and when exactly Nora Lynch was born.

Earlier this year, we undertook research for Martha who lived in Boston. She was trying to trace her Great Grandmother Nora Lynch who was born in Ireland circa 1872 and arrived in the US circa 1892. She married Anson Adams, from Connecticut and they lived in Worcester, Massachusetts. Martha and her husband were coming to Ireland and were hoping to visit where her ancestor Nora Lynch's was born. Martha has been told by another family member that her ancestor had come from 'Muckross, Cork, Co. Kerry' [sic] but when she went back to check their source they couldn't remember. For anyone who knows their geography of Ireland, will know Cork and Kerry are neighbouring Counties and Muckross, is in Killarney, Co. Kerry.

We started our search by looking at marriage records for Worcester, Massachusetts. As the record below, line 840 shows, on 27 November 1895, Nora T Lynch married Anson W Adams. It tells us her parents are James Lynch and Catherine. This would assist us when we moved our search to Ireland.

MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the City of Worcester for the Year eighteen hundred and ninety-five										
DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE	DATE OF BIRTH	NAME, RESIDENCE AND RANK OF GROOM	NAME, RESIDENCE AND RANK OF BRIDE	AGE OF GROOM	AGE OF BRIDE	OFFICIATE	PLACES OF BIRTH	RESIDENCE OF GROOM	RESIDENCE OF BRIDE	NAME, RESIDENCE AND OFFICIAL STATUS OF WITNESSES
840 27 "	" 4	Anson W Adams Catherine T Lynch	" "	24 24	" "	Worcester Domestic	Worcester Ireland	James W. Adams, Pastor James W. Adams, Pastor	James W. Adams, Pastor James W. Adams, Pastor	James W. Adams, Pastor James W. Adams, Pastor

We also found in the marriage records in 1893, in Worcester, the marriage of Hannah T Lynch to John Haggerty with a James and Catherine named as Hannah's parents. We looked for both Nora and Hannah in the 1900 to 1940 US Census records and any other records to see if they left us any additional clues. In the 1940 Census, we found Mary Lynch living with Nora's potential sister Hannah Haggerty. Mary Lynch was single and was the sister of Hannah. We now had the possibility of three sisters living in Worcester.

Through the Census records, in 1900 we could see Nora had two children with Anson Wilmot Adams and by 1910 their family had grown to six children. By 1920, there was no sign of Nora with her family. We checked the death records to find she had died on 3 May 1919 and was buried at St John's Cemetery in Worcester on 6 May 1919. Her husband Anson remarried a short time later.

We now moved our attention to Ireland and probed the family story that Nora was born in Muckross. We searched for a Nora Lynch from 1865 to 1875 in Killarney area – where Muckross is located. We found two: one in 1867, Ballybunion and one in 1867 in Kilcummin but they did not meet any of our criteria. We extended our search to all female Lynch's born in Killarney area in 1872. There were 4 but none had a father called James let alone a mother called Catherine. We did find a Parish Baptism for a Nora Lynch in Muckross but the birth year was several years too early.

We decided we should put the family story to the side and start with the information we had established. We searched all Nora/Hanora Lynch's born in Ireland in 1872 (10) and 1871 (18) and only one had a father called James and her mother is coincidentally Catherine. She was born in February 1871 in Limerick. We could not find this Nora Lynch in marriage records before 1901 or in the 1901 Census of Ireland. We looked to see if James Lynch and Catherine Fitzgibbon had any more children through birth records and baptisms.

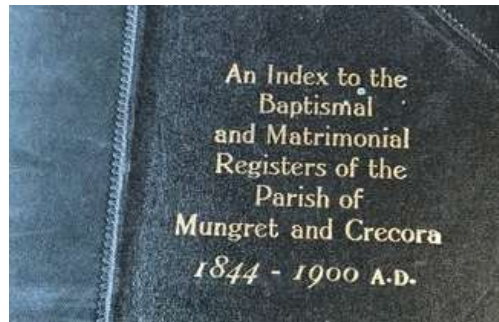
We found James was born in 1837 and Catherine was born in Co Limerick 1845. James Lynch married Catherine Fitzgibbon in June 1862 in Mungret, Co. Limerick. They had at least five children including Mary born 1865 and Nora born 1871. We also found a passenger manifest showing a Nora Lynch and Mary Lynch, at the right ages respectively, sailing from Ireland on 4 June 1892, on the ship City of Berlin, bound for Ellis Island, with a final destination of Connecticut. Anson, who Nora married in 1895 was born in Connecticut and it was on the way to Worcester.

On 12 January 1893, Nora's father James who was a blacksmith died and coincidentally her sister Hannah married John Haggarty married thousands of miles away in Worcester, Massachusetts.

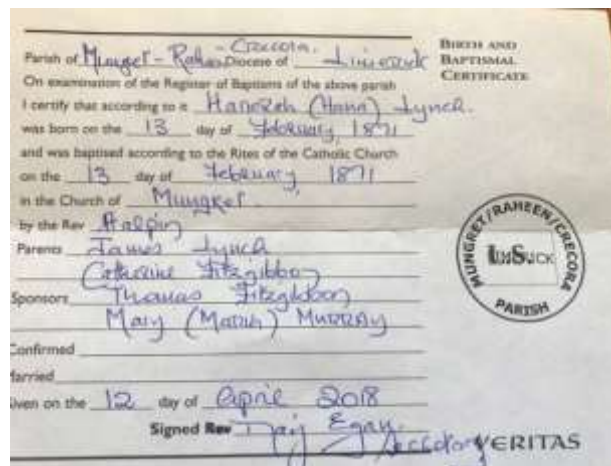
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Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Limerick</u>				Registrar's District <u>Clarina</u>						
18 <u>93</u> DEATHS Registered in the District of <u>Clarina</u> in the Union of <u>Limerick</u>										
in the County of <u>Limerick</u>										
No. (1.)	Date and Place of Death. (2.)	Name and Surname. (3.)	Sex. (4.)	Condition. (5.)	Age last Birthday. (6.)	Race, Profession, or Occupation. (7.)	Certified Cause of Death and Duration of Illness. (8.)	Signature, Qualification and Residence of Informant. (9.)	When Registered. (10.)	Signature of Registrar. (11.)
186	18 <u>93</u> <u>12th Jan 1893</u> <u>New Ross Lynch</u>	<u>James Lynch</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>56</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Smith</u>	<u>Ascites</u> <u>1 month</u> <u>1 day</u> <u>As signed</u>	<u>Mattie Lynch</u> <u>Daughter</u> <u>Present as Death from the</u> <u>New Ross Lynch</u>	<u>18 93</u>	<u>J. J. Brien</u> <u>Registrar.</u>

In the 1901 Census of Ireland we find Catherine, mother of Nora in Ballycarrane (Clarina, Limerick) along with Nora's brother John and sister Maggie (Margaret). Her brother John, now age 35, is a blacksmith like his father.



Through tracing deeper into this family tree, we were able to establish for Martha this Nora Lynch was her ancestor. Earlier this year, Martha visited the church where Nora was baptised and also through the death record of Nora's father she could go to the townland where her father was living in 1893 and therefore likely to be the same place Nora lived when she left in 1892.



We were delighted to hear their visit was a great success. In an email on their way home, they said:

"We want to let you know that we had a very exciting and very successful visit to Saint Nessian's church. We met a lovely woman in the parish office named Mary who looked up the baptism records and showed us the information that had been transcribed from Latin into English. Thank you again for all of your help and very keen leads!"

Visitation of God

We requested an 1869 death record for an ancestor of a client from the General Registration Office. We were told there were two entries in the register for the same date. We looked at them both. However, we quickly established that neither was a relation of our client and we put the records to the side.

Later, we looked at the records again. We found that they appear to be for the same person. We also found the most interesting cause of death we have seen so far in our research. The first death record says, 'Heart disease', which is normal enough. The second one however, has as cause of death:

'Visitation of God, Suddenly'.

Honora Hassett died in Tulla Workhouse (County Clare). The cause of death is based on 'information acquired from John Frost Esq, Coroner, Co. Clare' who was the informant.

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No.	Date and Place of Death	Name and Surname	Sex	Condition	Age last Birthday	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Certified Cause of Death and Duration of Illness	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar
120	5 th September 1869 Tulla Workhouse	Honor Hassett	Female	Widow	78	Labourer	Heart disease	Edward Baxter Chief Medical Officer Tulla Workhouse	Twenty second September 1869	Wm Long Registrar

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No.	Date and Place of Death	Name and Surname	Sex	Condition	Age last Birthday	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Certified Cause of Death and Duration of Illness	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar
123	5 th September 1869 Tulla Workhouse	Honora Hassett	Female	Widow	70	Labourer	Visitation of God, Suddenly	Information received from John Frost Esq Coroner Co Clare	Twenty second September 1869	Wm Long Registrar

Are Honor and Honora the same person? Did the family wish to record her death with her home address and not that of the workhouse? Why did the Coroner record her death as a 'Visitation of God'? We feel there a great story to be told here.

Why Hire Genealogy.ie?

1. Because we are Irish

First of all, because Genealogy.ie is based in Dublin. We have therefore ready access to all Irish archives and libraries. And of course we have subscriptions to all relevant Irish family history databases.

2. Because we have the expertise and the passion

Jillian van Turnhout, our founder and MD, has over 10 years' experience in tracing Irish family histories. She is passionate about genealogy and understands the richness and fulfillment that goes with finding out about your ancestors and their lives.

3. Because we are recognised specialists in Irish genealogy

We have been published in various genealogical and local history magazines in both Ireland and North America. Our articles are about our research, advice on record collections, research tips, local history, etc. Magazines we have appeared in include the respected "Irish Family History Journal" (Journal of the Irish Family History Society - IFHS), "Your Genealogy Today" and "Internet Genealogy" (both are publications in North America). You can download our articles by following the link below.

4. Because our Irish ancestry research is professional, factual and solid

Before we start any research, we will discuss with you what exactly it is that you hope we find. We will also always agree the cost with you beforehand, so there are no surprises afterwards. We have a clear method of research and adhere rigorously to best practices for genealogical research. You can read more about both in the "Hire us to research your Irish ancestry" section of this website.

5. Because our Irish family history reports are top notch

Another reason is that we will present our findings in a clearly laid out, professional report. Our clients are raving about them - as you can read in our client testimonials. And of course you will get digital copies of all certificates and documents we find.

6. Because assessment of your research question into your Irish roots is FREE

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