

Spring/Summer 2022

Genealogy.ie

Magazine

The Wild Atlantic Way

Censuses of Ireland

Steeple Chasing

Buttevant

Time Capsule

Research Tip

Family Photos





Céad Míle Fáilte

Thankfully things are looking up in 2022, with the Covid-19 Pandemic abating and Ireland re-opening.

Genealogy.ie is continuing to be very busy; the demand to learn more about one's ancestors never seems to have been so strong.

We still have found time to write the next issue of our Genealogy.ie Magazine though, now entering its sixth year.

Our main article is a story from my own family history, brought on by the recent discovery of an old family photo.

We have included an impression of the beautiful Wild Atlantic Way; in case you consider visiting Ireland now that we can travel again.

As Ireland is organising a new Census on 3rd April 2022, we have an article about Censuses of Ireland, and another one about a new section in the Census: A Time Capsule.

We also have a story about Steeplechasing and about the town of Buttevant where it was invented.

And finally, a research tip for when you are trawling through the 1901 Census.

We hope you enjoy our Magazine.

Jillian

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Family Photos

A picture is worth a thousand words

The cover photo is a restoration of this recently found photograph. The restoration was expertly done by John Berry, Photographer from Cork.

This picture from about 1922 is of my Great Aunt Agnes McCarthy nee Stackpoole (1915- 2014), Great Uncle John Francis Stackpoole (1912- 1952) and Grandmother Mary Josephine Coleman nee Stackpoole (1909- 1969).

The picture was only uncovered recently, it is the first time I have seen my grandmother as a child. I thought no photos existed. Why? On 4 May 1921, their family home at Kildorrery, Co. Cork was blown up by the Black and Tans as a reprisal for my Great Grandfathers actions in the days previous who maliciously destroyed the homes of some of the local gentry.

Their father William Stackpoole, died in 1935 and the Irish Examiner provided us with more detail:



The death of Mr. William Stackpoole, Stannards Grove House, Rockmills, Kildorrery, which occurred at St. Patrick's Hospital, Fermoy, removed a very popular and esteemed resident of the Kildorrery district, where he had resided for the past 36 years. Born at Ballymacmoy, Killavullen, in the sixties of the last century, Mr. Stackpoole, who was a close relative of Tomas Mac Curtain, late Lord Mayor of Cork, who was killed by the Crown forces in the early days of the Black and Tan regime, led a strenuous and eventful career during the stormy days of the land agitation. In his youth he was prominently identified with the Land League movement and the National League organisation. In those days Killavullen was the cockpit of many stormy scenes. The late Mr. Stackpoole was a prominent member of the Committee of the Killavullen Branch of the National League at the time, of which organisation he filled the office of secretary for a considerable period after. During the Black and Tan regime, the deceased house was at the disposal of the members of the Sinn Fein movement, where they were hospitably entertained, which resulted in the Stackpoole residence being blown up as an official reprisal by the British forces.



I am lucky to have heard the family story firsthand from my Great Aunt Agnes. She says on 4 May 1921 soldiers came to the door and only her mother (Eliza Stackpoole nee Meade) and herself. The soldiers stood them outside, Agnes was crying and the soldiers allowed her to go back into the house and get one thing. Her mother hoped she would bring out the box of family photos from the press in the kitchen. She regularly showed them to Agnes. But alas, Agnes comes out of the house bouncing a ball. She was a child, and this was her priority. The house and all its contents were destroyed. The family slept in the cowshed

for quite some time afterwards while their home has been rebuilt. The sign above the door shows it was rebuilt by 1924.

The photo of the three children looks to be of the communion of Great Aunt Agnes and thus the dating of 1922.

Agnes Stackpoole was born on 5 February 1915. Her baptism says 3 February but Agnes insists it was the 5th as this is what her mother told her. Agnes lived until she was 99, only five months short of 100 years. She remembers a reasonably happy childhood all things considered. In 1930, her mother died. Agnes was living at home with her father who was in her words 'an alcoholic'. One day each 1933, Agnes persuaded the milkman to give her a lift to Cork so she could visit her sister who was married. By July 1933, Agnes married Thomas McCarthy and they had seven children.

John Francis Stackpool [sic] was born on 13 October 1912. John was a jack of all trades, he had land in the area, was a hackney car driver, kept greyhounds and trained horses. He would visit his adoring sisters from time to time in Cork, always with an abundance of farm-fresh food and treats. In 1952, at age 39 he was to take a fateful decision.

His old friend Thomas J Carroll now a successful New York hotelier was visiting his mother for her 90th birthday. Thomas's mother asked him to go and find his sister who left Ireland during the Civil War and went to England. Thomas asked his friend John Stackpoole to give him a lift to Dublin. It is said from the get-go John Francis advised Thomas he would help him but would never get on a plane. The two men stayed in the Gresham Hotel and Thomas bought some extra shirts for John Francis.

Believed To Be Among Victims

FOLLOWING is an incomplete list of those believed to have been on the plane when it crashed:—

CREW

Capt. J. R. Keohane (30),
174 Iveragh Rd., Whitehall, pilot of the plane.
William Alec Newman (32),
First Officer, Taney Rd.,
Dundrum, Co. Dublin.
Deirdre Mary Sutton (23),
Sandford Rd., Ranelagh.

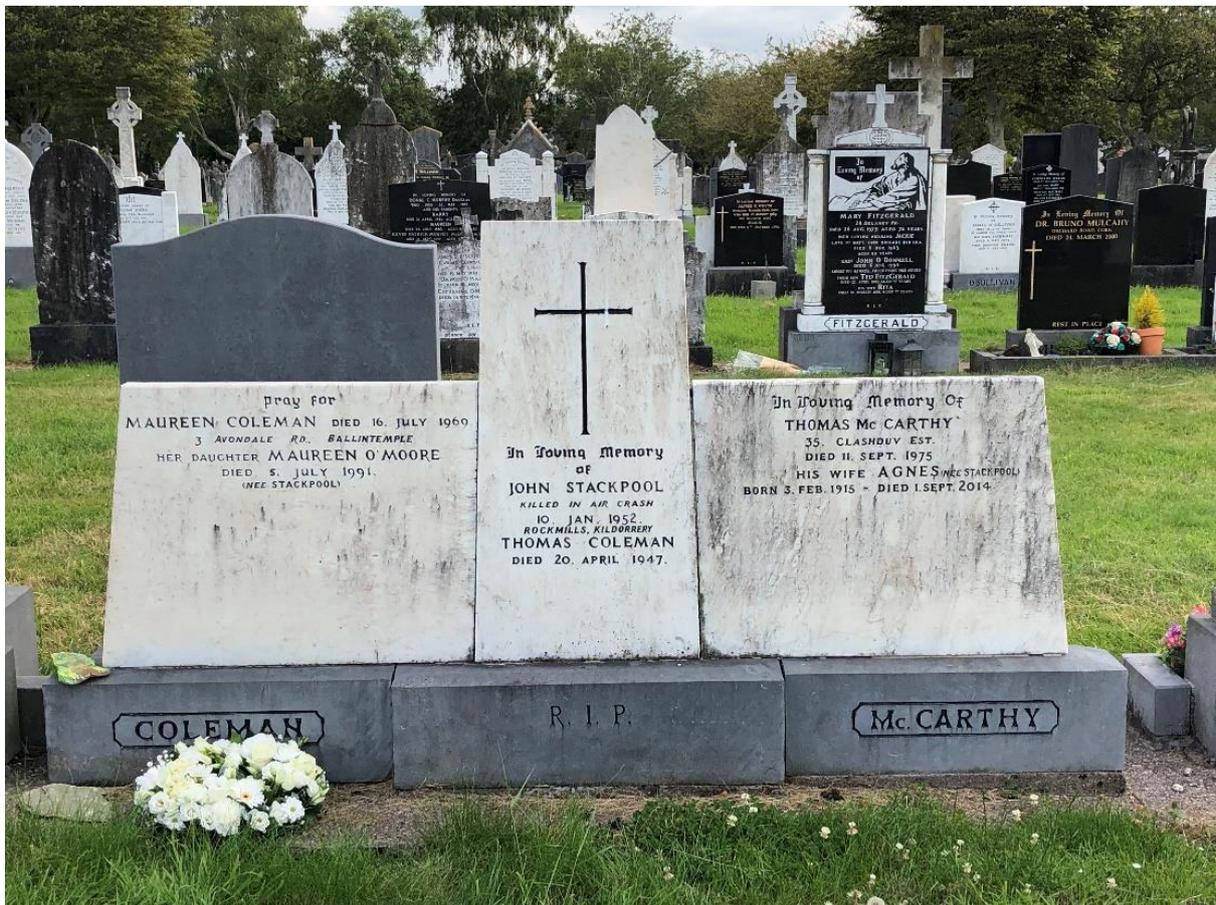
PASSENGERS

Capt. Michael Laker (20),
Aer Lingus pilot, 53 St. Pappin's Rd., Ballymun;
his wife, and four-year-old daughter, **Melody**.
John Stackpool, Gresham Hotel, Dublin, who had been staying at Cumberland Hotel, London.
Henry C. Richardson, The Close, Mount Merrion.
Thomas J. Carrol, Lexington, U.S.A., who was on his way to Rockville, Co. Cork.

We don't know what happened next, but the two men travelled to London to search for Thomas's sister and then on 10 January they got on the flight to return home. When John's sisters Maureen and Agnes heard about a plane crash they didn't think their brother could be involved. Only when they read his name in the paper did they realise that this must be their charming and much-loved brother. They were devastated. Both men along with the 18 other passengers and 3 crew died. Whatever they found or didn't on their trip will never be known. May they Rest in Peace.

Mary Josephine Stackpoole was born on 21 November 1909. She married Thomas Coleman in January 1933 and they had eight children. Two of their children died in infancy. Thomas Coleman died in April 1947 leaving my grandmother to raise five children and a soon to come newborn in May 1947. She was a strong woman and resisted suggestions to put her children into an institution. Family stories tell that whilst they struggled financially there was always love and fun. My mother (one of the six children) thought they had relations in Canada due to the packages of clothes and food that would arrive from time to time. It was actually St. Vincent de Paul (a wonderful charity).

At St Finbarr's Cemetery in Cork, the three children of the photo are marked on this gravestone (noting John Stackpool was buried in Caernarvonshire, Wales).



What stories does each of your family photos hold? Have you thought about researching them? And writing it up?

The Wild Atlantic Way

The Wild Atlantic Way is a 2,500km long route of spectacular coastlines along the West Coast of Ireland. It runs from the Inishowen Peninsula in the north to the picturesque town of Kinsale in the south. The route leads through stunning countryside and delightful villages, along with ancient monuments and a beautiful coast formed by thousands of years of powerful tides and storms. You should take at least 14 days to drive the whole route, but if you only have a few days, travelling just a part of the Wild Atlantic Way can be very rewarding. This is what we did ourselves.



Inishowen Halbinsel
– Muff to Letterkenny –



Fanad Head
– Letterkenny to Bunbeg –



Slieve League Coast
– Bunbeg to Donegal Town –



Donegal Bay and Sligo
– Donegal Town to Ballina –



Erris
– Ballina to Belmullet –



Achill Island and Clew Bay
– Belmullet to Westport –



Killary Harbour
– Westport to Clifden –



Connemara
– Clifden to Galway –



The Burren and West Clare
– Galway to Kilkee –



The Shannon Estuary
– Kilkee to Tralee –



Dingle Peninsula
– Tralee to Castlemaine –



Ring of Kerry
– Castlemaine to Kenmare –



Beara and Sheep's Head
– Kenmare to Durrus –



West Cork
– Durrus to Kinsale –

Our first overnight stay was in Sligo Town (in the county of the same name), visiting The Shed Distillery (producing gin and whiskey) and Glencar Waterfall in Co. Leitrim on our way from Dublin. Sligo itself is a nice town, with plenty of shops and restaurants. This includes Flipside, voted the Best Burger in Ireland 2021. We also visited the Yeats Society, celebrating the famous Irish Poet. William Butler Yeats spent many a summer holiday in Sligo, where his grandfather lived.

After Sligo we drove down the coast, stopping at Downpatrick Head. This location in North Mayo is where millions of years of geological formation have created a truly stunning coastline. And there is even a leftover of the Second World War at the top of the cliffs, in the form of a tiny watch-house.

Our next stop was touristy but attractive Westport (Co. Mayo) where we had a very enjoyable dinner and stay in the Wyatt Hotel.

From there we continued to Nancy's Point, just west of Leenane Village. Here we enjoyed – despite non-stop rain - a 90-minute cruise on Killary Fjord. We stayed that night in the small village of Cong, still in Co. Mayo.

The next destination was Doolin Cave (Burren, Co. Clare), where we had a guided tour and saw a great stalactite and followed this with a stroll along the famous Cliffs of Moher. Our last stay was in the town of Ennis, where we visited a cemetery to look at the graves of some of Jillian's ancestors. Because we are Genealogy.ie!

Censuses of Ireland

Due to the Covid pandemic, the 2021 Census for Ireland did not happen. Instead, the Census will now take place on Sunday, 3 April **2022**. We thought this was a good reason to have a brief look at the history of Irish Censuses and how they can be used as a genealogical resource.

Censuses were initially mostly held so the government of the day could assess its tax base. Nowadays, the main reason is to help the government plan how it will provide public services for the population of the State.

According to the Central Statistics Office in Ireland, the first Census in the world was held by the Babylonians, 6,000 years ago! The oldest still existing one is from China, from the year 2 AD. The use of Censuses in Europe was started by the Romans. And finally, in the nineteenth Century, Ireland had its first Census, in 1821.



Censuses were held every ten years from then on. In 1921, the Census was not held, due to the War of Independence. The Census was postponed for 5 years, till 1926. The next ones were 1936 and 1946, after which the interval was changed to 5 years, 1951, etc. There were other anomalies. There was no Census in 1976; due to the bad economic situation it was postponed till 1979. The 2001 Census was postponed till 2002 to prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease in cattle, who form one of Ireland's economic

pillars. And as mentioned above, the 2021 Census was also postponed by a year.

In 1993, a Statistics Act was adopted in Ireland. In section 35 of this Act, a so-called 100-year rule was implemented, which means that records are kept away for public inspection for 100 years due to commitment on confidentiality.

This means that the next Census to become available will be the 1926 Census, in January 2027. As this was the first Census after the War of Independence and Civil War, we expect it to be a treasure trove of data for every genealogist searching for their Irish ancestors. Especially as there was a 15-year gap since the Census before, from 1911.

Genealogy.ie believe the 100-year rule is needlessly long. In the US the 1950 Census is public from 1st April 2022. We believe this is especially important for the Irish records, as so many have been lost.

The 1861 and 1871 Censuses were destroyed immediately after they were taken. The 1881 and 1891 were pulped during the First World War, probably because there was a paper shortage. During the Civil War, after a bombardment, a fire broke out in the main archive of the Public Records Office at the Four Courts building in Dublin. As a result, a lot of the remaining Censuses were lost.

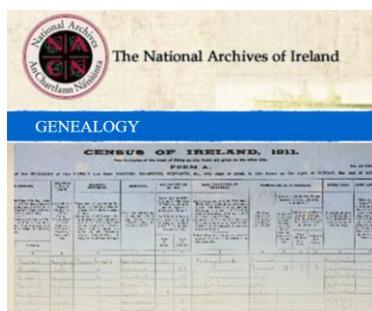


What remains is some parts of the 1821-1851 Censuses, as well as the 1901 and 1911 Censuses. The partial remains only cover some counties, but still contain details of over 600,000 people!

- 1821: Cavan, Fermanagh, Galway, Meath, Offaly
- 1831: Derry
- 1841: Cavin, Cork, Fermanagh, Waterford
- 1851: One ward of Belfast City, Fermanagh,

Interestingly, the 1841 and 1851 censuses also list members of the household not at home on census night, and family members who died since 1831/1841.

These remaining records, as well as the complete 1901/1911 Censuses are available to search freely on the government website <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>.



The 1901 Census contains a basic household return. There is one for each household in the country. The information sought was: name, age, sex, relationship to head of the household, religion, occupation, marital status, county or country of birth. The census also records an individual's ability to read or write and ability to speak the Irish language, and whether deaf, dumb, blind, idiot, imbecile or lunatic. The 1911 census asked a significant additional question: married women were required to state the number of years they had been married, the number of their children born alive and the number still living.

When looking at the census records, you can also check the additional forms giving details of the type of house and many other interesting gems.

And here are some hints to help you:

1. The surname requires exact spelling so you might try a number of variations.
2. You should also note that ages can be wrong; these were often estimated, or people lied about their age to be older (for a job or pension entitlements) or younger.
3. Unless you are lucky enough to have a very uncommon surname, it is useful to know the townland/area as well.
4. If you know your ancestors came from a small townland, you might consider searching for a townland and review all occupants. You might find family members or relatives are living nearby. Unless you are very sure about your information, it is best to start wide.
5. Make sure to tick the "Show All Information" box.

As you will have noted, it is useful to know the townland where your ancestors lived when searching the census. The townland is the smallest unit of administration and often only contains a small number of families. Above the townland sits the civil Parish (not to be confused with the ecclesiastical parishes, which were entirely separate). Next up were Baronies and finally Counties. Confusingly in the Census you will also find the DED (District Electoral Division) which was for the administration of the vote.

Steeple Chasing

Ireland is the largest breeder of thoroughbred racehorses in Europe. In the world only the United States and Australia breed more. This is because its temperate climate and calcium-rich soil are ideal for developing young horses. Having great horses means, not surprisingly, that horse racing is a very popular sport in Ireland.

A steeplechase is nowadays a horse race over fences and ditches. Originally – in the 18th and early 19th Century - the races took place in the open countryside, and the barriers would have been streams, walls, and any other intervening obstacle. The races were between towns and villages. The highest and most visible points in each would have been church steeples, which were used as start and end points, and of course, navigational aids.



Saint John's Church in Buttevant

The very first such race was held in County Cork, Ireland, between the villages of Buttevant and Doneraile in 1752.

Cornelius O'Callaghan and Edmund Blake made a bet to race from the steeple of Saint John's Church in



Saint Mary's Church in Doneraile

Buttevant to that of Saint Mary's Church in the town of Doneraile, a distance of about 4 miles.

There are various accounts of what the prize was; some say a hogshead cask (225-250 litres) of wine, others 600 litres of port. But all seem to agree it was alcohol! And nobody seems to have recorded who actually won the bet.

The format was copied and quickly spread over Ireland and Great Britain. The British Grand National race at Aintree was established in 1839, a race that is still run today over roughly the same distance of around 4 miles.



Aintree Grand National

Buttevant

Buttevant itself is an attractive town between Limerick and Cork with a long history. People have lived in the area since the mists of time, but the relatively modern history starts after the Norman invasion of Ireland in the 12th Century. The Norman De Barra family (later anglicised to Barry) settled nearby, close to Carrigtwohill. This was around 1200 AD. They defeated the local Donegan clan and build a series of castles to keep the Irish population under control. One of these is Buttevant Castle, which is now in ruins.



Barry Coat of Arms



Ruins of Buttevant Castle

In 1812 a huge British army barracks was constructed just outside Buttevant. With hundreds of men stationed here at any given time, it formed the backbone of the local economy. It was however destroyed during the civil war that followed the Irish war of independence, in 1922. The entrance gate survived and is now the entrance to sports grounds



Barracks Gate - Buttevant



Dorothy, Florida, USA

"Jillian provided a wealth of information about my Great Great Grandparents. I longed to know where they lived in Ireland and because of her extraordinary talent, I have that valuable information. Her incredible ability of knowing where to locate difficult records is an amazing talent and I feel very fortunate to have her researching my ancestors in Ireland."



Debra, New York, USA

"Many, many thanks for the exceptional work you did tracking down my Irish ancestors. It was the best money I ever spent; your service was worth every penny and more." "I've enjoyed -- and continue to enjoy -- poring over the details contained in your amazing 10-page report and 18 supporting documents. They have spurred me to keep digging."



Census 2022 Ireland - Time Capsule

In Ireland, the 2022 Census will take place on 3 April 2022.

This time, the census will have a time capsule section at the end of the form for the first time. This is a unique and exciting opportunity to write a message to the future.

The forms will be stored securely for 100 years so the time capsules will not be seen by anyone until 2122.

It must be handwritten as any photos or attachments will be removed. It is a voluntary section – you can leave it blank if you wish. It is leading to a discussion in Ireland about what to enter.

As genealogists, we are thinking we should document an overview of our family tree. Point to where to find the family legends.

What message would you like to leave for the next generations? Would you draw a picture, write a story, share a day in the life of, tell all about your pet, or Granny's secret chocolate cake recipe. The list is endless.

Reflecting on what message he would like to send his descendants, Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Micheál Martin said:

Time Capsule:

Information you provide in this Time Capsule is optional and is collected voluntarily under Section 24 of the Statistics Act 1993. This content is protected by the same confidentiality protections as all your Census data for 100 years. After 100 years, this Time Capsule will be made available to the public. **This space is for handwritten messages only. Photographs or other attachments will be removed and cannot be returned.**

"I think we have to get it right. What would you say to someone in 100 years?"

It's interesting that 100 years ago there was a pandemic, and little did people back then, in the 1918 period, think in 100 years a message could relate to a pandemic.

What I'm thinking of is around what would the planet be like in 100 years time.

Will we, through our efforts now, have impacted on our biodiversity in 100 years' time. What will it be in terms of plants, insects, flora and fauna? That's kind of where I'm heading."

What message would you leave? Have you ever considered posting yourself a letter into the future? Date it and only open when you reach the date. Or write up a time capsule of your own for future generations.

You can find out more here: www.census.ie/census-2022/time-capsule/

Research Tip

When researching, remember there can be transcription errors or even errors at the time of entry. In this example, we eventually found this family in the 1901 Census.

They had listed their surname in the forename column and vice-versa. This meant when we were searching by surname in the county concerned, we could not find them. They were there in the 1911 Census but no trace 10 years earlier.

We then looked at the same place in 1901 and hey presto they appeared – with all their first names listed as each surname.

You can find the record here:

www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Sligo/Cliffony_North/Mullaghmore/

Residents of a house 2 in Mullaghmore (Cliffony North, Sligo)

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head
Robert	Gunning	41	Male	Head of Family
Jane	Gunning	35	Female	Wife
William C	Gunning	16	Male	Son
Annie	Gunning	13	Female	Daughter
James	Gunning	10	Male	Son
Maggie	Gunning	8	Female	Daughter
A Massey Milan	Gunning	6	Female	Daughter
Violet Maud	Gunning	3	Female	Daughter
George White	Gunning	1	Male	Son
Mary Ann	Christie	53	Female	Mother in Law

WHY HIRE US

We offer professional research services that have already helped many of your fellow family historians. Below we give you six reasons why we believe we are the ideal partner for your research into your Irish family history. Explore our website to find out about us and ask for a free assessment of your research question.

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 18 years' experience in tracing Irish family histories. She is passionate about genealogy and understands the richness and fulfilment that goes with finding out about your ancestors and their lives.

Jillian is an AGI Affiliate and a member of the Irish Genealogical Research Society, the Irish Family History Society and the Society of Genealogists.

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 get you to share what you already know – so we don't duplicate what you have already done but also to determine if there is data we need to double check. We will always agree with you our research approach and the cost before starting any work, 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 "Professional Irish Ancestry Research" 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.