

The McGrath - Long Trilogy

By

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Introduction

The major new document here is *Reaching Across the Penal Times*. All of the remaining documents are either background papers or material that proved too long or introduced too much detail into the main story. These materials were spun off as related but separate documents.

Reaching Across the Penal Times is the last book in a trilogy about the McGrath and Long families which began with *The Long and McGrath Families* and was then followed by *The Neighbors in Ireland*.

Reaching Across the Penal Times

The McGrath and Long families were neighbors in Central New York. They have been traced back to Moyaliff and Holycross parishes of Co. Tipperary in a previous paper, *The Long and McGrath Families*. They were also found to be neighbors in Ireland where they were also neighbors to the Fanning and Tuohy families. A subsequent paper, *The Neighbors in Ireland*, studied these four families over a period of time that included the Great Famine. The ancestral homesteads of these families were located and in some cases present day descendants of these families were identified.

The present document is focused on the McGrath and Long family records in Ireland which were successfully used to document connections among these families. The goal of this paper has been expanded from establishing connections among families in the early 19th century to also finding connections across the Penal Times into the 17th century.

In January 2017, I received a copy of the entire McGrath - Fanning collection of family papers that Marvin Minton found in a picture he had purchased in the late 1990s at an estate sale in New Orleans. The Fanning family provides focus on connections among the Long, McGrath, Tuohy, Purcell and Ryan families in the townland of Grange, in Holycross civil parish. These papers provided insight into the life of the Patrick McGrath family in New Orleans during the Civil War and contained communications with relatives back in Ireland. The papers also allowed Patrick McGrath's family tree to be pushed back two more generations, and across the Penal Times.

The results of this research showed that the McGraths could be grouped into two families in Moyaliff and another McGrath family in neighboring Coolkill. It was possible to sort the Long families into a Raheen group and a Lisnagrough-Glenreagh group. The fact that these three townlands are contiguous suggests that the Long families probably have a common ancestor further back in time.

The Civil Survey of 1654-56 is a source of possible ancestors for the people living in the Moyaliff and Coolkill areas in the mid-1850s. The analysis of the survey produced three groups of McGraths. One group was in the barony of Owney and Arra, another was

in Iffey and Offay barony and another was Miler Magrath's grandchildren who were located primarily in Upper Ormond barony. The descendants of Miler Magrath were selected as the most likely group to examine for possible McGrath ancestors. A number of individuals were selected from this group and were analyzed in detail as the most likely ancestor candidates.

Although the Longs were not found in the Civil Survey for Co. Tipperary it was possible to make several connections using the inscriptions from the Old Holycross Cemetery. Two old lists of names from the mid to late 1700s showed that there were several Long families living in the Moyalliff area during the latter half of the 18th century. They seemed to have a fondness for the names: Laurence, Richard, Patrick, and Thomas.

The McGrath Families of Pallashill

The paper is structured around three pedigrees. The first is Michael McGrath and Bridget Ryan. While Michael had a Pallashill connection, Bridget came from Glenreagh, Holycross parish. The second and third pedigrees have a connection through a pair of McGrath siblings from Pallashill who married individuals from Moyalliff parish. The Thomas Ryan of the second pedigree is descended from John Long and Mary Magrath of Lisnagrough. Thomas Ryan and Ellen McGrath remained in Coolbawn while Ellen's family was from Pallashill.

The third pedigree (Matthew McGrath and Johanna McGrath) contains Ellen's brother Matthew who married Johanna McGrath from Drombane, Moyalliff parish. Matthew's family traces back to Pallashill while Johanna traces her family back to Philip Magrath and Winifred Ryan of Coolkill, Moyalliff.

Additional Papers

Longs and McGraths in Old Holycross Cemetery

This paper describes an effort to extend the histories of the Holycross area Long and McGrath families back into the 1700s. The source material was a list of inscriptions from the Long and McGrath families' gravestones in Old Holycross Cemetery. At least a dozen inscriptions described persons born in the 1700s and in some cases the inscriptions described additional family connections. The family connections were supplemented with church and civil records to create extended family trees. Connections were found to other families from the Holycross area who had previously been researched.

The McGrath - Fanning Papers

In New Orleans, in 1999, Marvin Minton purchased a large needlepoint of George Washington at an estate sale. Much to his surprise, along with the needlepoint he received a number of McGrath family papers. Fortunately Minton had an interest in genealogy and he transcribed much of the information found in these papers and posted it at Ancestry.com, along with some additional research that he had done on the family. Through Minton's efforts the McGrath papers were saved. There was more information to be extracted from the original papers after Minton made them available. This allowed for

the confirmation of the reconstruction of the McGrath family of Coolkill, which had previously been based on hunches and circumstantial evidence.

Guide to the Magrath Land Holdings - 1641

It was possible to find geographical concentrations of McGrath surnames in the Civil Survey. There are two “McGrath” concentrations in Co. Tipperary that can be related to earlier McGrath migrations from Co. Clare. One of these groups is located in the barony of Owey and Arra on the west side of the Silvermine Mountains. The other group is in Tubrid parish in the barony of Iffey and Offay. Both of these groups are thought to have descended from the Thomond Macraiths of present day Co. Clare. The Tubrid group descended from the part of the Thomond clan that had established and ran a Bardic school in Cahir, Co. Tipperary. Although not forming a tight geographic cluster the remaining group represents the descendants of Miler Magrath. These descendants are easily identified in the survey from the knowledge of the names of Miler’s children and their descendants.

The Owey and Arra McGraths and the Iffa and Offa McGraths were each very localized in a couple parishes with the two groups in separate baronies. Miler Magrath’s descendants were more numerous and their family members were better documented. In addition Miler’s descendants had spread out into multiple parishes in seven baronies, most of which are closer to the current area of interest.

Establishing Ancient Links

An approximately 150 year gap exists between the beginning of the parish registers and the shining beacon of the Civil Survey on the other side. Navigating that gap requires much research in the hope of finding old family genealogy records or gravestone inscriptions. The search is for pieces which can be assembled into small sections of the puzzle. If enough of these smaller sections can be assembled then they can be pieced together to form larger sections. It’s then sometimes possible to use these larger sections of the puzzle to cross over the Penal Times and make contact with individuals on the other side.

In this paper the successful results of two such searches across the Penal Times will be described. One search was able to link a descendant of Miler Magrath (former Archbishop of Cashel & Emly) with the Fogarty family of Eliogarty barony. The other search involved the O’Mulryan family of Ballymacky and a possible connection to a relative of Miler Magrath.

Descendants of Michael McGrath of Moyaliff

Over the years a number of people have contacted me with stories about how one of their relatives or friends was related to John J. McGraw (Manager of the NY Giants 1902-1932), or had grown up and played baseball with young John J., in Truxton, NY. These stories had been handed down over the years in each person’s family and they had probably been embellished with each retelling. After researching the details of these stories none of the claims ever held up. All of this took place prior to 2007, when we still believed that our gg-grandfather, Edmund McGraw, John J.’s grandfather, was an example of that rare phenomenon, the Irish only child, and all his descendants were known. Then I discovered Edmund’s other siblings: Lanty, Thomas and Margaret. This dramatically opened up the number of persons who could be related to John J. McGraw.

There are two pedigree charts in this paper that trace out several lines of descent from Michael McGrath of Moyalliff, Co. Tipperary (1785-1859) - John J.'s g-grandfather. Modern day descendants of all four of Michael's known children have been identified and most have been contacted or have made contact on their own.

The Pedigree of Miler Magrath

Miler Magrath is descended from the Magraths of Co. Fermanagh in the northern part of Ireland. It was his appointment as the Protestant Archbishop of Cashel in 1571, by Queen Elizabeth I, which brought him and his extended family to Co. Tipperary. During the transplantations which followed the suppression of the Rebellion of 1641, by Oliver Cromwell, several of Miler's grandchildren were re-settled in Co. Clare. This has helped muddy the waters as to his family's origins since Co. Clare was the ancestral territory of the Thomond Macraiths.

An easier to read version of the pedigree and Miler's descendants' family trees can be found in *The Origins of the McGrath Family*, pp. 97-117.

http://mcgrathsearch.com/McGrath_Books.html