



Guerin Family

In the late 1960's my Grandfather, Patrick Joseph Guerin (1889- 1975) and my father Paul Guerin (1927- 1981), sat down and drew up the family tree as much as they could. What I am attempting to present here is the information they recorded at the time plus new information that is available via the internet, in particular the records of the Irish Family History Foundation and the Irish National Archives 1901 and 1911 census. The former lacks the full co-operation of all counties but has the birth, death and marriage records of most of the 32 counties. As will become clear the lack of those from Waterford are most unfortunate as they hold the key to some of what we require to push the family tree further back than 1830.



The other archives that have been of particular use are those of Limerick City Council. Rates books, electoral lists and the burial records of Mount St. Laurence Cemetery where most of the city's dead were buried from 1855 until well into the 20th century.

There are personal histories recorded by Paul Guerin, recalled by Patrick Joseph Guerin (PJG) for James and John (Jack), his older brothers, but not for any of the other members of his family. This was clearly an unfinished project. They do give some give interesting clues to the family history but they represent a missed opportunity. Some of what PJG recalled was over 70 years old when he was very young and, as will become clear, some is inaccurate. Dates that can be corrected by official records are indicated in the body of the text.

There were census records taken every ten years in Ireland from 1821, all but a few fragments are lost. The 1821-61 records were lost in the Customs House fire in the civil war, 1922, those of 1871-91 were systematically pulped in 1911 in a mistake at the General Record Office, Dublin. Whatever the causes for the destruction, the result is the same. We can only, therefore, rely on the 1901 and 1911 census returns for any details of the family history.

Another thing to bear in mind is that; in 1850 the country was just emerging from several years of famine. It is reckoned that as many as 10% of all births, deaths and marriages were not recorded. With this in mind I began to examine the various possibilities of where the family might have originated.

My thanks also go to various family members who have provided their records and recollections.

Also to the Irish Railway Records Society, The Irish Jesuits Archives, The Irish Christian brother's archive. There were many on-line sources I interrogated including Ancestry.co.uk , Irish Origins.net and the Mormon Family Records. There were contributions from, the National Archive at Kew and the National Library of Ireland. I received great help from various church and school authorities in Ireland, my thanks to them all for their time and patience.

The maps have, by and large come from the Ordinance Survey of Ireland website. There is an on-line map record there where modern maps and aerial photographs are super-imposable on historical maps from 1850's and circa 1900. Using these I was able to better trace the changing names of places, and roads. Also the location of buildings that no longer exist but play an important part in our story.

I have tried to keep the narrative as chronological as possible and to keep using names rather than 'his' and 'hers' which can be difficult to follow. I hope this makes the story easier to follow but I apologise if it is not easy to follow at all times.

If when you read the text you think of additions or corrections then please let me know. This is a working document and should merely form a framework. As more records come on-line and as I receive more information in the course of my investigations then I shall re-edit the text.

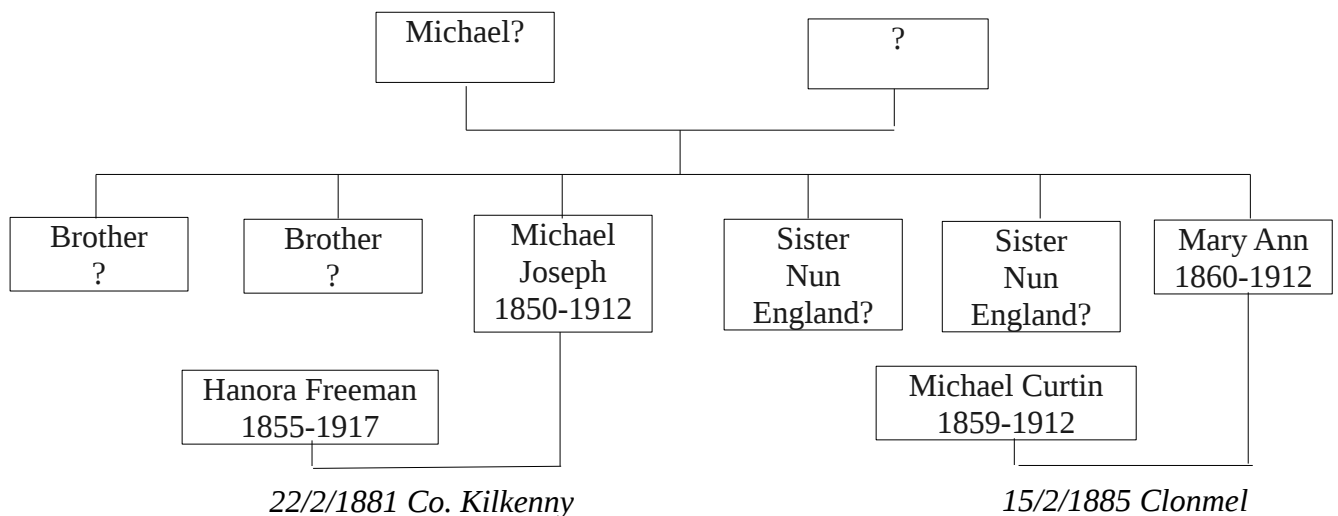
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Guerin Roots

(Co. Tipperary, Co. Waterford and Co. Kilkenny)

The family tree below was the earliest known information when PJG and PG drew up the family tree in the late 60s. PJG thought his father, Michael Joseph, had two older brothers and three younger sisters. We are sure the youngest sister existed as she married Michael Curtin in 1885 and we know their family history after this but we shall come back to them later. He thought there were two sisters who were both nuns and possibly in England and that his Grandfather was Michael and that he married around 1848.



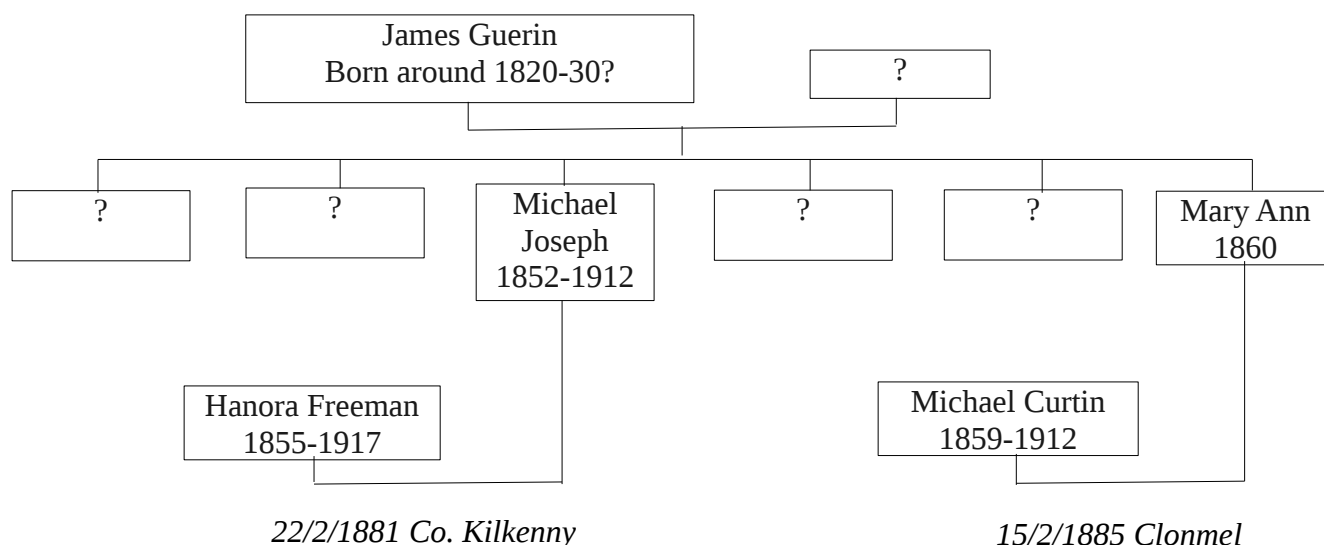
We know that Michael Joseph was married in 1881 in Co. Kilkenny just north of Waterford city in the Parish Church of Sleibhrue. We also know that Mary Ann married Michael Curtin in St. Peter and St. Paul, Clonmel (Co. Tipperary) in 1885. The father is recorded in both marriage records as James Guerin so Michael is not correct in the tree above.

The census returns record where people were born, or rather where they say they were born. Michael Joseph gives Co. Waterford in both the 1911 and 1901 census. He gives his age as 49 and 59 years in the two census returns so a birth date of 1852 is most likely.

Mary Ann gives Co. Tipperary in the 1911 census but in the 1901 census she gives Co. Waterford like her big brother. However the 1911 return shows an alteration to the word "Tipperary". Whoever was filling it in clearly started to write something else. Did Mary Anne's husband, Michael Curtin, fill in the 1911 census without checking where she was born? They married in Co. Tipperary so perhaps he thought of her as coming from there. She gave 41 and 51 as her age in the census returns, pointing to her being born in 1860.

The two sisters who were supposedly nuns and lived in England would appear on the 19th century English census returns and I found none. It is possible they were in England between two census dates and so appear on neither. There was a Freeman nun in Waterford city in the 1901 census, perhaps PJG was recalling the wrong side of the family.

So the earliest records we know for certain give us the following family tree:



We need to explore the possible birth places for these Guerin.

We have either Co. Tipperary or Co. Waterford given in the census returns. The Tipperary parish records for Baptisms are available on-line and so I interrogated these and found no suitable baptisms in Co. Tipperary. So I then moved on to Co. Waterford.

Examination of the Co. Waterford records is not possible on-line so this was undertaken by the Co. Waterford Genealogical Service (CWGS) who turned up no suitable birth for either Michael or Mary. They did find a Michael and a Mary both born to a James Guerin in the village of Ballyduff but the dates did not match and this Michael Guerin was also alive in the 1911 census and living near Clonmel, Co. Tipperary with his brother. Also this James Guerin died in 1882, three years before the Clonmel marriage. So this Co. Waterford possibility seems not to be correct.

James Guerin's occupation is given as 'Farmer' in the 1881 Waterford marriage and 'Caretaker' in the 1885 Clonmel marriage. While both marriage records state James Guerin was living at the time, I understand that this might not necessarily be true. The 1901 census records no James Guerin in the whole country that could possibly be our James Guerin. So this rather leads to the probability that he died between 1885 and 1901. I examined the Mormon records, the Irish Family History Federation and the Waterford County death records.

These are the possible James Guerin deaths I found:

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | 1803-1883 | Lismore, Co. Waterford | Not correct one (See page 6) |
| 2. | 1805-1871 | Clogheen, Co. Tipperary | Too early? |
| 3. | 1819-1887 | Clonmel, Co. Tipperary | The most likely ? Died workhouse Clonmel |
| 4. | 1834-1884 | Tipperary | Born too late for marriage ~1850 |

We need more evidence. Another check is to see how many James Guerin were around in 1850.

To achieve this we need to turn to another useful tool for genealogical research that of Land records.

Land Records

All governments need to collect taxes in various forms and in the 19thC the British government sought to collect Tithes and Taxes so surveys were conducted of who lived where and who their landlords were.

Tithe Applotments 1823-38

The Composition Act of 1823 specified that tithes due to the Established Church, the Church of Ireland, which had hitherto been payable in kind, should now be paid in money. As a result, it was necessary to carry out a valuation of the entire country, civil parish by civil parish, to determine how much would be payable by each landholder. This was done over the ensuing 15 years, up to the abolition of tithes in 1838. The Tithe records are available on-line on the Ancestry.co.uk website.

Griffith's Valuation

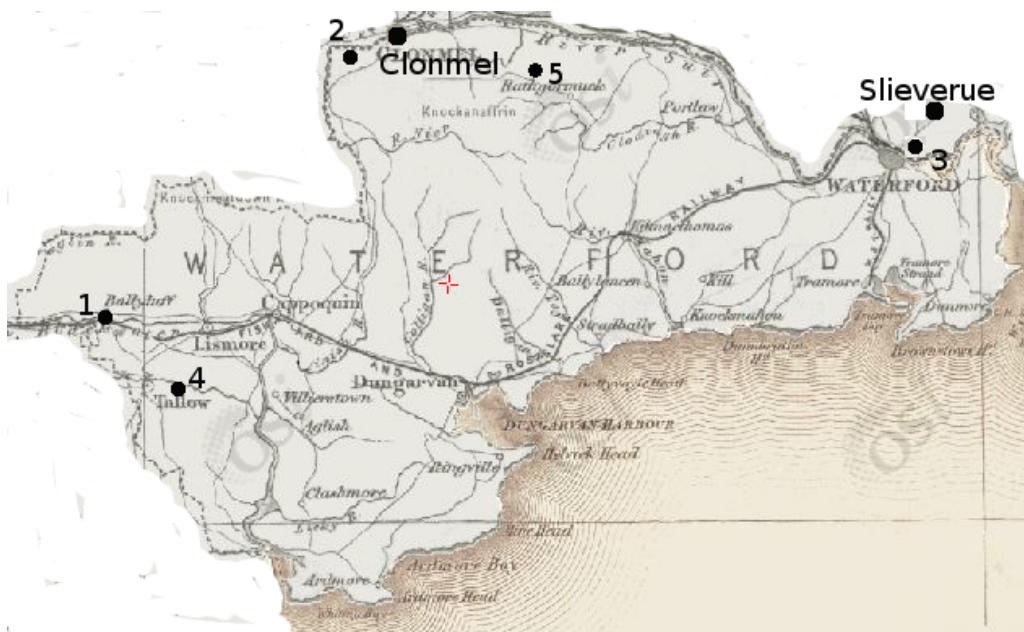
Another document we can refer to try and achieve an idea of where James Guerin might have lived is called "Griffith's Valuation". Known as "The Primary Valuation" it was the first full-scale valuation of property in Ireland. It was overseen by Richard Griffith and published between 1847 and 1864. It is one of the most important surviving 19th century genealogical sources. The "Go Ireland" website has the entire document available to search.

I therefore searched for every Guerin recorded in the valuation.

In Co. Tipperary Griffith records no suitable Guerin records at all reinforcing my belief that the Co. Tipperary option is not possible.

There are several Co. Waterford records as follows.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. James, Ellen, Michael Gueron | Ballyduff, village of |
| 2. James, John, Patrick Gearn | Kilnamack East. |
| 3. John Gearan | Church Rd., Abbeylands, Kilculliheen. |
| 4. Daniel Geran | Janeville, Kilwatermoy. |
| 5. John, Michael Guerny | Seskian |



Let us consider each of these possibilities in turn.

The first is the father of 5 children including a Michael (1864) and a Mary (1861) and is the family the Waterford Genealogical Service found. However as I stated before, this Michael is alive in the 1911 census and living in Scrothea West in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary with his older brother James. Scrothea is just to the south of Clonmel. These Gearons give ages that match those found in Ballyduff by the Waterford Genealogical Service (WGS). Also there is a death record for James Guerin in Ballyduff dated 1883 so he would not have been alive for the Curtin/Guerin marriage in 1885. So I think we can discount the Ballyduff Guerins. The 1901 and 1911 census returns show no Guerins living in Ballyduff so this family of Guerins appear to have been there for a relatively short period of time.

Second are the Gearns in Kilnamack East. This is a possibility and is geographically in a great location for a later connection with Clonmel. It is right on the Tipperary / Waterford border just a couple of miles south west of Clonmel and seems now to be in Co. Tipperary but was in Co. Waterford in the 19th century and even the 1901 and 1911 census. Unfortunately the searches by WGS found no suitable Michael born to this James. But this could still be the correct James Guerin but that the records just don't exist. There are several Gearon families living in this area in the 1901 and 1911. I could not get these families to fit into the known Guerin family tree. The Tithe defaulters records from 1831 show one Patrick Guran living here at that time. Patrick too is listed in the Tithe Applotment records. If it turns out that this is the correct Guerins then James Guerin's father seems to be Patrick Guran.

Thirdly is the John Gearan of Abbeylands, Kilculliheen. The civil parish of Kilculliheen is on the north bank of the river Suir at Waterford City and includes Ferrybank and part of Sallypark where Michael Joseph and Hanora Freeman lived when they married in 1881. It was served by the Roman Catholic parish of Slieverue where the Freeman/Guerin marriage took place. Originally it was part of Co. Kilkenny but from the reign of Charles 1st it passed to Waterford City, and then in 1898 split so that some reverted to Kilkenny and some, like Ferrybank remained part of Waterford City. This John Gearan seems to have been married in the Slieverue church in 1840. John's daughters, Johanna and Margaret are married in the 1860's. There are no records of others to fit our family tree but it is intriguing that these Guerins lived so close to where one branch of our family lived.

The Guerins of Janeville (No 4 above) are still there in the 1901 and 11 census. Their family tree in no way matches that of our family.

No. 5 too seems unlikely and there are no Guerins in the census returns living in this area. Also the name Guerny seems too far from 'Guerin' to be possible.

There is one real flaw with Griffith as I see it. Griffith records only the head of household, i.e. the landholder and so it is nigh on impossible for me to be certain that there are not missing parts to this jigsaw that lie in the Co. Waterford Births and marriage records. Until such time as these are available on-line or someone is able to go to Dublin (or Dungarvan) I cannot make any more headway on the genealogy.

Another interesting discovery I made was of another Guerin marriage in Clonmel. Again the father was James Gearon. This was of one John Hogan and Bridget Gearon on 11th April 1888. He was a soldier and she the daughter of a Labourer. This does not fit with the death of one James Guerin in Clonmel the previous year in the workhouse so points to there being two James Gearons in Clonmel at this time. But why would the Curtins and Guerin be so close and the Hogans never get a mention? This family moved to England, Ripon and had 6 children. Some born in Ireland and some in Yorkshire. They lived in Ripon right through to the 1911 census. I don't think we are related.

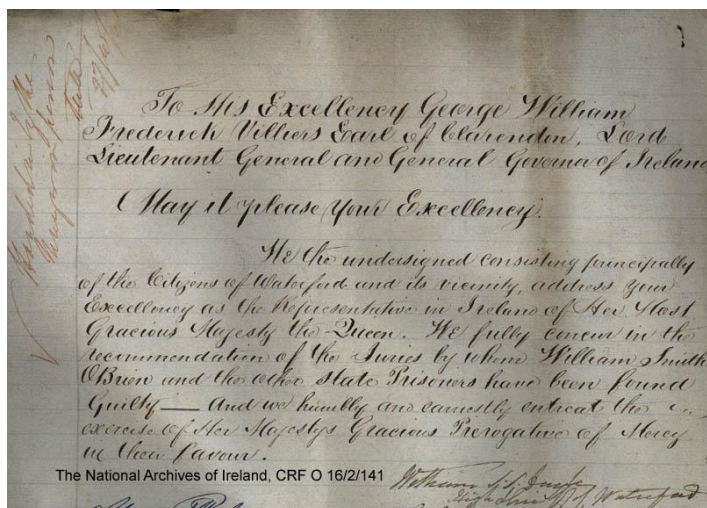
William Smith O'Brien Petition

The other evidence I found were entries in the petition to save William O'Brien from the gallows. In 1848 William Smith O'Brien was arrested in Ireland, on the grounds that he had travelled to Paris earlier that year in support of the leaders of the new French Republic. He was tried, but released when the jury failed to agree on a verdict. On 26th July 1848 the Irish Confederation Club was proclaimed illegal and warrants were issued for the arrest of the leaders of the Young Irelanders. On 29th July William Smith O'Brien led an abortive rising in Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary, otherwise known as 'the battle of Widow McCormack's cabbage patch'. He was arrested on 6th August 1848 and in a special sitting of the district court at Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, found guilty and sentenced to death.

The sentence caused great consternation among all segments of the Irish community. Between the finish of the trial in October 1848 and May 1849 various petitions in favour of clemency for William Smith O'Brien were collected around Ireland. Petitioners signed in support of Smith-O'Brien for many different reasons, some of them political, some religious and humanitarian. On 5th June 1849 Smith O'Brien's death sentence was commuted to transportation for life.

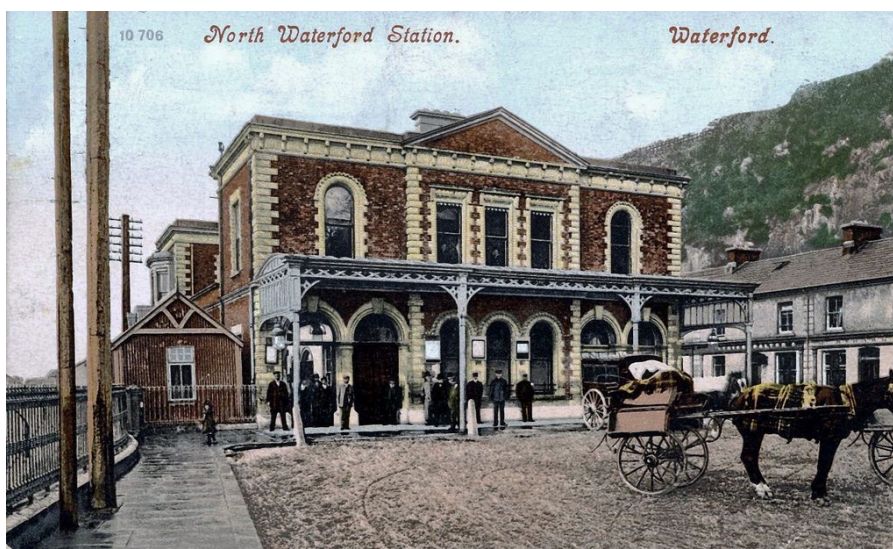
There is an entry for James Gearn in Waterford on 27/10/1848. Also fone or a James Gearin in the same petition. There is no more detail on their address so they might be the Ballyduff James Gueron or the James Gearns near Clonmel. There was a Clonmel petition and I would have thought the Gearns of Kilnamack West would have singed this one rather than travelling the length of the county to sing in Waterford City.

The title page of the document in which these two James Guerin are registered talks of being a list "principally of the citizens of Waterford and its vicinity." If this means just the immediate hinterland of Waterford City then there might be more James Guerin around in the late 1840's. As I said before the lack of on-line records of Births and marriages for Co. Waterford is most unfortunate. So let us now move on to examine the history of the family of Michael Joseph Guerin.



Title page of Petition

The Kilkenny Guerins

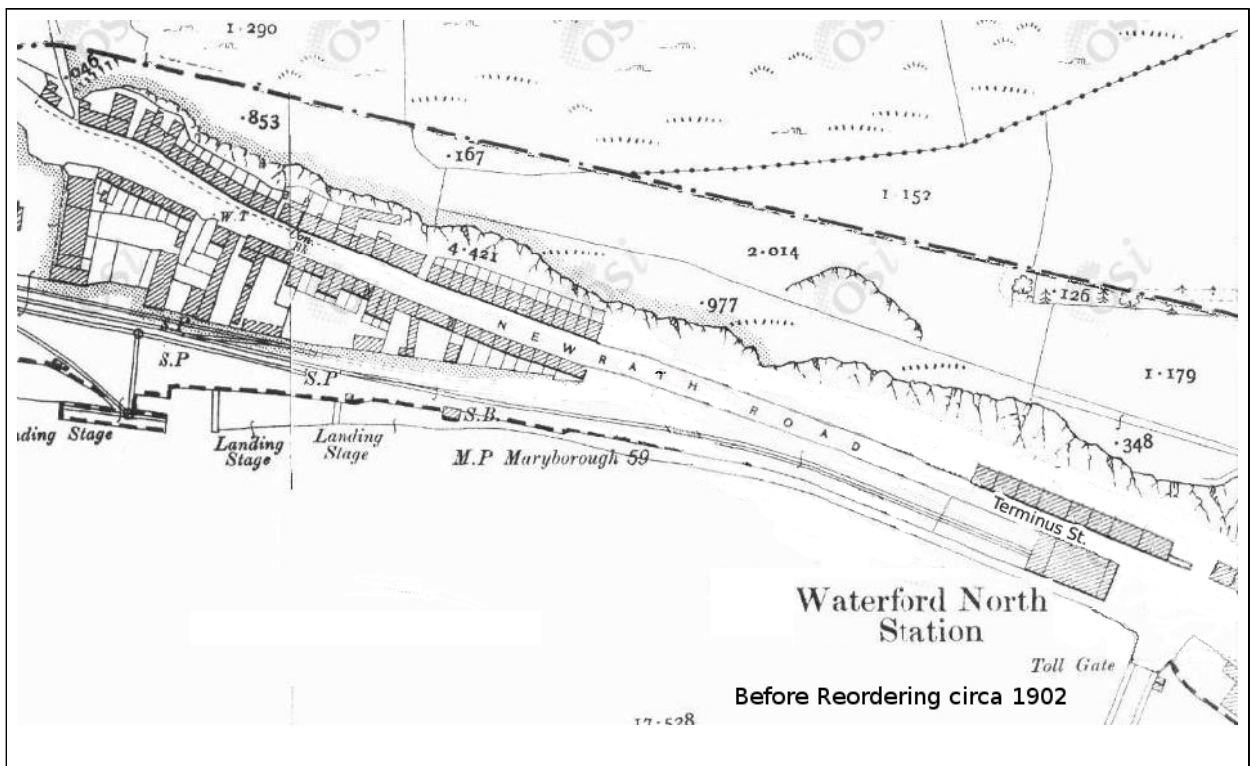


Waterford North Station 1900

In his letter of resignation to the Great Southern and Western Railway (GS&WR) in 1912, Michael Joseph declares he has given 43 years service to the Company and the Waterford, Limerick and Western Railway (WL&WR). Therefore the first positive date for him we have is his start of work. He must have taken up his position with the WL&WR in 1879, when 17 years old. There are no surviving records of the WL&WR so we have no documented evidence of him until his marriage. It seems that he was living in Waterford (Probably city) and was an Administrator of the Waterford and Limerick Railway (later WL & WR) when he married local girl Hanora Freeman (1855-1917) of Sallypark on the 22nd of February 1881. The newspaper announcement on the 5th of March 1881 was made in 'The Nation' newspaper. Hanora was the oldest of 9 children and the only surviving daughter of James and Catherine (nee Habberlin) Freeman.

Guerin and Freeman—February 22, 1881, at the Roman Catholic church, Slieverue, county Kilkenny, by the Rev J Coady, Administrator Michael J Guerin, Waterford and Limerick Railway, Waterford, to Honora, only surviving daughter of Mr James Freeman, Sally Park, Waterford.

The town of Sallypark where Hanora was living was built around the station of Waterford North. The original railway line from Limerick had terminated at Newrath station half a mile west of Sallypark. In 1867 the line was extended to nearer Waterford City to try and boost passenger numbers. The river Suir provided a formidable barrier to actually running the railway into the city itself so the new station of Waterford North was built at the north side of the road bridge over the Suir. This bridge was called “Timbertoes” and joined Waterford city on the south bank with Sallypark and Ferrybank on the north bank. The bridge had a lift section and allowed traffic across the river for a price, the toll booth was on the north bank by the station. The station was built right up to the north bank of the Suir on one side and the road on the other. Mount Misery towered above the road and station and was the reason the geography was very tight.



Piles were driven into the ground to provide a firm foundation for the station building. With the river on one side of the station and a space at the front of the station there was a street along the north side of the station, Terminus Street, that was part of the original Newrath Rd. Terminus st. contained just a few houses, a sweet shop and three pubs. Even in 1870, most of Terminus Street was officially part of Waterford City and the station too. The rest of Sallypark, in fact most of the town lay to the west along Newrath Rd. and was part of Co. Kilkenny. One of the houses in Terminus Street was, according to PJG, the home of the Freeman parents, James and Catherine. In the 1877 Trades directory James is shown living in Terminus St. and records himself as running a 'Posting Establishment'. The 1881 trade directory does not record him at all but he is shown in the marriage certificate as 'Carman'. A Carman is someone who transports from train wagons and Michael Joseph might well have met him at work on the railway. No 2 Terminus St. is most likely as the Freeman home as the uses of the other properties in the street are the same in the 1901 and 1911 census. No 2 is the house with the dark windows in the right hand picture below. This is also probably the house where all Michael Joseph's children were born.



Sallypark circa 1900

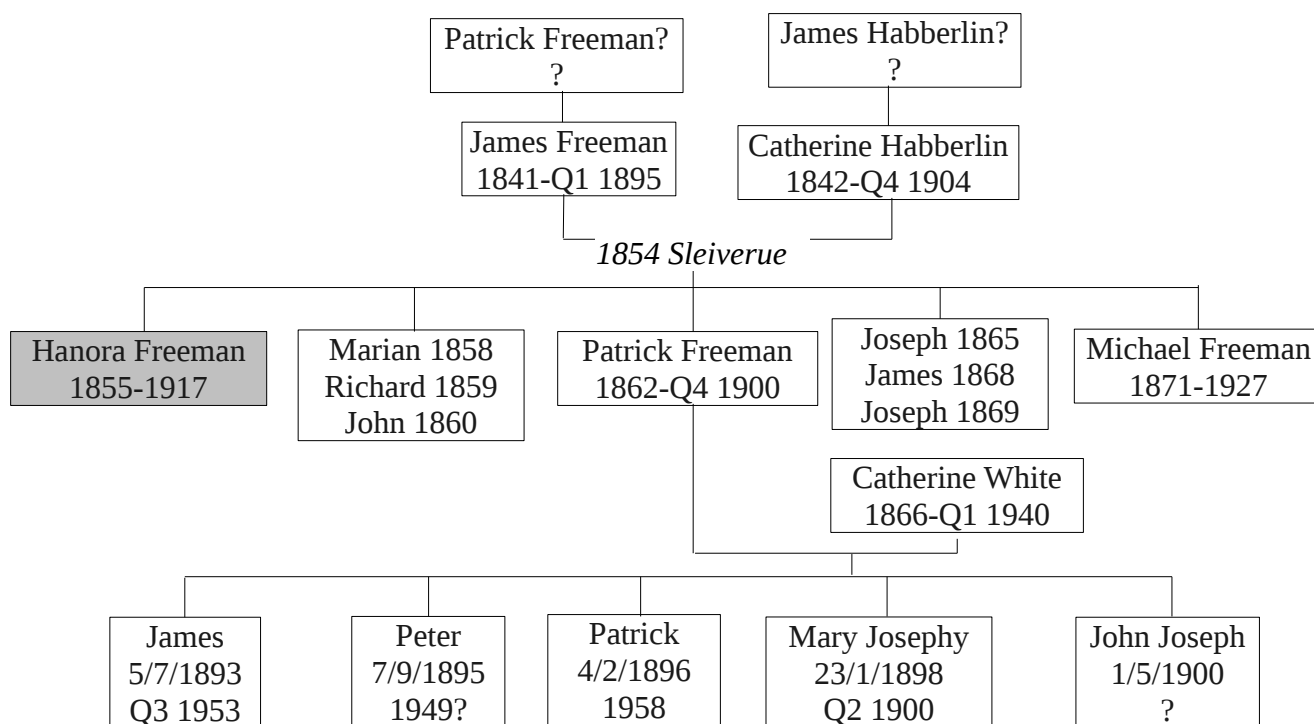
Michael and Hanora's marriage took place up the road past the end of the bridge, through the town of Ferrybank and north to the town of Sleibhrue on the road to New Ross. This was also where the Freeman parents had married in 1854. Below is a picture of the inside of the Sleiverue church.



James' spouse, Hanora's mother, was one Catherine Habberlin. It seems Habberlin was a local name. The 1901 census returns shows that there were various Habberlin families living on the north bank of the Suir in a just a handful of parishes not far from Waterford City. The older Habberlins, those in their 60's, all state that they are fluent in Irish and might explain the family tradition that there was someone in the family who was the last Gaelic speaker in his/her district. Catherine Freeman might have been that last Irish speaker. What is curious is that Catherine herself states no such thing in the

1901 census. Also that she can read and write. But the birth certificate for her Grandson, James Guerin (1/3/1882) shows her as the informant of the birth but she does not sign it but merely makes a X. While she could have learnt to read and write between 1882 and 1901 it seems unlikely. The age she gives in the 1901 census of 60 years would have made her too young to marry in 1854 so she must have been mistaken. The record of her death in 1904 gives an age that places her birth in 1842 which too would make her too young to have married in 1854. Forgetful or liberal with the truth?

Freeman Family Tree



Hanora had several brothers and a sister, Marian who was deceased by the time Hanora married in 1881. Two of the brothers figure in the family story and until recently were the only siblings of Hanora's we knew of.

Hanora's third brother ,Patrick, married Catherine (Kate) White the daughter of a Sea Captain, John White in 1891. Kate was sponsor at the baptism of Margaret in February 1888 so she was around at least three years before the marriage. She and Patrick had four boys, James (Jimmy) (1893), Peter (1895), Patrick (1896), John Joseph (1900). According to her 1911 census return there were two other children but both have died by 1901. One was a daughter Mary Joseph born in 1898 and like her older brothers, baptised in the Ferrybank church. There is no record of the sixth child in the baptismal register of the church at Ferrybank so perhaps the baby was stillborn.

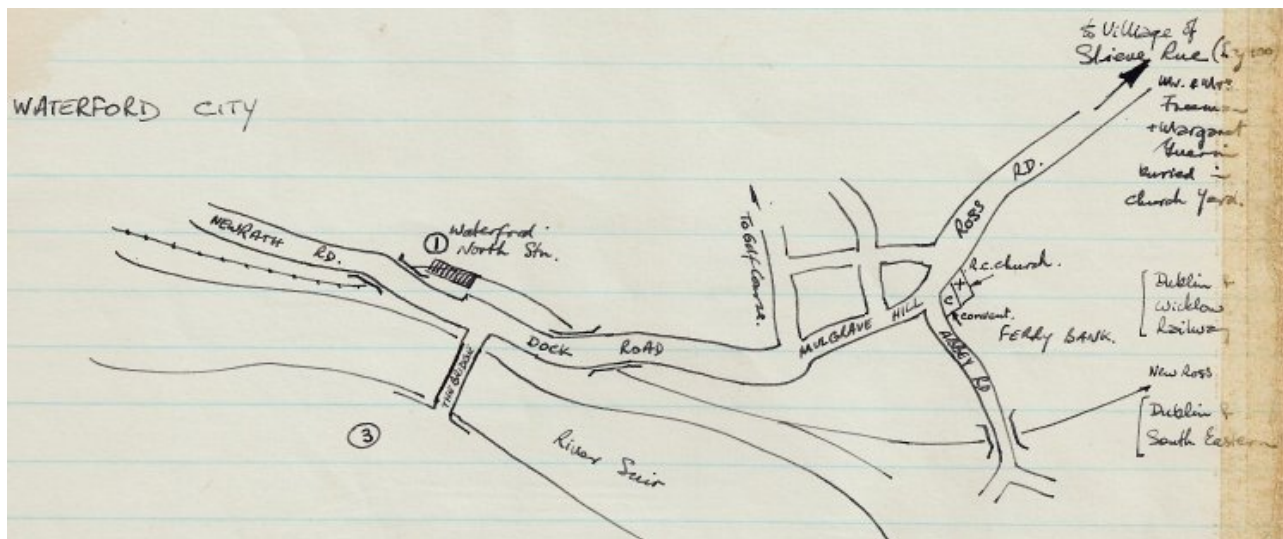
Catherine is shown as a widow by the time of the 1901 census, Patrick died within 11 months of John Joseph's birth in the last quarter of 1900. The eldest, James's, baptismal record shows their address as Sion Row which is on the Dock Rd. to the east of the bridge. Then the next two births give Terminus St. and the last two "Bridge" whatever that means. The 1901 census shows Catherine and her four sons living in Sallypark, in no 2 Terminus street (the house behind the toll booth in the picture on page 6). PJG said the Freeman parents, his grand parents, house was in this street and so I think that Patrick and Catherine moved into the house when James died in 1895. This would explain why the same house is passed on within the Freeman family. Terminus Street was demolished around 1902 to allow for the extension of the line east to Rosslare. So in the 1911 census Catherine and her four sons are in a nearby road; Mulgrave Rd. The eldest James married a Mary Hurley in 1923. She was known as Millie and he as Jimmy. Jimmy Freeman was remembered by Eugene, Maura and Joseph Liam Guerin. They used to visit him in Waterford even up to the 1960s.



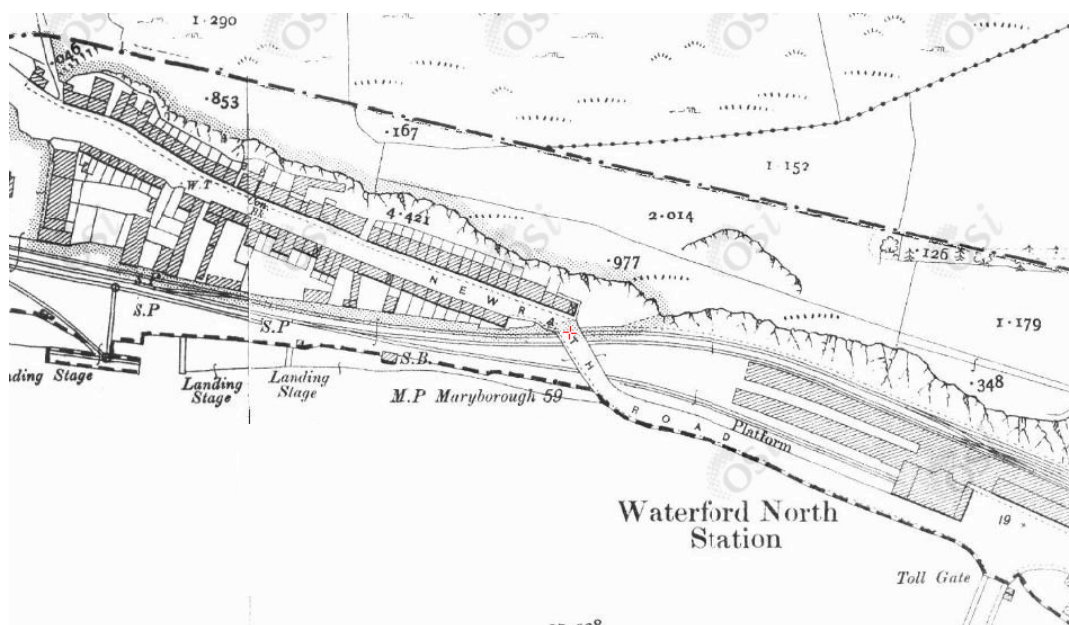
Newrath Rd. Looking West - Late 20th C

Nothing now remains of Sallypark. The view above was taken in the late 1990's when all the houses and buildings were being bought up. The whole town was demolished around the year 2000 and there is now a dual carriageway where once was a whole community. In the view above the houses on the right are the odd numbered houses but it not possible to work out which number house is which.

Hanora's youngest brother, Michael, appears to have been a Hansom cab driver. In 1901 he is shown living with his mother Catherine in Sallypark, 51 Newrath Rd. After his mother's death (1904) he is shown lodging at No. 65 Newrath Rd. in the 1911 census. Michael was clearly very much part of the extended Guerin/Freeman family as he was present at the Limerick funerals of Mollie and Michael Joseph (1911 and 1912). He died in Limerick in 1927 and is buried in Mount St. Laurence cemetery alongside his sister Hanora and Michael Joseph Guerin.

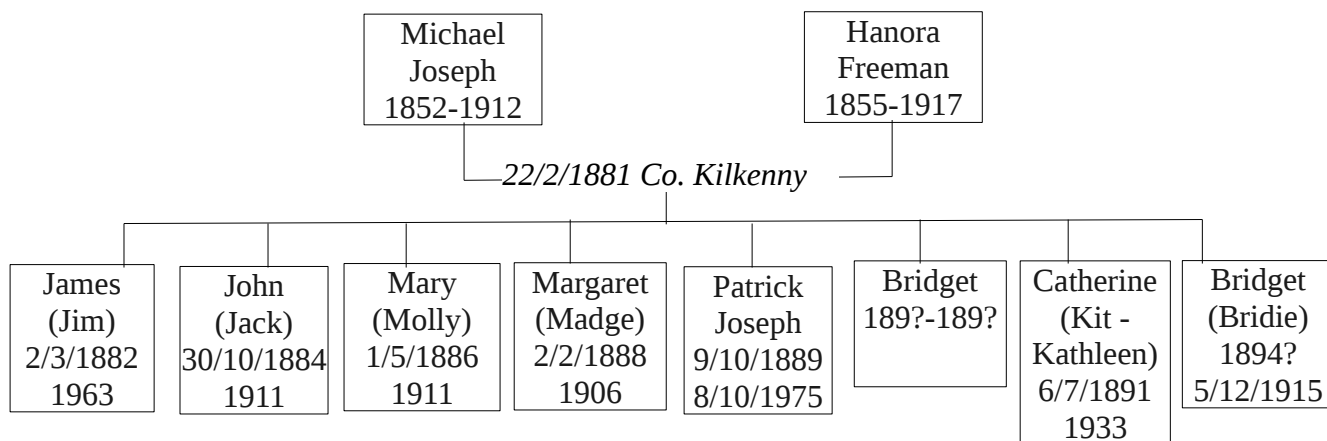


Map of Sallypark and Ferrybank drawn by Paul and Patrick Guerin



Sallypark 1906

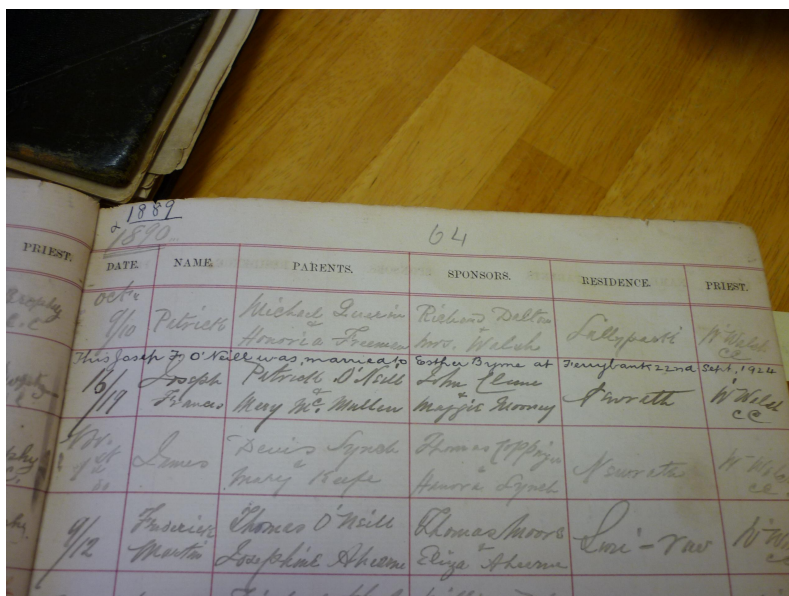
Just over twelve months after their marriage Michael Joseph and Hanora were blessed with a first son, James. He was named after Michael Joseph's father. Over the next 12 years they had seven more children. The PJG records for the eldest James and John was that they were born at home. James's birth certificate states that his grandmother Catherine Freeman was present at the birth. Perhaps for all of the births. The 6th child, Bridget, lived only a short time but we have no idea of how long exactly I can find no record of her birth or her death, perhaps stillborn.



PJG recalled that all the children were baptised at the R.C. Church at Ferrybank and this is born out by my examining and photographing the register entries. The church was a 'Chapel of Ease' until the 1970's for the mother church in Sleiverue. Patrick was baptised while the family were in Sallypark but the address given for Catherine's Baptism is Limerick. She was baptised on the 6th July 1891 and so the family had obviously left to live in Limerick by this time. What the register also shows is that she was baptised on the day after her birth so Hanora must have been in Sallypark during her confinement. Though there is no record for Bridget perhaps she too was born in Sallypark. I cannot currently find a positive birth date for the youngest, Bridget. Limerick is most likely. But there is also a registration entry for a Bridget Gearin in Waterford in Q3 1894. The 1894 entry would tally with her recorded age in both the 1901 and 1911 census. It is interesting to note that in both census returns the birthplaces of both Catherine and Bridget is given as Co. Kilkenny. But Bridget might have been born in Limerick.



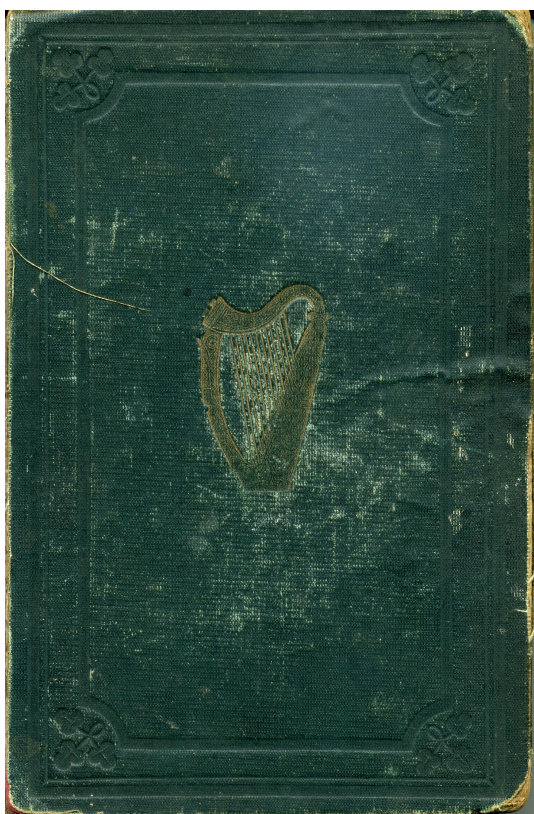
Ferrybank Church



Baptism entry for Patrick Joseph Guerin (top line)

Note the double entry for D.of.B and Baptism

An item that has come down to us from that time is a copy of a book, *Knocknagow* which Patrick Joseph has inscribed with the date 1889.

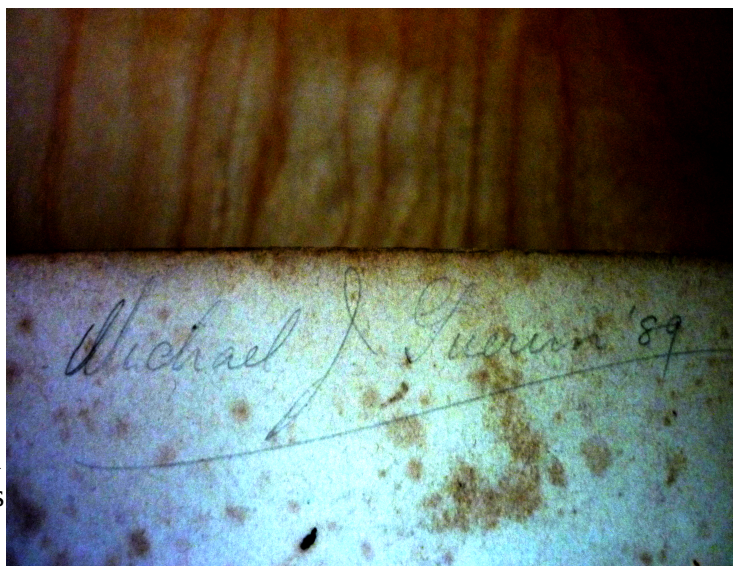
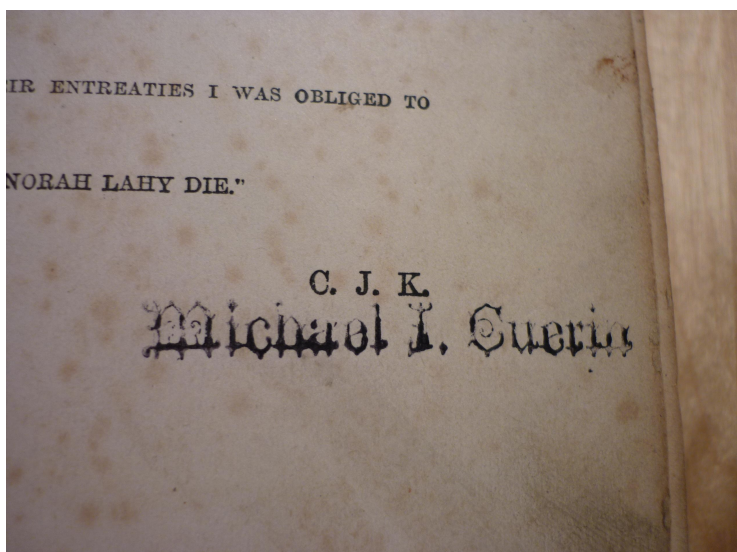


Knocknagow

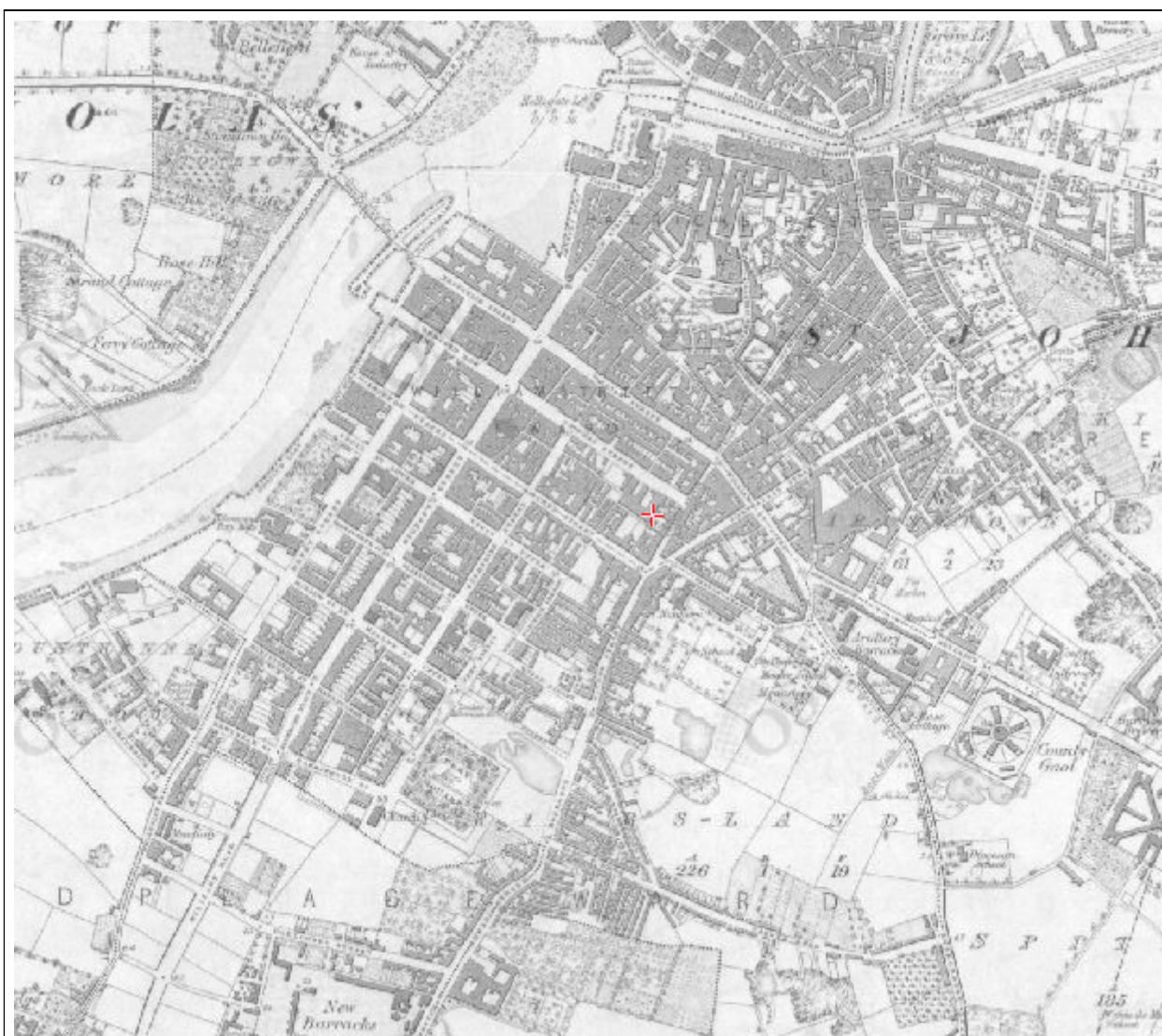
Below is a description of this book and its political importance at the time.

“*Knocknagow* was published in 1879, and rapidly became the most popular of all Irish novels. Its influence derives mainly from its political importance rather than its literary quality, which is about average for a best-seller but not outstanding. In this it resembles *The Women's Room* and *The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists*, two other polemical novels which were very important politically but marginal as works of literary art. It attacks the evils of the landlord system in Ireland, and indirectly the English rule which supported that system. Kickham himself was a leading nationalist, and was imprisoned for his opinions.

For many years *Knocknagow* was the book - along with a prayerbook and *Old Moore's Almanac* -- most likely to be found in any Irish home. Most Irish writers born between 1870 and 1950 would have read it as children. Yeats described it as "The most honest of Irish novels" and Con Houlihan as "The greatest Irish novel." For all its sentimentality and inept plotting, it gives a very accurate picture of rural Irish life in the nineteenth century. Furthermore, it is one of the few such novels which was written by one of the ordinary people. Almost all the other writers who dealt with the rural poor were either of the landlord class themselves (Lady Gregory, J.M. Synge, Somerville and Ross, Emily Lawless, Maria Edgeworth) or urban Protestant middle-class (George A. Birmingham, Charles Lever, Dion Boucicault, Samuel Lover). However sympathetic and well-written their accounts, they were written from the outside looking in. *Knocknagow* was written from the inside.”



Limerick



Map of limerick

Presumably Michael Joseph was promoted in 1890 as the Guerins of Sallypark left and moved to Limerick. There is good evidence that he was raised to the position of Auditor at this time.

The first address recalled by Patrick Joseph for the Guerins is 75 Colooney St and seems to be the address they moved to in 1890. The house had three windows to the front, a second class house of six rooms and a rateable value of £4. The actual rate book covering this period is lost and the value is from the closest available year. Which is 1903. Michael Joseph was now in the Audit Office of the WL&WR.



75 Colooney St.

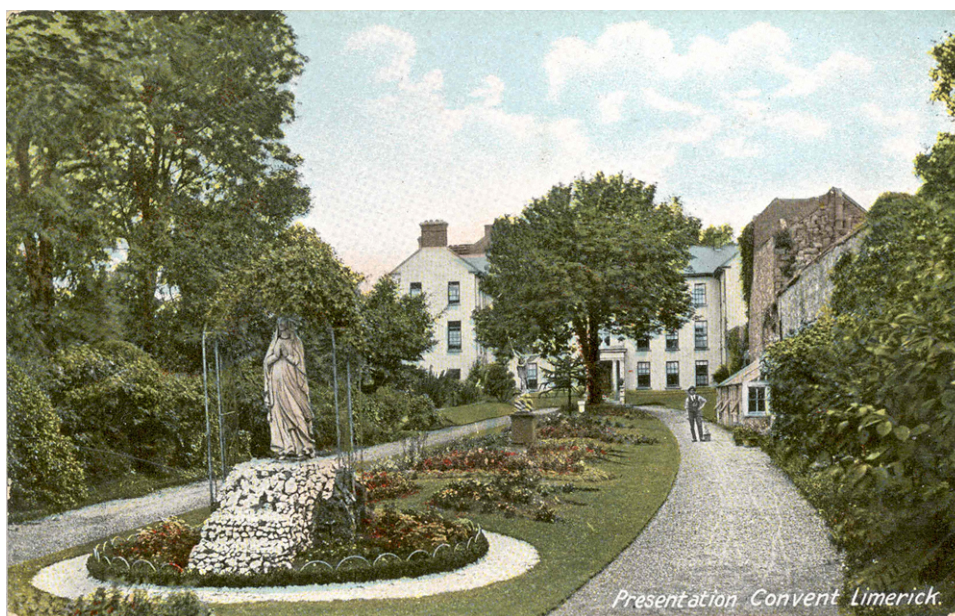
The eldest, Jim, made his first communion and was confirmed at St. Michael's, Denmark St., Limerick in 1892 and 1894 respectively. For both ceremonies, PJ records that he wore a Norfolk Suit - that is a belted jacket with knickerbockers, long stockings, boots (blacks), white collar and bow. He collected 1 shilling from the neighbours and received a prayerbook.

Situated in Denmark Street, just off the junction of O'Connell Street and Patrick Street, this church was first opened in 1781. It replaced the original parish church of St. Michael, which had stood in nearby West Watergate since medieval times but had been destroyed by the Cromwellians in 1651. The Catholic parish was without a proper church until the present church was opened, after the relaxation of the Penal Laws, on land donated by the Arthur family. The church was enlarged in 1805 and again in 1881. During the struggle for Catholic Emancipation, Daniel O'Connell held some of his rallies in this church. The parish records, dating back to 1770, are in excellent condition, and are still clearly legible.



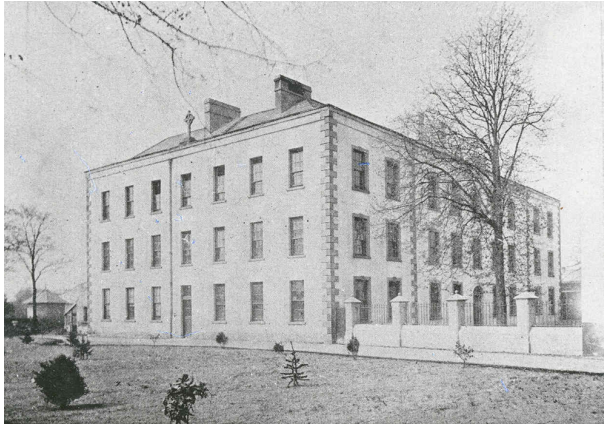
St. Michael's Church, Denmark St., Limerick

Patrick Joseph recalled that his bother Jim's education began at the Presentation Convent, Sexton St. Then it seems he attended in the Model School in O'Connell avenue. Set up in the mid 19th Century the Model Schools were Protestant but promoted the Irish Language. The Model School in Limerick became Catholic in the 30's according to Jim's son, Joseph Liam's (1923) recollection. (He



Presentation Convent Limerick.

He recalled that while he was a student the classrooms and all areas of the school were suddenly populated with statues of Our Lord, The Blessed Virgin and the saints.



Christian Brothers School, Sexton St.

The records of the Christian Brothers, St. Michael's, Sexton St. show that Jim attended there from 1896 (aged 14). PJG recalls that he left around 1900 and began work under his father Michael Joseph in the audit office of the Waterford Limerick and Western Railway. This railway was amalgamated with the Great Southern and Western by royal assent on 6th of August 1900 and so Jim must have started before this time if he worked for this company and not the amalgamated one.



Colbert station Limerick 1898



James Guerin at school

This is a picture of Jim at school, dated by period clothing experts to 1890 approx. He is second from the left on the front row. This picture was almost certainly taken at the Model School. I have no dates for his attendance but I presume that his primary education was at the convent and that he then moved up to the Model school aged around 7 as was the custom. These boys look to be around 11/12 years old so the year might be 1893/4.

PJG recalled that Jim and his friends used to swim in the “Pike Stream” and if he ever tagged along they would throw him into the water by one arm and a leg. As I said before, he left school in 1900 and took his first job under his father Michael, in the audit office of the WL&WR in Limerick. He worked there for some months but then ran off to Clonmel to join the British Army, The Royal Irish Regiment. He was unsuccessful according to PJG's recollection and returned home.

He tried again some months later (1901?) and was successful this time. He served 3 days according to his army record. His father bought him out of his commission for 3 guineas (The usual charge was 20 Gns but a Colonel Oakes was a friend of Michael Joseph and had it reduced). His father bought him a bicycle, a Rudge-Whitworth, to tempt him to stay but Colonel Oakes convinced his father to let him join up and Michael Joseph did eventually. However, due to his Fenian background his father never forgave him for his consorting with the enemy.

I think Colonel Oakes was Charles J T Oakes (1835-1910) who appears from the English Census records to have served in the British army since around around 1851 when he was a Cadet in Sandhurst. He is recorded in all the census returns until he disappears from England at the time of the 1891 census. There is then a record of him in 1894 as owner of Moores Hotel, Kilkee, Co. Clare. He is shown there in the Irish census of 1901. His wife Mary Margaret is shown as proprietor



Jim in Agra

in the 1911 census. I think Charles died in Eton, England in 1910.

Michael Joseph must have known him very well to ask for the reduction to Jim Guerins' commission. Perhaps the Guerin family holidayed in Kilkee in the 1890-1901 period and they stayed at the hotel and so became good friends. Perhaps Michael Joseph was not as anti-British as PJG recalled.

With Jim gone into the army the bicycle then passed to Patrick Joseph.

Jim's military service in the Royal Irish Regiment began in Limerick on 17th September 1901 with him signing up for 12 years service. His service number was 7095. His Short Service army form had to be edited to reflect the recent death in January that year (1901) of Queen Victoria. So all references to "Her" majesty changed to "His" and the final oath was to King Edward VII. He served the first 6 months in Clonmel according to PJG. When he came home before transferring to

Aldershot PJG got his tunic out and jumped on it !



The barrack Clonmel

The barracks in Clonmel are shown here, they no longer exist as they were raised to the ground during the civil war (1922-23).

The second born of the family was John, known as Jack, and was baptised in 1883 in the R.C. Church, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny, he made his first communion and confirmation, like his brother James, at St. Michael's 1893 and 1895. PJG did not recall what he wore. PJG recalled that he was educated the same as his older brother but instead of going to the

Christian Brothers he completed his education (1898 – 1901) (1903 according to PJG but confirmed by the Jesuit archivist as 1898 to 1901) at the Sacred Heart College, The Crescent. A school which was later called Crescent College S.J. . His story is tragically short and I shall complete it here. PJ recalled that while at the Crescent he did an acrobatic act in the school concert at the Old Theatre Royal, Henry St. He was greatly applauded and did cartwheels, handspings

etc. PJG recalls attending this with his parents in 1903 but his must have been 1901. He also recalled his impressions of his older brother, that he was the smartest dressed member of the family. He stood 5'6" and had a 'good mop' of brown straightish hair, his complexion was pale and his eyes grey. He was always clean shaven and his wardrobe was always fashionable, matching rather than



The Crescent

oddments. He cycled and like most men of the time wore boots, not shoes. He had his own circle of friends, never mixing with his brother Jim, and was by his brother's memory a jolly kind of fellow. He chose his own wardrobe, the money provided by his mother, but had a peculiar 'boyish' trait that he would tire of his own cap and would confiscate PJG's. He considered this the better article though both had been bought at the same time by their mother. She would then have to replace PJG's cap.

Jack too worked for the GS&WR and worked there from 1901 until his death in 1911. He started at 15 shillings per week and boasted to PJG that he would never start work for less than £15 per annum. He began work at Kilorglin Station in Kerry. He took up digs in Kilorglin which were by PJG's recollection smart and cost around 9 shillings per week. The rest of the family moved to Tralee a short time after he started in Kilorglin. During the period when the family were in Tralee he travelled to see the family at weekends.

He had joined Young Munster Rugby Football Club in 1901. PJ, who had himself a lifelong association with the club, recalled him as being one of the founder members but as the club was officially founded in 1895 we must be happy to include his name as being one of the early members. PJ recalls first meetings as taking place in Mary St. on Kings Island in a 4 storey house on the rhs after you cross Baals Bridge. This building was demolished in 1910 and he had died before they took up residence in Francis St. PJ thinks he was tea-total and that although a great lover of Rugby, he played no Gaelic games. Though he had four sisters who played that piano PJG recalled that he had no knowledge of music.

Jack contracted TB in 1910 and was off work for about a year. Dr. Devane of Perry Square attended him at home and did not send him to hospital. He spent his last month in bed and died in 1911. Fr. Michael Murphy from St. John's Cathedral performed the last rites. The funeral went directly from the home (2 St. John's Villas, Mulgrave St.) to the cemetery, Mount Saint Laurence just up Mulgrave St. The hearse was horse drawn as were the carriages. Fr. Murphy attended at the graveside. Jack is buried in the first Guerin grave in Mount St. Lawrence cemetery in Limerick city. 82 Qc is the plot number. 12 months mourning was usual at the time, PJG recalled. 'Deep mourning' was common, when mourners refrained from attending theatres etc. The womenfolk wore black and the men wore black crepe arm bands stitched on around the left arm above the elbow. During the 1914-18 war a black cloth diamond was worn in lieu of the crepe band.



A Limerick funeral of 1919 with horse drawn hearse

Chief mourners besides the family, Jim was in India, were P.J.'s cousins from Waterford, James and Peter Freeman and is uncle Michael Freeman.

But this is jumping ahead somewhat. The 1901 census records the 7 children at home with Michael Joseph and Hanora at 75 Colooney st. All the children listed as 'Scholar', Michael Joseph as Accountant and Jim as Railway Clerk. By this time the sisters Mary and Margaret must have also made their First communions and been confirmed, at St. Michael's Church? Again, we can but surmise. Patrick too was 10 in 1899 (first communion?) and 12 in 1901 (Confirmation?). Catherine was 10 in 1901 so she too might have made her first communion in St. Michael's church Limerick. Some time that year it seems that the family moved to Tralee.

Tralee



St Johns Tralee

In 1901 the family moved to Tralee, 5 Greenview Terrace (PJ notes 1903 but he tied this to the year his brother Jack left the crescent and we can now be sure that this was 1901). Michael Joseph went to Tralee to help with the recent (1st January 1901) amalgamation of his employers (Waterford, Limerick and Western Railway) into the Great Southern and Western Railway Co. It is recorded in the book on the WL&WR written by Ernie Shepherd that one of the first acts carried out by the new owners of the railway was the closure to traffic of the WL&WR station at Rock Street, Tralee and the transfer of its activities to the GS&WR station. This was effected in 1901. Might this be the work his obituary alludes to? See later for obituary.

I have no information of their time in Tralee but the younger children must have received some of their education there. Patrick, Margaret and Mary were 12, 13 and 15 respectively in 1901, Bridget was only 8 and Kathleen 10 so all were still in school.

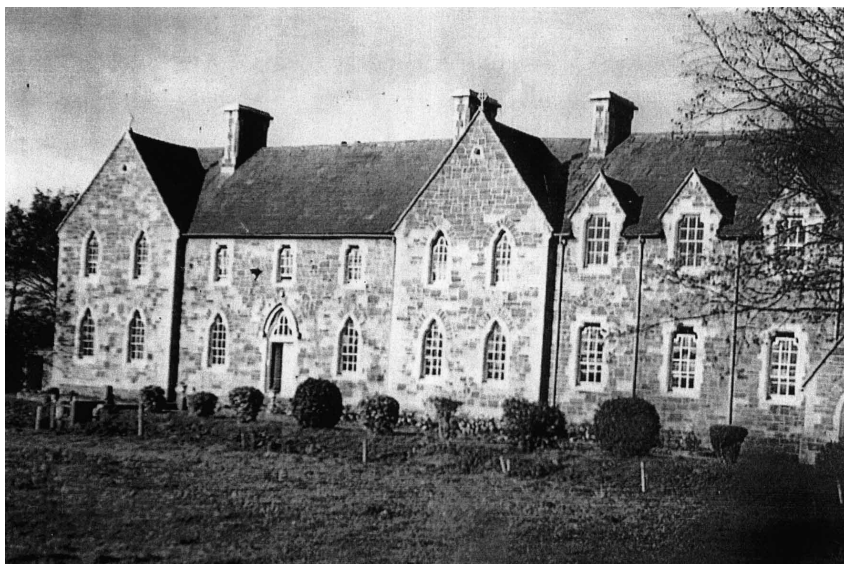
While they were living in Tralee Margaret died. There is a death record for a Margaret Guerin in the first quarter 1907. This might fit well with the PJG date of 1906. He also recalled that she is buried beside her Freeman Grandparents in the graveyard at Sleibhrue church. Did she stay behind in Limerick until 1906? The Limerick City Rates Books show Michael as the rate payer at 75 Colooney St. up to 1905/6 – i.e. it changes in 1906. It



Greenview Terrace

seems unlikely that she might have stayed in Limerick as she was only 13 and why her and not Mary the eldest sister?

Perhaps she went to Sallypark to help her grandmother Catherine and her uncle Michael. As we have seen her grandmother died in 1904 (the last quarter). Margaret was 16 by this time. PJG recalled that she was buried with her Freeman parents in the graveyard at Slieverue. I contacted the parish priest in 2010 and also visited the graveyard but could find no grave.



C.B.S 'The Green' Tralee Ca 1900

It is most likely then that Patrick Joseph started at the Presentation Convent in Limerick and then aged 7 (1896) might have attended the Model School until they left for Tralee. He might have attended the Christian Brothers School in that town.

The Presentation Convent, Tralee was designed by J.J.McCarthy, known as the Irish Pugin. He designed it round two courtyards with polychromatic stonework to match adjoining Catholic church. It is likely Bridie and Kathleen were educated there.



The picture on the facing page has written on the back “Bridie Guerin 5 Green View Tralee”. From examination of the clothing of the children and the adults a rough dating of 1905 was independently made. From this I conclude this is a picture of the Guerin's in Tralee on the occasion of Bridget Guerin's First holy communion. She is on the left in the picture in white and with a white ribbon in her hair as was the custom at the time. Children now make their First Holy Communion aged 7 or 8 but at this time 10 or 11 was more usual until Pope Pius IX suggested the change of age in 1910. As far as we can tell Bridget was born in 1894 so I put the date at 1903/4.

Therefore I conclude the following:

To her right is the only known image of Michael Joseph Guerin. To his right behind is Mary Guerin the eldest daughter. The seated woman is Hanora Guerin (Nee Freeman). On the far right is Kathleen Guerin (Baptised Catherine).

The other woman is, I believe Hanora's sister in law Catherine Freeman. She was married to Patrick Freeman one of Hanora's brothers and is some 10 years younger than Hanora. At this time she was recently widowed with four sons. The families were obviously close as the two families visited even in the 1930's and beyond. Maura Boland (Nee Guerin, Raymond's daughter) remembers visiting them into the 1960's. The very young boy is, I believe her youngest son, John Jos who would be around 3/4 years of age. This leaves the other boy. It could be one of the other Freeman boys.

The other possibility is that this is the earliest picture we have of Patrick Joseph Guerin. He would be 13/14 in this picture. His height relative to his sisters, both of whom are younger, (10 and 12) is not improbable, the author Mark Guerin looked up to his sister Siobhan for many years though he was 20 months older. Interesting to note that the clothes this young man is wearing matches PJG's description of what his brother Jim wore for his confirmation. Is this young man too celebrating his confirmation?

A collage of the faces helps to be more certain that he is Patrick Joseph. What do you think?



It seems that while in Tralee, Catherine (Kathleen) began to train as a Milliner. She remained there when the family returned to Limerick in 1909. She was living with an O'Sullivan family in the 1911 census.

One interesting railway that seems to have come under Michael Joseph's jurisdiction was the Listowel & Ballybunion monorail, The Lartigue.



The Lartigue – World's first monorail train service

An eccentric new railway opened in North Kerry 125 years ago, which was inspired by, of all things, a camel train. Opened to the public on March 1st 1888, this unique railway was the brainchild of a French engineer, **Charles Lartigue**, who had seen camels in Algeria walking tall and comfortably carrying heavy loads balanced in panniers on their backs. This inspired him to design a new type of railway. Instead of two parallel tracks on the ground, it had a single rail sitting out of harm's way above the sand and held at waist height on A-shaped trestles. Specially-made carriages would sit astride the trestles like panniers. In theory, a monorail system should be lighter, easier and cheaper to build than a railway with twin parallel tracks, so several European railway companies took an interest in Lartigue's novel idea. But only two Lartigues were ever built: one in France, but it was never used; and the other linked Listowel and Ballybunion, two rural towns in County Kerry in the South West of Ireland. When it opened on February 29th, 1888, it was the world's first passenger-carrying monorail. The future was looking bright, and possibly even camel-shaped!

Kerry's unique Lartigue Railway carried freight, cattle and passengers, bringing tourists to the seaside resort of Ballybunion and carting sand from the beaches. And it ran for 36 years, which was pretty amazing, because although Lartigue's design worked fine with mule trains in the African desert, it was less suited to locomotives pulling passengers and freight across North Kerry. The engines, for instance, and all the carriages had to be specially made at considerable expense (each locomotive had two boilers and two cabs, balanced on either side of the rail, the driver riding in one cab and the fireman in the other). And because the elevated railway crossed the country like a fence, bridges were needed to carry roads over the line there could be no such thing as a 'level' at-grade crossing. Loads also had to be carefully balanced, a time-consuming process, especially where cattle were concerned. Even then, the Lartigue had a reputation for rolling sickeningly as it moved. It was also renowned for being noisy, unpunctual and slow, taking 40 minutes to travel the 15 kilometres between Ballybunion and Listowel.

There was never enough traffic to support the route, and after the line was damaged during the Irish Civil War, the railway was closed in 1924. A short section of track was salvaged, but everything else was scrapped.

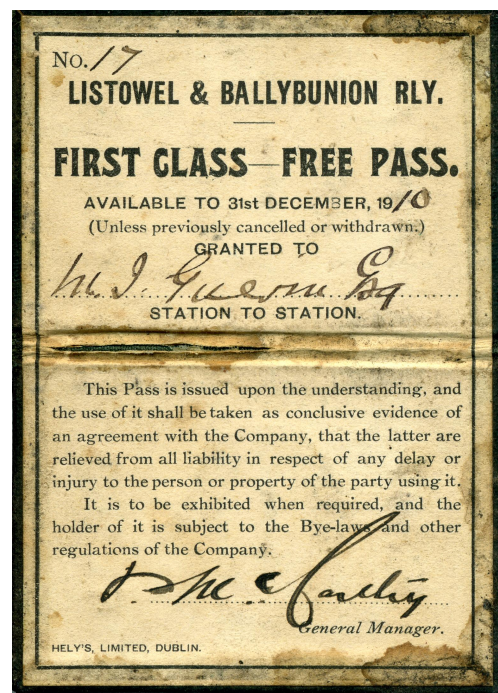
However, a short stretch of approximately 500 meters of the Lartigue Railway opened to the public in Listowel in July of 2003. A new double-side locomotive and two carriages with capacity for 40 passengers were constructed. The re-creation includes three platforms, two turntables, three switches or points, an engine shed (which houses the engine, coaches & work shop), a temporary mobile ticket office, one locomotive (no.4) which is an exact reproduction of the originals on the outside but is fitted with a Perkins diesel engine, one third-class coach and one guard third-class coach with a crossover stairway on one end.

The author and his family enjoyed a trip on the reconstructed line in 2009.



The author's son Tommy on lartigue 2009

Michael Joseph was afforded a first class pass for the line and this has survived. Research seems to indicate that not very many such passes were issued and that his pass might be the only surviving example.



Return to Limerick



The Family returned to Limerick in 1909 on the death of the GS&WR auditor Mr. Cole in April of that year, a position Michael Joseph now held until 2 weeks before his death in 1912. On the night of the 2nd April 1911 the census records them at their new address of 2 St. John's Villas, Mulgrave St. This is a much better house than their old house in Colooney St. The house has 7 rooms with 4 windows to the front and a rateable value of £14.

There are names missing. Jim is recorded in Agra, India. Kathleen is living in Tralee and training as a milliner, Margaret died in 1906 in Waterford and John died earlier in the year (4th Feb) at home.

Mary (Mollie) might have been ill at this time as she died later in the year (July). Did Jack and Mollie both die from consumption? Well PJG recorded the cause of death for his brother Jack as 'galloping consumption', i.e. TB, but we have no definite record for Mary; the graveyard entry indicates she died at home.



1 St. Johns Villas, Mulgrave St.

Both John and Mollie are buried in the same grave in Mount St. Laurence cemetery, further out of Limerick on Mulgrave St. The gravestone records that he died on 4th February and Mollie the 15th July. He was 26 and she 25.

There is a Limerick Chronicle death notice for Jack dated 7th February but it merely states in a couple of lines; who he was and when he died. There seems not to be the sort of obituary afforded his sister.



Mary (Mollie) Guerin?



Mary (Mollie) Guerin?

Below are the funeral reports for Mollie.

Funeral of Miss Mary Guerin

The funeral took place on Monday for Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery of Miss Mary Guerin, the eldest daughter of Mr Michael J Guerin, District Auditor of the G S & W R. The deceased, who passed away at the early age of 25 years, was of a most amiable disposition, and her loss is keenly felt by relatives and friends. The funeral cortege was of large proportions.

The clergy present were—Rev Fr Connolly, O.C, St John's; Rev Fr McNamara, O.C, do; Rev Fr McWilliams, S.J, and Rev Father O'Reilly, S.J.

The chief mourners were—Messrs Michael J Guerin (father), P J Guerin (brother), and M Freeman (uncle).

Amongst the general public present were—Messrs J. McOutehoun, E. McOutehoun, A. McOutehoun, Thomas Buckley, J. Buckley, V. Buckley, J. Harriman, M. Vane, P. McCarthy, E. Gleeson, J. Hill, W. Gale, H. Gale, J. King, George Wilson (Goods Agent, G S & W R), W. Mills, J. McDermott, E. Miller, M. O'Brien, J. Lister, T. Tufts, M. O'Donovan, N. Gale, J. Carr, J. Bowles, O. Gleeson, E. Wallace, J. Mullane, P. Ryan, J. Fitzpatrick, J. J. Forrest, T. Ford, J. H. Meera, M. O'Doherty, J. D. Haurahan, J. Guinane, P. Fennell, P. O'Brien, J. Bartley, J. J. Goherty, J. Burke, P. Griffin, O. G. Carey, J. Hayes, J. P. Toomey, M. Griffin, W. Hickey, E. Hayes, J. Guerin, G S & W R; B. Lunt, B. Oashin, J. O'Sullivan, W. Sample, P. Maher, J. Hogan, T. Lynch, W. Hickey, E. Powell, J. Leighton, O'Callaghan, J. Sheehan, J. McGill, etc.

Amongst the wreaths sent were—From her sorrowing parents, brothers and sisters, and uncle; also from J McOutehoun, Nellie O'Dea, and Mrs Lane and family, London.

Rev Father Connolly officiated at the graveside.

Death of Miss M. Guerin

We deeply regret to announce the death of Miss Mollie Guerin, eldest daughter of Mr Guerin, Auditor, G S & W. Railway, who died at her residence, 2 St. John's Villas on 15th inst. Deceased lady, who had only reached the age of 25 years, had been suffering for some weeks. Her premature demise is felt not only by her sorrowing parents and family but by a large circle of friends with whom she was a great favourite. She died a most edifying death fortified by the rites of the Church. The remains were conveyed to Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery on Monday accompanied by numerous friends.

The chief mourners were:—M. J. Guerin (father), P. J. Guerin (brother), and M. Freeman (uncle).

The Clergy in attendance were:—Rev Fr. Connolly, O.C, Rev Fr. Macnamara, O.C, Rev Fr. McWilliams, S.J, and Rev Fr. O'Reilly, S.J.



Michael Joseph?

By the next year Dad, Michael Joseph, was also ill with consumption. The letter overleaf he wrote to his employers to request that he be relieved of his duties and that they might ease him into retirement with a payment in lieu of a pension. He understands that he is not entitled to a pension as he was too old at amalgamation of the railway companies (1901) to join the GS&WR pension scheme.

Refer to

in your reply

Great Southern & Western Railway.

Audit Inspectors Office.

Limerick

3rd

June

12,
19th

Reference to

your letter

Dear Sir,

Owing to failing health I would wish to retire from the Company's service if the Board of Directors could see their way to grant me a lump sum retiring allowance.

Through no fault of mine I am not in the superannuation fund, for, as you are aware, there was no such fund in connection with the late Waterford Limerick & Western Ry. and after amalgamation of that line with the G.S.W. Ry I was, on point of age, ineligible for membership of latter company's fund.

I have 43 years continuous Railway Service with W.L.W. and G.S.W. Ry. companies and during that lengthened period have endeavoured to the best of my ability to give satisfaction in the discharge of my duties and my record has been an unblemished one.

My family are in a delicate state of health and they are dependant on me for their living.

Trusting that you will use your influence with the Board on my behalf.

J. H. Burke Esq.

Audit Accountant
Dublin.

Yours truly
M. J. Guerin
District Auditor.

Hanora was in Dublin on the 31st of May 1912. We have a copy of Dicken's "The Old Curiosity Shop" she inscribed with her name, the date and that she was in Dublin. It was a Friday and on the Monday Michael Joseph writes his letter to the management. I have copies of two letters resulting from this where officials try to decide what to pay him. On the 17th a letter from the accountant's office at Kingsbridge Terminus in Dublin states that 43 years service with the GS&WR would entitle him to an annual pension of £129:2:10 on scheme 'A' and on the 'B' Fund £553. The official dealing with the matter states that all the figures are unverified for the period before 1890 and cannot be corroborated by official records. The other document I have records that his salary in 1912 was £250 and that he has held the office of Audit Inspector for 24 years. The decision is given on 21st June that a one off payment of £250 is to be made.

RESIGNATION OF RAILWAY OFFICIAL.

Mr. M. Guerin, Auditor for the Limerick district, Great Southern & Western Railway, has resigned his position, consequent, it is stated, on impaired health. He had been for many years engaged in railway work in Limerick, and was looked upon as a painstaking, capable, and courteous official, and the news of his resignation will be received with regret. He was the faithful servant of the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company, and at the amalgamation his services were transferred to the Great Southern and Western Railway Company and he was held in the highest esteem by the directors and his colleagues. It is the earnest wish of his many friends that Mr. Guerin's health may improve and with a cessation from active duties and that he may be long spared to enjoy the superannuation allowance to which his long service entitles him.

He died one month later only some few days after he had retired. He too succumbed to what can only be presumed to be TB. He speaks of the 'delicate state of health' of his family. This was a euphemism for TB. It is particularly ironic that three members of the family, four if Margaret too succumbed to consumption, died from an illness that is now inoculated against using the B.C.G. injection. Bacillus Calmette-Guerin. Working at the Pasteur Institute around this time, pharmacist Calmette and his colleague, veterinarian Guerin were working to develop a vaccine. The first inoculations were performed in 1921.

Michael too was buried in Mount St. Laurence cemetery but in a new grave. Plot number 116 Ec. Perhaps this new plot was required because of the two burials in the original plot the previous year. His date of death is recorded on the grave stone as 25th July 1912. The following are the press reports of the funeral.

Death of G. S. & W. R. District Auditor.

We regret to have to announce the death, which occurred on Sunday morning at his residence, Asylum Road, of Mr. M. Guerin, District Auditor Great Southern and Western Railway. Deceased, who had been fairly advanced in years, was an officer of the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company prior to its absorption by the G. S. and W. R. Co. at which period he was appointed auditor on the combined lines, a position he held up to the time of his late illness, some few weeks ago. He carried the confidence of his employers and was much respected by that section of the staff with whom his official duties brought him in contact. He leaves a widow and family to mourn his demise to whom general sympathy goes out in this hour of their affliction.

DEATH OF MR. M. J. GUERIN.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Michael J. Guerin, which occurred at his residence, St. John's Villas, Mulgrave-street, on Sunday morning. He had been in indifferent health for the past three months, and during the past fortnight he was unable to discharge his duties as auditor for the Limerick district of the Great Southern and Western Railway. Consequent on failing health he resigned his position some time last week, to the regret of his employers and colleagues alike. The deceased had a wide and varied experience of railway work. He commenced as a junior on the old Waterford and Limerick Railway, and by his ability and attention to duty rose in the service until he was promoted auditor, a position he filled with the utmost capability. On the amalgamation in 1900 he was sent as auditor to the Kerry district, and two years ago, on the demise of Mr. Cole, he was transferred to the Limerick district. He was held in the highest esteem by his authorities, and his genial and affable manner endeared him to many friends, who will regret his death, and in this the hour of sympathy of the public family in the

By the following year 1913 the family, Hanora, Patrick, Bridget and possibly Kathleen moved from Mulgrave St. to 2 Lord Edward Terrace, Roxborough Rd. The house had a rateable value of only £7, half of that of Mulgrave Street, Patrick is shown as the rate payer in 1914.

On the 8th of March the eldest Jim was re-engaged to serve for another tour of duty with the Royal Irish Regiment, to complete 21 years service under the colours. Perhaps on the back of this he was elevated to the rank of Sergeant on 4th April. Clearly he was looking to a long career in the army. In June of that year PJG went to see him in Clonmel. He had been back in Clonmel for six weeks at this time. They went for a drink in the local, O'Reilly's Pub. A bottle of stout for James and a lemonade for PJG. Interesting to note that PJG recalls this as the 'Local' but the pub was on the north side of Clonmel on the road to the station. It must have been the first pub that someone walking into Clonmel from the station would have encountered. Miss O'Reilly recognised PJG as being the son of Michael Joseph but when challenged she said she did not recognise James at all. He was very annoyed as he was proud of the fact that he was like his late father. He had very tanned hands and face at this time and took some seven years to recover his normal complexion. Interesting that Michael Joseph was known by the publican of the nearest pub to the station.



Lord Edward Terrace



Map of Clonmel 1905

On the 17th July James married Mary Helen (Nellie) Tier at St. Peter and St. Paul's church, Clonmel.

She was the second of four children of Matthew and Margaret Tier (nee Rose). Matthew was a retired soldier and had died before the time of the marriage. Matthew was Dublin born into a large family and enlisted on 18th July 1878. He married Margaret Rose (born New Zealand 1864) in Malta on 21st June 1884 and Elizabeth the eldest was born there the next year. They were transferred to Clonmel where Ellen (27th June 1886) and John (30th April 1890) were born and then to Limerick

after Matthew retired from the army where Roseanne was born (30th May 1898). At the time of her birth the Tier family were living up the road (58 Colooney St.) from the Guerins.

By 1901 they are in 14 Barrack Hill but Matthew has died in the two years since Roseanne was born. John Tier followed his father into the army in the Royal Irish Regiment. His records seem to have been destroyed so we have little record of him. His medal record does exist and shows he was discharged on 19th Dec 1914 having served in France in the first world war. It might be that he joined around his 16th birthday in 1906, either way in the 1911 census he and James Guerin were in barracks together in Agra, India.



Matthew and Ellen Tier

Perhaps Ellen was introduced to James Guerin by her brother some time they were home. In the 1911 census she was in Liverpool but at the time she married

James she was working as a barmaid in Clonmel living in O'Connell Terrace. The witnesses were a friend of James in the army, Thomas Wilkinson and his new sister-in-law Elizabeth Tier.

So, recently married and having signed up to stay another 9 years we now find James leaves the army to look after his mother and family. He was discharged from the British army on the 16th September 1913 and returned to Limerick with his new wife. PJG remembers they came to live with him, Hanora and Kathleen and Bridie at 2 Lord Edward Terrace. James weighed only 6 stone though he stood some 5' 9 1/2" and took some six months to recover from the malaria. He suffered bouts for the rest of his life though.

The following year they had twin boys, Patrick and Michael Joseph, born on the 30th March 1914. This was about the time that he was taken on as a clerk in the running department of the GS&W Railway. John Anthony (Jack) arrived some 15 months later on 16th June 1915. But later that year another of the family died. Bridget (Bridie) died aged only 23, another tragically short life. Her address is given as 1 Lord Edward Place (which might be a mistake, it should be Terrace).

One of the twins, Patrick lived only one year and nine months and was buried on 24th Jan 1916 alongside his grandfather and his aunt Bridie. The address given in the burial record is quite indistinct but appears to be 13 Wolfe Tone Terrace. According to the rates book of the time, this was the address of one Shirley W O'Neill who according to the 1911 census was a 2nd Corporal in the Royal Engineers. He is shown to be the rate payer from 1914 to 1919, so he moved in sometime in the 1913-14 period. His military record indicates that his two children were born in Limerick. Shirley Jnr. On



Wolfe Tone Terrace

24th July 1908 and George on 8th Oct 1913 respectively. He is then shown to be serving in France in by 4th August 1914 and his family move back to Chatham in Kent where they had married before coming to Limerick.

So his house became vacant just around the time that James and Ellen needed a home. It is therefore most probable that James and Ellen moved in once the O'Neills had left in 1914. PJG certainly remembers this address in his memoirs. In 1919 James is shown to take over the rates for this property. And is shown living there until 1927. It might be that due to the war the war office continued to pay the rates until 1918 so he did not have to register for the rates until 1919. Due to his discharge from the army James was very lucky to be spared the horrors of the first world war.

Ireland was not though a peaceful place to live at this time. The British general election of 1918 saw the Home Rule party obliterated by Sinn Féin. Their rise to prominence was as a direct result of the extreme manner that the British dealt with the Easter Rising of 1916, making martyrs of the leaders. The population at large turned to Sinn Féin to gain independence for Ireland rather than the Home Rule party which wanted a parliament for Ireland but still part of the United Kingdom. The 73 newly elected Sinn Féin MPs refused to go to Westminster and so the 27 who were free (all the others were in Gaol) met in January 1919 and drew up an Irish Declaration of independence and took the title 'Dáil Éireann' for their Dublin parliament. In March the British released all the Sinn Féin prisoners to try and calm the public mood. But the first shots of the war of independence were fired in the early months of 1919. The very day that the Dáil Éireann was set up in Dublin the first casualty of the IRA was killed in Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary. The war was a guerilla war with small skirmishes rather than battle lines and trenches.

The war ground on until 1921 until both sides were ready for peace. The British realised they could never win the war, the IRA that while they could never lose, they could never really win either. In July 1921 a truce was agreed. The 1920 Government of Ireland Act had split the country and created Northern Ireland with its own parliament in Belfast. Northern Ireland remained very much a part of the United Kingdom and so the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 was negotiated in London in October 1921 against this background. After two months the Irish leaders under Michael Collins duly signed and the Irish Free State was born. The Irish could have its own parliament, army, police force but would continue to recognise the British King as the head of state and the country would be permanently partitioned.

The treaty split Sinn Féin and the IRA but after Collins had led the debate in the Dáil, the treaty was passed in January 1922 by sixty-four to fifty-seven. The treaty would be honoured.

In March 1922 a group of extreme republicans led by Rory O'Connor took over the Four Courts in Dublin. The first week of the civil war was the bloodiest, as central Dublin was devastated for the second time in ten years. The garrison in the Four Courts were shelled into submission. And as we know many of the historical documents of Ireland were destroyed in the fire that ensued including the census documents from 1821-1861.

After the defeat in Dublin the war moved to the Irish countryside where men who fought shoulder to shoulder a year earlier now turned on each other. The Republican cause was doomed from the start. They had to try the same guerilla tactics as before but now against the Free State Forces who had the support of the majority of the population. Only in Munster (Limerick and Waterford included) could they rely on strong support. In the first Free State election held just before the outbreak of fighting the Republicans only polled 22 percent of the vote. By mid 1923 the Republican leaders realised that further struggle was useless. In May they lay down their guns and the war ended without treaty or talks. The bitterness lingered for many years and former friends and family would never speak again.



In Limerick the Easter rising passed without a shot being fired. The public at large had no stomach for the rising and its aims but the leaders were very harshly put down in Dublin and the tide began to turn. One of the chief influences in working towards a feeling of sympathy was Bishop O'Dwyer of Limerick (1886-1917). PJG recalled that his two oldest brothers, Jim and Jack had been confirmed by bishop O'Dwyer. He penned a famous letter to General Maxwell condemning him for the protracted executions and deportations arising from the Easter Rising. He called it an abuse of power and added that "Sinn Fein" was to his mind the true principle. He expressed all this when elevated to the freedom of the city.

The Irish Republican Brotherhood were re-invigorated by this and after ten years in the political wilderness their principles were now put into practice. And so the war of independence was waged against British rule on two planes – military and administrative. The January 1920 borough elections resulted in a Sinn Fein majority. Michael O'Callaghan the first Sinn Fein mayor and later that year a Sinn Fein County Council. The tide was definitely turning. This new wave of Sinn Fein administration sought to sideline the British administration by creating their own bodies.

The war of independence saw two mayors were victims of the unrest. One shot in front of his family by the Black and Tans on 6th March 1921. A tense situation prevailed in the city from February 1919 onwards. Two RIC men were shot and some prisoners rescued before the city was placed under martial law. No one could enter or leave without a permit, workers went on strike and food ran short. Boats with muffled oars ran food into the beleaguered city from the Clare side.

Once Michael Collins got the Limerick men into the fray seventeen RIC barracks were destroyed in and around the city. By June (1919) the Black and Tans arrived and they adopted terror tactics. They shot indiscriminately in the streets. An 8pm to 5 or 6 am curfew was imposed on Limerick and the surrounding towns. They looted, burned and arrested recklessly.

After the treaty Limerick was firmly part of the “Munster Republic” which was anti-treaty and by Feb. and March 1923 there started skirmishes between pro and anti treaty forces. This led to the “fourth siege of Limerick”. The new Irish army came into Limerick on 23rd Feb and took over various barracks from the departing British Army. By June it was decided that for the sake of the citizens of Limerick the republicans should leave and tried to on the night of 7th July. The republicans were shot at and the ensuing battle lasted ten days. Food ran short and there was much damage to buildings including King John's castle. I was several years before real peace and settlement came.



I add this to flavour what life might have been like in Ireland in the period 1919 to 1923.

Hanora died in 1917 and was buried alongside her husband, Daughter and Grandson.

James and Ellen were blessed with two more sons, James Alphonsus (29th Nov 1917) and Raymond Augustine (26th Jan 1919). But Ellen was seriously ill with Spanish Flu when Raymond was born and succumbed 17 days later (12th Feb 1919). She was buried in the first Guerin plot alongside Jack and Mollie.



Guerin Grave 2 116 Ec



Guerin Grave 1 82 Qc

Michael Guerin 25th July 1912
 Hanora 23rd July 1917
 Daughter Brigid 5 Dec 1915
 Daughter Kathleen 7 Mar 1933
 Michael Freeman 5 Nov 1927
 Patrick J Guerin
 9 Oct 1899 - 8th Oct 1975
 On the side
 Paul Guerin 9th Feb 1981

Nellie Guerin 12th Feb 1919 32 Years
 John Guerin 4th Feb 1911 26 Years
 Mollie Guerin 15th July 1911 25 Years
 Bridget Guerin 29th Nov 1979
 On the side
 James Guerin 11th Nov 1963
 Rita Guerin 2nd Nov 1964
 Raymond Guerin 4th? June 1991

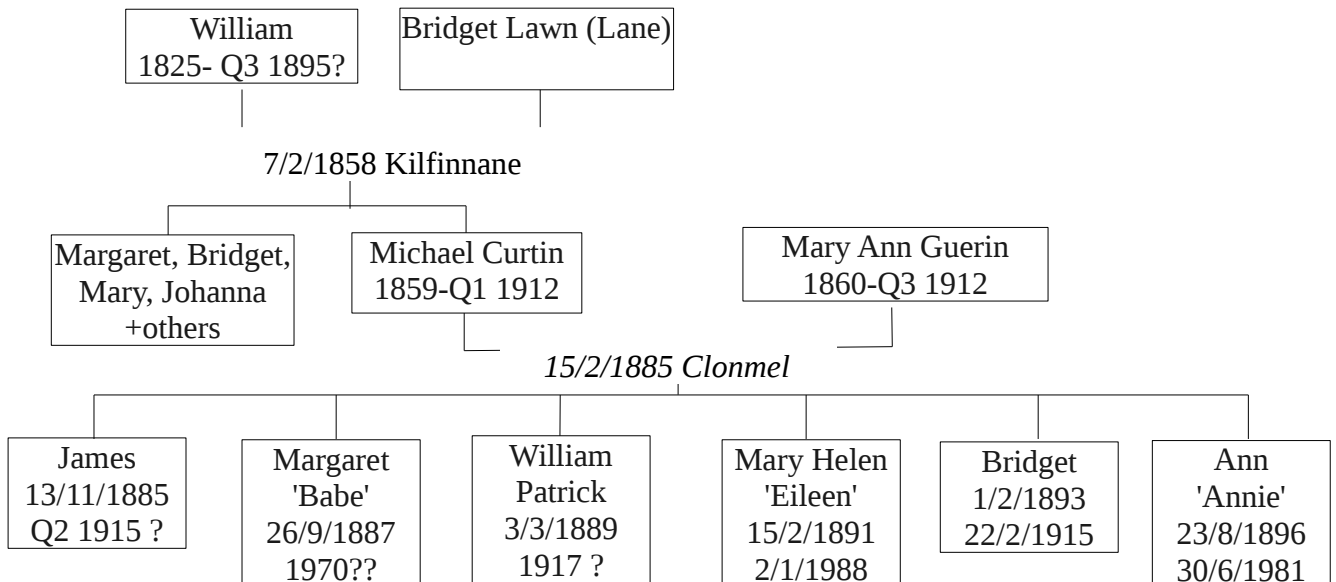
It is around this time that the rates books record that James took over 13 Wolfe Tone Terrace. But James had very pressing problems now. He had four sons under 6 and no-one to help.

Curtin History

Now the Curtin family come back into our story. If you remember, Michael Joseph Guerin had a younger sister, Mary Anne, who married a Michael Curtin in Clonmel in 1885. Michael was the eldest of a large family who lived in Kilflyn south of Kilfinnane in Co. Limerick. His father William was born in Kilfinnane in 1836. There are still members of the extended family living in Kilfinnane.

Michael was a prison officer in Clonmel and Mary Ann Guerin was working as a barmaid. One of the witnesses was a colleague of his, John Kenefick. Mary Anne lived in Main St. which is now O'Connell St. the main street in Clonmel. His father William's occupation is recorded as Farmer and her father James Guerin as caretaker. Within nine months of the marriage they had a first son James. He was born in Castlebar, Co. Mayo where his father was now working as a prison guard. A sister Margaret followed in October '87 and a brother William Patrick before the family returned to Clonmel. In Clonmel they had three more girls, Mary Helen (Eileen), Bridget and Annie.

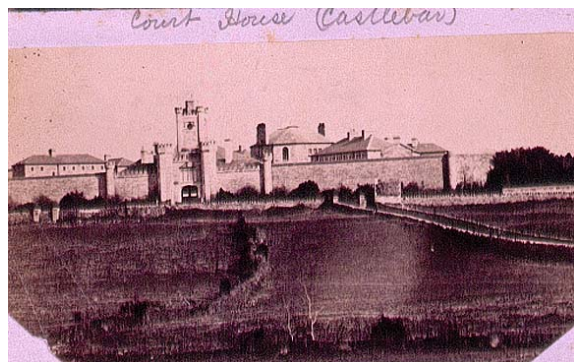
Kilflyn, Kilfinnane, Co. Limerick



The birth certificates of James, Margaret and William all give the family address as “The Prison Castlebar”. On James certificate his father is shown as “Prison Warder” and on William Patrick's he is shown as being the 'Storkekeeper in the prison'. A promotion one supposes. Lord Lucan erected the following sign outside the prison. “Outside Beware: Inside Amend”



Main Gate of The Prison Castlebar



The Prison Castlebar



Castlebar C 1900

The prison was on the south west corner of the town. The 1901 census shows some 13 staff still living at the prison (no 5 Knockaphunta) and these quarters must be where the young Curtin family lived. The 1901 census shows that some of the prison staff lived in the town but most lived on site.

The Black and Tans used the prison as a local headquarters in the war of independence (1919-1921) and the prison was badly damaged during this period such that it fell into disuse and was demolished in 1935 to make way for the regional

hospital. Some of the original structure still forms part of the hospital.

Castlebar is the county town and is the largest town by population in Mayo. It was a very import



Irish National Land League, Castlebar, 1879

market town.

The Irish National Land League was set up in Castlebar in 1879 and so shows the town was at the very centre of unrest in the countryside at this time. The Curtins lived here from 1885 until around 1890 (Also the year the Guerins left Sallypark, Waterford and moved to Limerick).



William , Bridget, Mary Ann, Margaret, Michael and Eileen Curtin ~ 1895 (Clonmel)

So the Curtins moved back to Clonmel where the three youngest were born. The addresses given shown that they moved around within the town. Eileen was born when they lived in Rink Place (Certificate says 'Street').



But when Bridget is born (Baby in picture above) they are living in Thomas street. Around 1895 a new terrace of 6 houses was built for the prison staff. They were right adjacent to the prison in Emmet street and this is the address given on Ann's birth certificate in 1896. So the house on the left or part of the terrace, might be where she was born. All three children were

baptised in St. Peter and Paul's church where Michael and Mary Ann had married in 1885. One of the witnesses at that wedding had been John Kenefick and the 1901 and 1911 census shows he is also living in Emmet street.

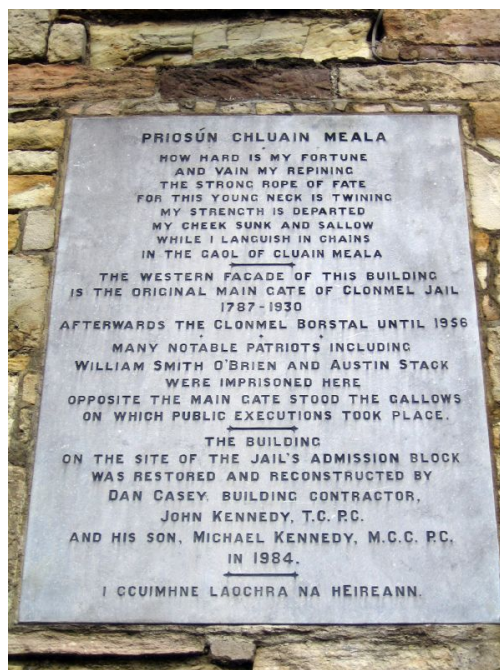


Emmet Street Clonmel

The gaol at Emmet Street (formerly Richmond St and Gaol St before that) was built in the 18th century and had on average 340 prisoners at any time. Outside the prison gates there was a pillory, a frame with holes for the unfortunate wrongdoers' head and hands.

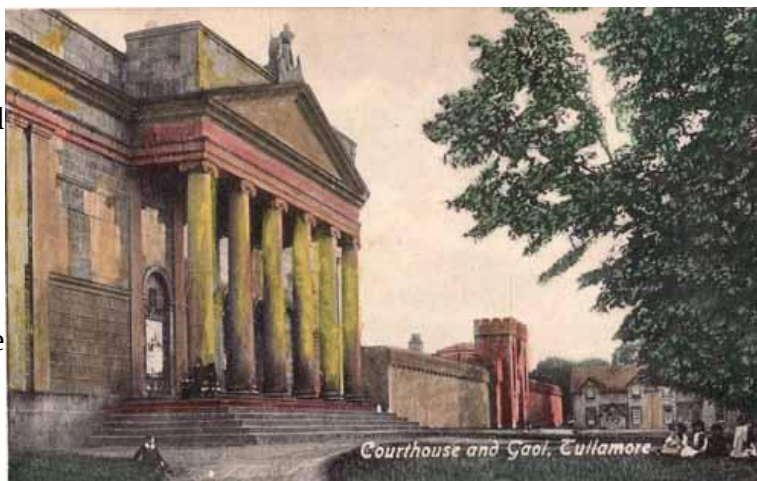


Gate Block, Clonmel Prison



Around 1899 Michael Curtin was transferred to Tullamore Gaol. The family are shown there in the 1901 census. Their address is in the same road as the prison, 25 Charleville St. (now Cormac St.). The house had 5-6 rooms with three windows to the front. There was one outhouse. James is shown as a solicitor's clerk and father Michael as Prison Warder. How long they lived here is not known but they had certainly moved by 1911.

The picture below shows some of the houses in Charleville Rd. and one of



Courthouse and Gaol Tullamore



Charleville Rd. Tullamore

those on the right might be the Curtin home.

On the other side of the road and virtually opposite the Gaol was the station from which the Curtins and Guerins must have come and gone. The gaol and the courthouse were destroyed in 1922 during the civil war. The place was sandbagged by the republicans in anticipation of an attack by the National army. However, on thursday morning the 19th of July 1922 the Gaol, Courthouse and the barrack nextdoor were set on fire by the departing republican force.



Tullamore Station

In the 1911 census they are shown at 21 Church Rd. more in the centre of Tullamore, right next to the Hospital. This house has again 5-6 rooms but 5 windows to the front and 2 out buildings. Interesting to note that one member of the household is recorded in the census as being 'Sick'. Which of them was sick can only be speculated on. Michael is shown as Clerk, a position he held within the prison according to his granddaughter Patricia Green. The eldest, James, is not shown with the rest of the family and could have been in Dublin by this time (Pat Green recollection) and I found a death record for a James Curtin in 1915 in Dublin. Patricia Green said that her mother Annie always said that he died of alcohol related problems. William Patrick is shown as a printer.

This census shows Margaret (babe) as a Governess and Eileen as Shop Assistant. Babe was governess to the children of a local businessman, Malachy Scally. Malachy owned a drapers shop in William street and at least one other, a grocery and provisions business in Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath. He had a large family of 8 children.

Eileen might have worked for him too but certainly the youngest Anne (Annie) did. She learned to be a milliner at his premises.



Eileen, W Patrick, Mary Ann



Scally's shop Tullamore

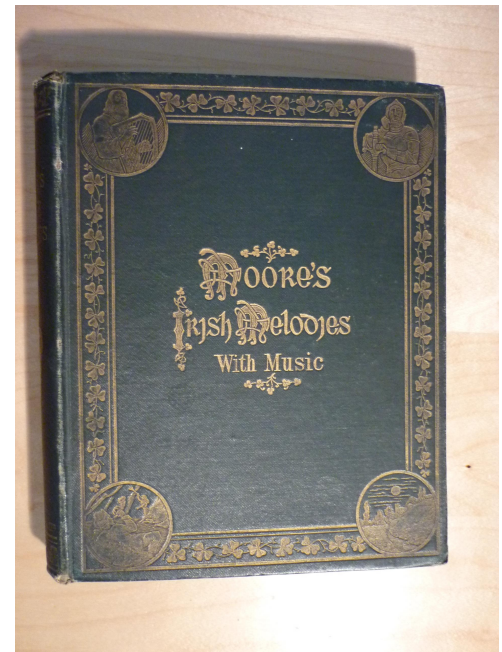
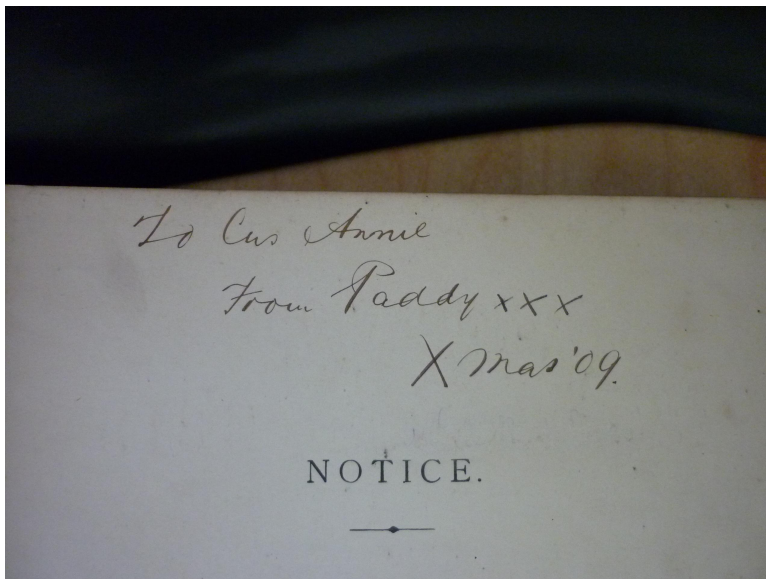
One of Malachy's sons was also Malachy (Gerard Anthony) and was born in 1900. Known as 'Manco' he was a motorcyclist and an aviator. I have found pictures of him competing in the motorcycle Tourist Trophy on the Isle of Man in 1923. In 1932 he decided to have a flying race to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) against a friend. The friend later pulled out but with great ceremony he set off from Co. Dublin to fly solo to Ceylon. His flight in his plane "Shamrocket" was to be in multiple short stages. By nightfall he had reached Berre near Marseilles. But as he tried to land he was confused on the approach and in the dusk he crashed upside down. He was killed instantly. The year was 1932 and both Babe and Annie Curtin were much saddened to hear of his demise.



M Guerin and W P Curtin

The Guerin and Curtin families were close it seems as this picture of William Curtin and M Guerin shows. On the reverse, in pencil, is the inscription "M Guerin and W Curtin", I presume this is Mary as Margaret Guerin died in 1906 and so would not have been this old in any photograph. Mary Guerin died in 1911 aged 25 so this might be around this time. William P disappeared around the time of the first world war, he went off to join the British Army to fight in the First World War and was never heard of again. All efforts to trace a W.P Curtin in the British Army records have turned up a blank. Perhaps he emigrated; I think we shall never know.

Certainly Patrick Joseph Guerin and Annie Curtin were very close. He sent her a copy of Moore's Irish Melodies in 1909. In the inside cover she records his address as 2 St. John's Villas, Mulgrave St., Limerick and hers as Church Rd. Tullamore.



Mary, Eileen and another in garden.

Michael Curtin died of Alcohol related problems at The Meath Hospital, Dublin in 1912. Years later his daughter Annie remembered how in the course of two years she lost both her parents, a brother and a sister. Mary Anne only lived until the third quarter of 1912 which fits that recollection. Pat Green thinks the picture on the left shows Eileen seated on the right and her mother Mary Anne seated on the left. Given the apparent age of Eileen I think this must be around 1912 so not long before Mary Anne died. Is she dressed in black as would be correct for a grieving widow?

Bridget died in early 1915 and as I said before I think James died a few months later that year in Dublin; according to Annie Green, of alcohol related problems.

So by 1917 the Curtin family was reduced to Babe, Eileen and Annie. Eileen though was no longer in Tullamore. She had moved to Whitby by the time of the first world where she nursed wounded soldiers. She had gone to Whitby via the Isle of Man. Where she trained to nurse is not known.

One change that Eileen seems to have made between Tullamore and Whitby was to add the “Mac” to her surname. Therefore Mary Helen Curtin of Tullamore would now be known as Eileen MacCurtin of Whitby or indeed “Auntie Lal”. Eileen commented some time before her death that she had been known by so many names during her life time that she would answer to almost anything. Margaret and Annie were now the only members of the family in Tullamore.

The picture here, taken in Limerick, is of Nellie Tier and Margaret Curtin, back row. Annie Curtin (MacCurtin) and Kathleen Guerin. Obviously taken before 1919 but perhaps not too much before.



Annie and Kathleen with unknown male



3 cousins and Nellie

The picture above left is obviously taken on the same day as the picture of the four cousins above right. There is an unknown male with them. There are two possibilities for his identity. Firstly that this is Michael Freeman, Hanora's youngest brother. He was born in 1871 and if this picture was taken just before 1919 then he might be in his mid 40's. I have compared his picture with the picture of Hanora in Tralee when she was a similar age. There is no resemblance that I can see.

Alternatively. Kathleen had a lodger at 2 Lord Edward Terrace in 1933 when she died. Patrick “Bull” Mason was actually there in 1923 with PJG and Kathleen which was a lot earlier then thought so why not a few years earlier still around 1919. Is this Bull Mason? He fits the description given by Joseph Liam Guerin of being a large man.

According to Joseph Liam, Bull Mason had lived there for so long that when Kathleen died in 1933 he rather fancied that he would now inherit the house and was most put out when Jim and Babe decided to move from St. Joseph Place to 2 Lord Ed. Terr. As it was much closer to work and presumably of course they would not have any rent to pay. But this is jumping ahead.

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 28th 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.

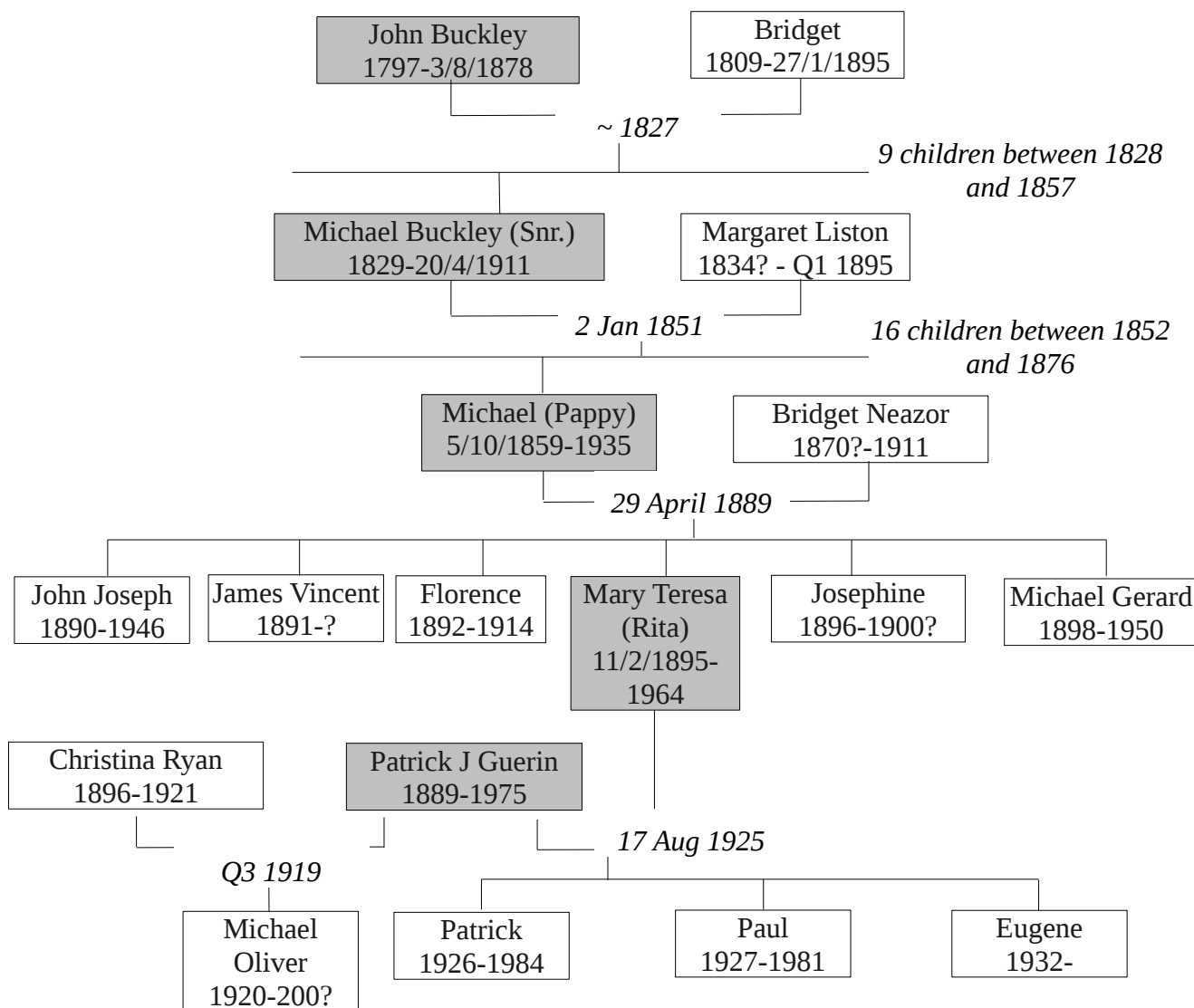
In their last years the Ryan parents, Thomas and Mary lived with Ned in 11 Rossa Villas, Garryowen, Limerick City. They were shown there in the 1923 register of electors.

But Patrick and Christina's marriage was short lived as Christina died and was buried on 16th 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 17th 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 2nd 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 29th 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 18th 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 11th 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 15th 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.

Guerins, MacCurtins & Evans

James (Jim) Guerin and Margaret (Babe) had a first son on 14th March 1923, Joseph Liam around the time they moved in to 3 St. Joseph's Place. The rates books show that James Guerin was responsible for the rates at both addresses until 1927. They must have had both properties for 3 to 4 years.

One possibility for keeping both addresses is that Michael Freeman must have come to Limerick around this time. He, if you recall, was Hanora's youngest brother and had been a hansom cab driver in Waterford in 1901 and 1911 census. But he is buried in the second Guerin grave alongside Hanora and Michael Joseph. He must have come to Limerick at some time before his death (not as early as 1923 though) so why not to Wolfe Tone Terrace?

A second son, Francis Dominic, was born on 4th March 1927. The picture on the right is of the visit Annie Evans (nee Curtin) paid in 1927 to visit her sister Babe after the birth of Francis. The front row are Jim, Michael and Raymond. Behind are Joseph Liam with his mother Babe holding Francis. Auntie Annie on the right. Francis was born with a problem with his feet and he had to spend some time in hospital in Dublin to sort them out.

Annie was, if you recall, now living with her sister Eileen McCurtin in Whitby. You recall Annie had gone to Whitby late in 1919 to live with her sister. But around three years later she was ill and came back to Limerick to recuperate with Jim and Babe. She was in Limerick when Joseph Liam was born. On her return to Whitby she married a local man Arthur Evans on 17/9/1923.

Present at the wedding were Patrick and Rita. They were courting (married in 1924)

Annie had modified her surname to include the "Mac". Her marriage licence records her as "Anne McCurtin". Interesting to note that her sister Eileen was recorded at her marriage in 1936 as "MacCurtin". Annie and Arthur were blessed with two children, Terry (1/12/1924) and Patricia (13/7/1926).



1927 St. John's Hospital Limerick



*Patricia Evans in Limerick 1931
with cousin Paul Guerin*

Eileen MacCurtin married Charles Ernest Collins on 1st June 1936 some 13 years after her sister and at the second time that Charles asked her. 10 years her senior, he had 6 children by his first marriage and had asked Eileen to marry him after the death of his first wife. She had declined and he married a Mary Simmonite. When Mary died after only a few years of marriage, Charles asked Eileen again. She was now incapable of working due to a back injury and in need of support so she accepted. They married on the first of June 1936. The marriage was witnessed by the 9 year old Patricia Evans. The registrar was a little concerned by her youth and when he/she pointed this out was told that Pat had a very wise head on her young shoulders and she was more responsible than a great many adults. This satisfied the registrar who then continued with the marriage.

In 1931 Annie and Arthur took Terry and Pat to Limerick to visit Jim and Babe and their cousins. They stayed at St. Joseph's place with Jim, Babe, Jack, Joseph Liam and Francis. The other three brothers, Michael, Jim and Raymond were by this time boarding at St. Joseph's College, East Cowes, Isle of Wight. Jack had suffered a sporting injury when 13 (1928) that meant his right leg was shortened. He did not join his brothers on the Isle of Wight.

The picture on the right was taken during this visit. It is in the People's park which was at the end of St. Joseph's place. The tall figure of Jack (16 years old) with his smaller brothers and cousins in front. In the front Paul Guerin (rising 4). Paddy Guerin (6) shielding his eyes. The golden haired Terry Evans behind him. On the right Joseph Liam (8) and his little brother Francis (4) with his callipers just visible in front of him. Patricia Evans (7) in their midst.



Eileen and Charles Wedding. Patricia Evans Bridesmaid



Cousins in the park 1931



Jack in the peoples park. Top of St. Joseph Pl.

On the right in 1933(?), a year after his fourth son Eugene was born, is Patrick Joseph taking a dip at the newly opened pool in Whitby. Known as 'The Spider's Web', it was closed due to subsidence which led to a large crack appearing one night and all the water drained out. Ironically for a Guerin, it was on Mulgrave Road. Patrick visited Whitby for a month to recover from illness.



1934 Patrick Joseph at Whitby Pool



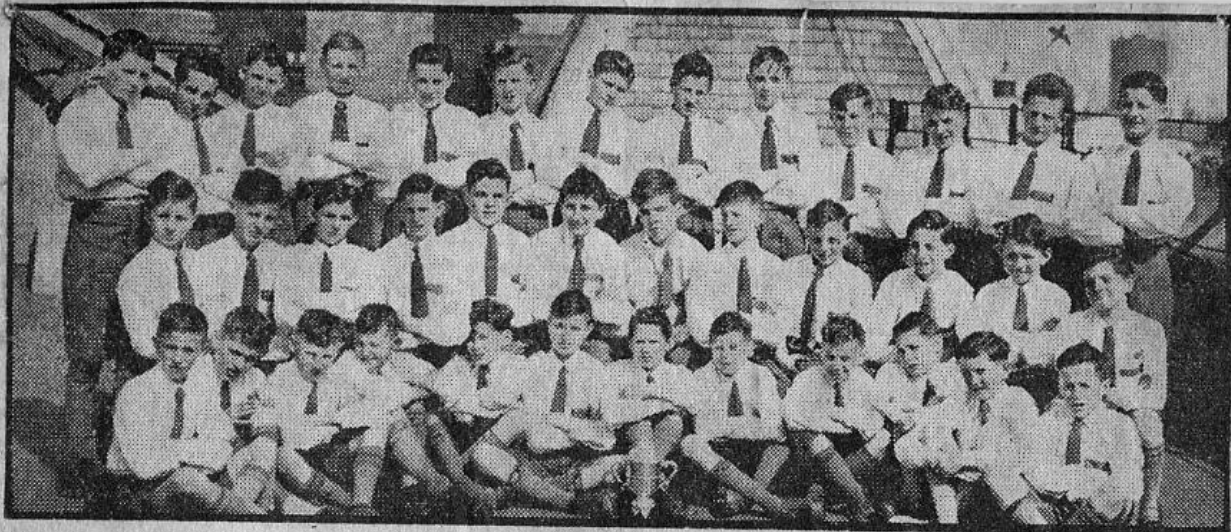
Jim and Babe



Jim and Babe outside 2 Lord Ed. Terr.



Eugene Guerin with his parents 1940's



Limerick Christian Brothers Secondary Schools' Choir who won the Three-Part School Choir Competition at the Feis Ceoil.



Guerin name research

Guerin

This unusual and interesting surname is French and Anglo-Irish. It derives from the male given name Guerin, from the pre 6th century German Warin, meaning guard. This name was popular in France partly as a result of the fame of the Carolingian knight Guerin de Montglave. It was initially introduced into England after the Norman Conquest of 1066, with Robertus filius Warin being recorded in the famous Domesday Book of 1086 for the county of Cambridgeshire and a Gislebertus filius Garin in the Domesday Book for Essex. Gilbert Warin in the Curia Regis Rolls of Yorkshire in 1198 is the earliest recorded hereditary bearer of the name. The name was subsequently re-introduced into the British Isles by French Huguenot refugees fleeing religious persecution in their own country, following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes by King Louis XIV on October 22nd 1685. On July 26th 1696, Daniel, son of Francois Guerin and Janne Pater, was christened at Glasshouse Street and Leicester Fields French Huguenot Church, London. The surname is also widespread in the Irish county of Limerick and Kerry where it takes the spellings of Geran and Gerin. It was introduced into Ireland after the conquest of the county by Strongbow, early of Pembroke in the year 1170, but also be a form of the Gaelic O' Gearain, meaning the descendant of the sharp one! Amongst the early surviving recordings in France itself, most were destroyed in the 1792 Revolution, is that of Didier Guerin. He was a christening witness on February 15th 1585, at Loromon, Meurthe-et-Moselle, during the reign of Henry 111rd of France, 1574 - 1589. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was sometimes known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

Read more: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Guerin#ixzz1Lxzpob8N>

Gaynor

Recorded as the Celtic and Manx McGynnowar, Maginnoire, Magenor, MacGaynor and the popular Gainor, Gaynor, Gaenor and Guerin, as well as the Gaelic O' Gerane, this is a surname of very mixed origins. It probably for most name holders derives from the pre 10th century surname Mag Fhionnbhairr, meaning the son of Finbar. Finbar is from the Gaelic "fionn" meaning fair and "barr", a head, and may well have been an early sardonic nickname for a Norse Viking, as these people conquered much of Ireland in the 10th century. The name was also recorded in Wales as "Gaenor", a short form of Gwenhwyfar, or Gwinevere the wife of the fabled King Arthur. Particularly in the USA, Gaenor has become confused with Gainor and Gaynor. In Ireland the clan originated from the west side of Lough Gowna in County Longford, and Finbar O' Geradhain was the lord of the region in the 11th century, and probably the ancestor of the clan. Over the centuries the surname has largely simplified in spelling, although was still recorded as O' Geradhain in Petty's Census of Ireland in 1659. By the 18th century the spelling in most registers was as Gaynor or Guerin. However a problem exists with the latter spelling as a number of French Huguenots called Guerin were given lands in the region at this time. Many of the Gaynor's emigrated during the Great Famine of 1846 - 1848. The first so recorded being George Gaynor who left for New York on the ship "Java of Liverpool" on April 27th 1846.

Read more: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Gaynor#ixzz1Ly06n5kb>

Guerin

The early Irish origins of the name Guerin appear to begin with the French Huguenot influx that began in the 16th Century. There is some evidence, however, that members of the Ó Géaráin clan may have adopted the Geran, then Guerin surname during the English Confiscation in the 14th Century. The relevant early history of the Guerin Clan has yet to be explored.

(Mac) GAYNOR (O) GERANE, Guerin

Mac Fhionnbhair, chief of Muntergeran, is recorded as being on the west side of Lough Gowna in the present county of Longford. Muntergeran, a shortened anglicized form of Muintir Geradhain and the eponymous ancestor of the family of Gaynor or MacGinver was Fionnbhair (Finbar) Ó Geradhain, who was lord of that area in the eleventh century. A hundred years ago the normal anglicization was Maginver with the synonym Gaynor already coming into more general use. MacGinty found synonymous with Gaynor in south Ulster appears as a principal name in Co. Westmeath in the "census" of 1659. Westmeath and Cavan which with Co. Longford are the counties in which the name is chiefly found today. The prefix Mac becomes Mag, first in speech and later in the written word, so that Mag Fhionnbhair is now the normal form in Irish. Ó Geradhain is identified with Ó Géaráin, a Hy Fiachrach sept located in Erris (Mayo). This sept of Ó Géaráin seems to be almost extinct today. There was another sept of the same name, anglicized O'Gerane and later Geran, which is listed among the principal names in that county in 1659. This survives there today as Guerin. Some of our Guerins may be of different origin, Guérin being a French Huguenot surname