

## Limerick Part 3

So in Limerick in 1919 Jim invited his cousin Babe, the governess, to come to his aid. His wife Nellie had died in February and Pat Green recalled that Annie went to Limerick with Babe. She would have been on her own in Tullamore otherwise. But the arrangement did not work and so Annie left her sister in Limerick and travelled to Whitby to visit her sister Eileen. She arrived when there was deep snow and the roads were difficult so it must have been late in the year (1919).

Love blossomed between Jim and Babe and after seeking a dispensation, they were first cousins after all, they married at St. John's cathedral Limerick on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 1922.

Patrick too had married by this point. He married Christina Ryan in the third quarter of 1919 and they had a son, Michael Oliver in Q3 1920. Christina was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Ryan (nee Joyce) and part of a large family (12 children born by 1911 though only 9 survived). Her brother Edward (Ned) was later an architect. It was Ned who gave PJG's youngest son Eugene his first introduction to the building trade many years later.



*St. John's Cathedral Limerick*



*Patrick Joseph Guerin on his 21st Birthday? 1910?*

Most of the Ryan family are together in Lower St. Lelia Street in the 1901 census. One of the eldest was called

Delia and she married a John James Browne around 1900. Delia died in 1910 and by the time of the 1911 census, Christina and her sister Lousia are shown living with their brother in law and his five children. Perhaps they were supporting him like Margaret Curtin was supporting James Guerin. They lived right down the road from Lord Edward Terrace on Roxborough road perfectly placed for Patrick and Christina to meet.

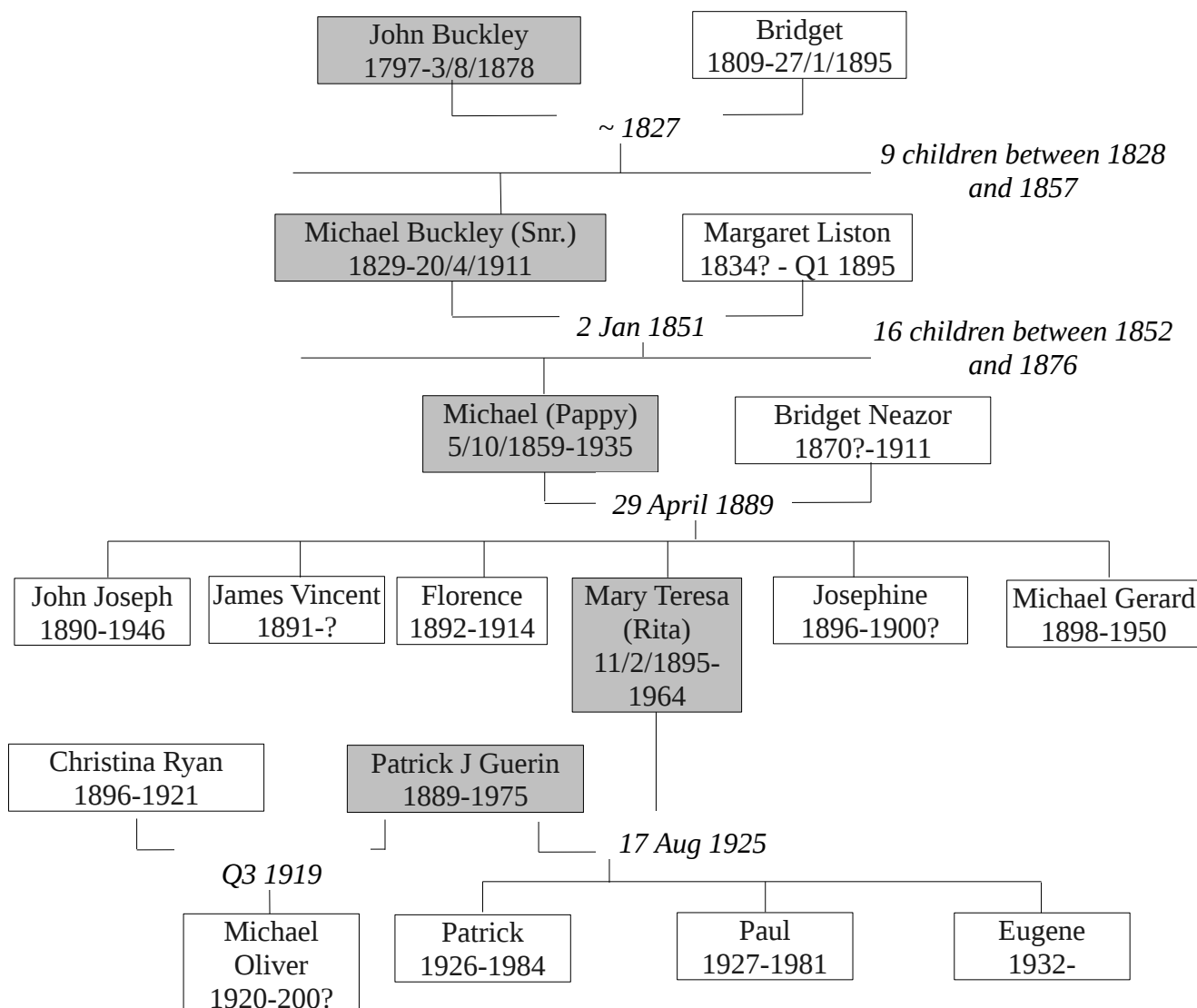
In their last years the Ryan parents, Thomas and Mary lived with Ned in 11 Rossa Villas, Garryowen, Limerick City. They were shown there in the 1923 register of electors.

But Patrick and Christina's marriage was short lived as Christina died and was buried on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1921 aged just 26 years. She was buried in plot 84 FC not far from the Second Guerin grave with other members of her own, Ryan, family.

Patrick remarried on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1925, his bride was Rita Buckley, the daughter of a custom's officer, Michael Buckley (Pappy).

Below is the known family tree of the Buckleys also including the record of the first marriage of Patrick Joseph to Christina Ryan.

## Buckley Family Tree



PJG and PG's notes in their family tree of a link to Co. Cork for the Buckley family. The earliest record I can find for the Buckleys is in Co. Limerick. It is the entry in the Tithe Applotments. The record is for 1833 and records one John Buckley in Kilcoleman, Kilkeedy, Co. Limerick. Also in the same townland a Timothy Buckley. There is no record of a death for Timothy Buckley so I think he must have died before civil registration began in 1864. It is likely he was a brother of John but he could have been his father. Without finding a death record or gravestone we cannot be sure. The Griffith Valuation (1850) records them again in Kilcoleman farming in adjacent fields. By working with various death records and the funeral announcement of one John Buckley of Kilcoleman 1903. By my detective work, coupled with the records PJG and PG recorded, it seems John Buckley had 9 children. The first born James (1828-1908) is shown still in Kilcoleman in the

1901 census with three of his siblings. His brother John (1832-1903), whose funeral record gave so many clues, married an Ellen McNamara and it seems moved to Rivermount, Clarina – just up the road. He is recorded there in 1901 with his wife and some of his children. His youngest, James, did not inherit the farm and married a Mary Coughlan. They had, and his grandson, Brian, still has, a farm next to Kilcoleman in the adjoining townland of Breska.

But this is not the family line that leads to PJG's new bride. As I said John Buckley had 9 children in total and another son, Michael married a Margaret Liston in 1851. She and her family lived in Castlemungret 4 km to the north east. I think Margaret's father was Patrick (1799-1878). The Tithe Applotments show lots of Listins in Mungret in the period 1822-18233 but by the time of the Griffith Valuation in 1850 only those in Castlemungret remain. They are listed in Griffith as Michael, Patrick, John and Margaret and own land where now stands the limerick cement factory. It was always known that the farm was compulsory purchased when the factory was built in the 1930's. All the listons who married seem to have left the land and while I have no proof I rather think that Michael Buckley and Margaret eventually owned all the Liston farmland in Castlemungret. In any case Michael buckley owned at least £10 worth of land by 1885 and so is shown as a voter in the 1885 election. He might well be the first member of the family to have the right to vote in parliamentary and local elections.

Michael Snr. is actually of uncertain age as there is no record of his birth, the parish records not having survived. The two available census returns place his birth between 1831 and 1836 and the record of his death gives 1934. As he married in 1851, 1831 is most likely.

Michael Snr. married Margaret Liston on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1851. So he moved in and the family farmed there until the 1930's when a compulsory purchase by the council forced them to sell and the Limerick Cement Factory now stands on the site. They had 14 children between 1852 and 1872 and there are little stories about them all recorded by PJG and PG. Some of the family moved away, London, America and it was William born 1873 the third youngest who inherited the farm from Michael Snr. Rita's second son and his great nephew, Paul Guerin, remembered sitting on William Buckley's knee trying his pipe though he died when Paul was 6.

Michael Buckley Snr. is pictured here with Margaret his daughter at the First Holy Communion of his Grandaughter Rita. Michael Snr died on 20/4/1911 and is buried with some of his family in the old cemetery at Mungret. His son William was the informant. Margaret Liston, his wife, died in 1895.

Michael Snr. and Margaret had two children called Michael, the first died after a year and a half and so the second male in the family to carry his father's name was born in 1859 and worked as a customs officer in Limerick city. One register of trades has him as Boatman at the customs house in 1891. Michael Jnr was known as Pappy and I shall refer to him as Pappy hereafter.



*Margaret and Michael Snr. 1905~*

Pappy married one Bridget Neazor, at St. Michael's church Denmark St. on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1889. He was living in 10 Charles St. and she had come into the city from her family farm in Pallaskenry west of Castle Mungret. In the marriage certificate her address was given as Emmet Place.

The Neazors were of Palatine descent. The palatines were from Germany, Protestant families encouraged to come to Ireland to displace the Catholic owners of the land in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. In fact nearly 3000 Palatines came to rural Ireland starting in September 1709 and this influx continued for three years. The Palatine settlement in Pallaskenry dated from a secondary settlement within Ireland and can be dated to circa 1776. The family name was originally Neizer.

The tithe applotment records give a Michael Nazar in Ballycahane, Kilcornan (1825). This expands to Michael and John by 1850 (Griffith). John is the name given for Bridget's father on the marriage certificate. The Mormon records give Neazor births and marriages right back to 1770. I almost possible to create a family tree back from John in 1850 generation by generation back to another John who must have been born circa 1749, around the time the neazor's came from Germany.

Pappy and Bridget were blessed with 6 children in the next 9 years the marriage seems not to have been a happy one. Pappy and Bridget are not shown together in 1901. He is living with Rita, Florence and James in 8 Mountpleasant Avenue. The eldest son, John, is at the farm in Castlemungret assisting his grandfather, Michael Senior and his uncle William. Josephine has died and their mother Bridget is not living with them. In fact I have found it very difficult to find Bridget at all in the 1901 census so her last years are a mystery. She died on 22/1/1911 of Tuberculosis but the family tree drawn up by Paul Guerin gave 1903. Interestingly this was the year the family left Mountpleasant Avenue. Bridget's

death certificate records her having been ill for 20 months with TB and she is buried in the Buckley family plot 79 Da at Mount St. Laurence. She came to her burial from the Lunatic Asylum further down Mulgrave Rd. It seems it was being used as a hospital at this time and she had, according to the death certificate, been living in Ashbourne Avenue. Pappy had, by his grandson Eugene Guerin's recollection, a drink problem.

By the time of the 1911 census in April the family has completely broken up. Pappy on his own in the city, Rita is at St. Vincent's Boarding house school in Military Rd. (Now Little O'Connell Avenue). John was still at the farm and Florence and the youngest Michael Gerard are living with cousins James, Mary and James Blake. James Blake had married Catherine Liston the younger sister of Margaret, Rita's Grandmother. Rita therefore had a troubled early life.



*A Typical House in Mountpleasant Avenue*



*St. Vincent's O'Connell Ave.*

All her life Rita held that she was born in 1900 but it seems she shaved 5 years off her age and was actually baptised on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1895. Her birth name too was unknown until I got the details of her Baptism at St. Michael's church. Rita is usually the diminutive of Margaret but she was Mary Teresa.

From the middle of the 19th century all babies born in Limerick city were offered vaccination against smallpox. The records exist for three of the Buckley children. There are records of vaccination for James, Rita and Josphine. The record for the youngest Gerard might exist but is no record past Feb. 1898 are available on-line. All three were vaccinated when the family were living at 25 Emmet place. Therefore they must have moved to Mountpleasant avenue some time between May 1897 and the census date in 1901. The rates book shows that they moved out of Mountpleasant Ave. in 1903.

Rita is shown here on the occasion of her First Holy Communion with her Aunt Margaret and her surviving sister Florence who might be dressed here for her Confirmation. Their Aunt Margaret was a Sacred Heart nun in Limerick her twin, Bridget, a nun in the same order in Cork.

This photograph must date from 1905/6. Rita would have been 10 or 11 making her first communion, Florence is 13 or 14, being 3 years older than her sister.

The picture on the right has no indication whom it might be. It was taken by a Michael Buckley of 117 George St. Limerick. George Street become O'Connell St. in 1904 and the Trades Registers for Limerick City indicate that 117 George St. was used as a variety of shops from 1824 to 1890 but in 1891 a Henry O'Shea is shown there as Photographer. The rate book entry shows that Michael Buckley took over the lease in 1895 and that he left in 1910. The 1885 register of electors shows Michael Buckley living here in the "upper part of the residence". So if he worked for Henry O'Shea and took over the business then he was operating from this address from 1894 until the renaming in 1904 and then the address is 98 O' Connell Street. So this young man was probably photographed between 1895 and 1904. If it is of either of Rita's older brothers then they were 5-14 years old in the case of John and 6-15 years old in the case of James. It is hard to be definite about an identification but I'm inclined to go with John the eldest.



*Florence, Margaret and Rita 1905~*



*John or James Buckley?*



On the right is a picture of a rather eccentric Aunt of hers, Catherine. She spent a lot of her life in America and returned well healed and with, it appears, airs and graces. One of the things she brought back from the USA was a death shroud. In order that she would get an idea of how it would look when she finally came to use it in earnest (Catherine (Katie) died in 1951); she would get Rita to model it.

It seems Rita was active in the direct action for Irish independence, in particular the Irish war of independence (1919-21). The story is told of her running guns on her bike for the republican side along the Dock Rd. in Limerick when she heard the approach of a British Armoured Car. She is supposed to have cycled at unabated pace into the ditch where she crashed and lay motionless and hurt until the car had past and all was now safe. Then she got up and carried on with her mission.

She was a member of Cumann na mBan (Women's League) which came into being on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1914 as an auxiliary to the Irish Volunteer Force. The constitution of Cumann na mBan contained explicit references to the use of force by arms against crown forces in Ireland. Under its constitution, the primary aim of the organisation was to "advance the cause of Irish liberty" and "assist in arming and equipping a body of Irish men for the defence of Ireland". Its recruits were from diverse backgrounds, mainly white-collar workers and professional women, but with a significant proportion also from the working class. In September 1914, the Irish Volunteers split over John Redmond's appeal for its members to enlist in the British Army. The majority of Cumann na mBan members supported the rump of 2-3,000 volunteers who rejected this call and who retained the original name, the Irish Volunteers. On 7 January 1922 the Anglo-Irish Treaty was approved by the Second Dáil by a close vote of 64-57. On 5 February a Cumann na mBan convention was held to discuss this, and 419 members voted against as opposed to 63 in favour. In the ensuing civil war, its members largely supported the anti-Treaty Republican forces. Over 400 of its members were imprisoned by the forces of the Provisional government which became in December 1922 the Irish Free State. Some of those who supported the Treaty changed the name of their branches to Cumann na Saoirse, while others retained their name but gave allegiance to the Free State Government. Cumann na mBan continued to exist after the Treaty, forming (alongside Sinn Féin, the IRA, Fianna Éireann and other groups) part of the Irish republican milieu. The government of the Irish Free State banned the organisation in January 1923 and opened up Kilmainham Gaol as a detention prison for suspect women.

In later years that it became a 'greatly weakened organisation' that 'gathered speed downhill' from the founding of Fianna Fáil in 1926.



*Catherine (Katie) Buckley*



*Paddy and Rita Guerin. Wedding?*

Patrick Joseph Guerin purchased 2 Lord Edward Terrace in 1922 the year after he lost Christina. The ownership does not change again until 1927 when Patrick sells to his surviving sister Kathleen. She lived there until her death in 1933. The 1923 electoral register, which was taken the year after Eire came into being and the end of the civil war, shows Patrick and Kathleen at 2 Lord Edward terrace. Michael Oliver must have been with them too.



*Patrick Jnr. back of Sleibh Rue*

When Patrick married Rita they might have lived at Lord Ed. Terrace for twelve months or so until the sale to Kathleen but there is no actual record of when they moved to a new house "Sleibh Rue", O'Connell Avenue. Patrick Jnr.(Paddy) was born in 1925 and Paul in 1927. Paul's Birth Certificate puts his place of birth as 24 Henry St. Were they living there? Siobhan Guerin remembers her father Paul telling her that he was not well when born and was baptised very quickly after birth. If they had stayed at 2 Lord Ed. Tce. After marriage



*Paddy, PJG and Paul Guerin*

then the full number of persons at that address would have been:

PJG and Rita with Paddy and Paul, Kathleen and Michael Oliver and "The Bull" Mason. I cannot find proof that they lived at 24 Henry st. before moving out to "Slieve Rue" but it seems most likely to me.



*PJG, Paddy and Paul*

It seems that Michael Oliver remained behind at 2 Lord Ed. Tce., looked after by his aunt, Kathleen. The 1931/32 electoral roll shows that Rita's father Michael (Pappy) was living with them in "Sleibh Rue" at this time (it seems he lived with them until he died in 1935). Patrick, Rita, Paddy and Paul (and Pappy) were only a few years in O'Connell Avenue before they moved to 16 Newnham st., sometime in 1932. Their third son Eugene was born around this time (1932).



*Rita, Paddy and Paul*



The boys (Michael, Paddy and Paul) were educated at the Crescent College like their uncle Jack had been. They attended the school from 1935 to 1938. Strange that they should all start and finish in the same year. Between '35 and '38 Michael Oliver was 15-18 , Paddy was 10-13 and Paul 8-11. Paddy and Paul went on to be educated by the Christian brothers.

Michael Oliver was 13 when Kathleen died and he must have finally moved in with the rest of the family then as he appears in the electoral register at Newnham St. in the 1940 electoral roll.



*Kathleen, Michael Oliver and Jack 1922~*



*Michael Guerin 1st Communion ~ 1924*



Kathleen with, from the left, Jim and Raymond standing and Joseph Liam, Francis and Michael Oliver sitting on the front step

One story from around this time is of an incident that occurred at 13 Wolfe Tone Terrace during the civil war in 1922. Raymond was only a little boy (3~) and was in the house. Someone, coming up the lane next to the house carrying a basket, was told by a guard on the roof of the prison opposite to raise his hands. He raised one and when told again, transferred the basket to the other hand and raised the other. The guard then ordered him to raise both together whereupon the man fled and a shot was fired which struck the house where Raymond had just been. The bullet was kept for years by his half brother Joseph Liam.