

**“The Irish Origins of the O’Driscoll Family of  
Grass Valley, Western Australia, Australia  
- natives from Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland”**

**Jeremiah & Catherine (Carey) Driscoll**

**And**

**James & Johannah (Driscoll) McClymans**

**“The Irish Origins of the O’Driscoll Family of  
Grass Valley, Western Australia”**

The story of a branch of the O’Driscoll Family, migrants from  
Poundlick (Townland), Skibbreen, County Cork, Ireland, to  
Grass Valley, Western Australia (formerly known as The  
Swan River Colony) in 1869.

**Jeremiah O’Driscoll and Catherine (Carey) O’Driscoll  
and their children**

And

**James and Johannah (O’Driscoll) McClymans**

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**Corrected and updated version of “O’Driscoll’s of “The Valley”,”**

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## Jeremiah and Catherine (Nee Carey) O'Driscoll

### **O'Driscoll Origins**

In the 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC, the Erainn or Iverni (hence the word Hibernia) tribe settled in south west Cork. They were descended from the Continental (European) Celts, who had migrated to Britain and then on to south west Cork, Ireland.

A study of early Irish genealogical tracts shows that the Erainn were distinguished from other septs, being descended from certain “divine” ancestors, notably Daire, Etercel (O'Driscoll) and Bolg. The O'Driscolls is one of the principal Corca Laoidhe (Carbery region) septs.

Few, if any, families have been as continuously associated with this part of Ireland, the territory of their origin, as the O'Driscolls. Their clan lands ranged from south Kerry to the south west of Cork, notably Carbery, Beare and Bantry.

Throughout the centuries they were driven southwards and westwards by other rival clans, particularly the O'Sullivans. They finally settled in the maritime districts around Baltimore, on the coast of south west Cork. The clan held several strong castles, down to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

William Casey, a Skibbereen historian and genealogist, penned the following in his paper on “Aughadown House”;

*“From ancient times the O'Driscoll's ruled much of West Cork. Over the centuries the O'Driscolls' power and land was reduced by the arrival of other Irish septs such as the O'Mahony's, the O'Donovan's, the McCarthy's and the O'Sullivan's. By the 1400's the fiefdom of the O'Driscoll's was reduced to an area bordering both sides of the Ilen River. This included Collybeg, an area on the west side of the Ilen River, which roughly equates to the civil parish of Aughadown. The east side is called Collymore. Despite the loss of territory, the 1400's were good for the O'Driscolls. They earned huge revenue by the selling of fishing rights in Roaringwater Bay. This prosperity coincided with a building boom which included a number of O'Driscoll castles and the friary on Sherkin Island. Collybeg appears to have been the 'poor relation' with just one castle at Rincoliskey.*

*The 1500's saw a turn in fortunes for the O'Driscolls. In 1537, the conclusion of a long feud with the city of Waterford, brought disaster. In revenge for the looting of a Portuguese ship bound for Waterford, the men of that city raided O'Driscoll territory and, using cannon, they damaged or destroyed many important buildings including the O'Driscoll headquarters in Baltimore (Dun Na Sead – the fort of jewels). However, the greatest challenge facing the O'Driscolls, and indeed the whole of Gaelic Ireland, was the growing influence of the Tudor monarchs over Ireland. Wishing to control Ireland and to introduce English laws and customs, the English devised the policy of 'surrender and regrant'. Under this system, Irish chieftains could surrender their land and titles held under Irish law and in return were granted back their lands and given English titles. Thereafter, they would be bound by English law. In 1573 the new O'Driscoll chieftain, Fineen, took up the English offer and became Sir Fineen O'Driscoll. He is commonly remembered by his nickname 'Fineen the Rover'. For those who chose to resist English rule, the punishments were harsh. A clear example of this was the policy adopted by the English after the failed Desmond rebellion of the 1580's. The lands of the Earl of Desmond and his allies, including the O'Mahonys of*

*Kinalmeaky, were confiscated and given to English colonists. The new landowners undertook to settle or 'plant' English on the confiscated land, thus these attempts to supplant the native Irish with English settlers became known as 'plantations'. During the Desmond rebellion the O'Driscolls remained a loyal ally to the English, and their position was relatively secure. However, this would not continue.*

*The demise of their territorial power occurred at the end of the Elizabethan-Irish wars, which resulted in the Irish defeat at Kinsale in 1601. The O'Driscoll clan lands were passed over to Lord Castlehaven by the victors."*

Later in the article it states in part;

*"In 1601 a Spanish fleet landed in West Cork. Its intention was to aid the O'Neill rebellion. It appears the personal inclination of Fineen O'Driscoll was not to rebel. However, with a Spanish garrison stationed at the O'Driscoll castle in Castlehaven and with the urging of his family and his neighbours, the O'Driscoll chief joined the other local Irish chieftains in rebellion. The defeat of the Irish and Spanish forces in the Battle of Kinsale had an immediate and disastrous impact on the local chieftains. The English, under George Carew, brutally suppressed the rebellion in West Cork and the lands of the rebels were confiscated. While Fineen O'Driscoll received a personal pardon, much of the O'Driscolls' power and land were lost forever. A large part of the O'Driscoll land ended up in the possession of a Cork merchant and land speculator named Walter Coppinger, who in turn rented parts of it to English settlers. The land confiscations in West Cork opened up opportunities for new plantations."*

It appears that Fineen O'Driscoll was forced to mortgage the small amount of land that was not surrendered following the loss of the Battle of Kinsale. Fineen was not able to abide by the mortgage terms or repay the debt; consequently the mortgagee; Walter Coppinger and others confiscated the mortgaged lands, dispossessing the native incumbents.

Over the centuries the dispossessed clan gained much notoriety for their piracy exploits, around the port of Baltimore and beyond. In another article by William Casey, entitled the "Finn Family History" it states in part;

*"The parish of Aughadown forms part of the ancient fiefdom of the O'Driscoll clan, whose headquarters was at Baltimore. The power and the riches of the O'Driscoll's reached their height during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries when they sold fishing rights to Spanish and other Continental fishing boats, to the rich fishing grounds off the West Cork coast. They survived and prospered during the turmoil of sixteenth century Ireland by remaining on friendly terms with the English despite disputes with the rulers of Waterford City and accusations of piracy made against them by English officials. The dawn of the seventeenth century saw a dramatic change of fortunes for the O'Driscolls'. They sided with the Spanish against the English during the Battle of Kinsale in 1601. The defeat of the Irish and Spanish armies broke forever the power of the Irish chieftains of West Cork. Over the following decades the ownership of the land of West Cork fell into the hands of English Adventurers and Planters who differed from the native Irish, not only in race, but also in religion. Despite the passage of centuries, the gap between the new Anglo-Irish landowner and their native Irish tenants would never be bridged."*

## Name

The name O'Driscoll is a compound Gaelic word derived from "Idhir", meaning between or intervening, an intermediary or a 'go between'; and "Sgeal", a statement or a story. Combined they read Idhir Sgeal or O'Driscoll. The name is literally translated as "descended from the interpreter".

## Motto

The O'Driscoll motto in Latin is: "Adversis immersabilis undis."  
The English equivalent is: "We cannot be overcome by adversity"  
Sometimes as: "It is better to give than receive" (see Charity below)

## Blazon of Arms and Crest

Blazon of Arms: Argent (white or silver), an ancient galley, sails furled sable (black).

Translation: Argent (white) denotes Peace and Sincerity. The galley is symbolic of Venture to foreign lands. The sable furled sails signify Constancy.

Crest: A cormorant proper.

Translation: The cormorant is the emblem of Charity.

## Background

The history of the family in Western Australia is well known and documented. However the history in Ireland is another thing. Fortunately family folklore was strong; many stories were handed down through the generations, including their hometown domicile in Ireland. Skibbereen (An Sciobairin - little boat harbour) was the name of this town, situated in the far south west of County Cork, Ireland, inland from Baltimore, on the Ilen River.

The roots of the anglicized word Ilen, goes back to when Irish was widely spoken. It was called *An Eibhle*, which means a spark or to sparkle. The female name *Eibhlin* (Eileen) is a diminutive of *Eibhle*. In other words Ilen was the sparkling river.

Unfortunately for the researcher, due to the proliferation of the name, this is the area of Ireland where all O'Driscoll's emanate from, having continuously lived in this region for a few thousand years, and being one of the first Celtic families to occupy and territorialize this part of Cork.

My Great Grandfather, Jeremiah Driscoll and his wife, Catherine, nee Carey, were the ones to leave Ireland and make a new beginning, at Grass Valley, in the Swan River Colony, as it was then called, in Western Australia.

Jeremiah was born in or around Skibbereen, just prior to the great potato famine of 1845 to 1850. Skibbereen was probably the worst affected area of Ireland, losing proportionally more of its population than anywhere else in Ireland. It is a testament to his parents and probably his extended family that he survived this ordeal.

The Ancient Arms of



O'Driscoll

From Jeremiah's death certificate, we are able to ascertain his parent's names. They were Timothy Driscoll and Mary Driscoll. With this information, I was able to contact the Skibbereen Heritage Centre, who has access to the Parochial (parish) records of all the parishes around Skibbereen. The only known facts were:

- 1) We knew the parent's names were Timothy Driscoll and Mary (maiden name) Driscoll. They must have been very distantly related / unrelated for the church authorities to allow them to be married.
- 2) The death certificate recites that his birth place was Loch Hoyne. This is actually Loch Hyne or Loch Inn, a sea loch just south of Skibbereen, close to the coastal port of Baltimore.
- 3) By means of, "age at death deduction", we know that Jeremiah was born around 1835/6.
- 4) We know he had a younger sister, Johannah, whose arrival preceded him (Jeremiah) to Western Australia in the year 1866. By the same aging method, we calculate that Johannah was born around 1844/5. We also know she married twice. Firstly to James McClymans Convict # 3271 (died 1880) and then to Obediah Edom Hitchcock.

With these known details the Skibbereen Heritage Centre pinpointed the church where these two children (Jeremiah and Johannah) were baptized; the church being, St Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen, in the Roman Catholic parish of Creagh. It also corroborated known facts, and yielded fresh information, in regards to Jeremiah's siblings. These christening records show the following names and dates, Jeremiah (20.12.1836), twins Bets and Julia (20.07.1837), Mary (07.08.1842), Johannah (01.01.1845), Jane (13.06.1847) and Timothy (25.03.1850). Some of these records are notated BT, or Upper BT which stands for Bridgetown and Upper Bridgetown respectively. Bridgetown forms part of the town of Skibbereen, and is at odds with the Loch (Hoyne) Hyne entry on Jeremiah's death certificate.

St. Patrick's Cathedral Skibbereen exterior and interior



*The Eureka Moment:*

In late July 2010, Colin Ferguson the facilitator of the website "Driscoll of Cork" advised fellow subscribers, that the christening records for County Cork parishes were available for research online ([www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)). Upon checking these records

another two christening records have come to light. Firstly Michael, son of Timothy Driscoll and Mary, nee Driscoll of *Poundlick* was christened on 19.09.1852, the sponsors being Timothy Regan and Ellen McCarthy with the reference P4774.00567. The second record is for Patrick, but reverting to the usual address, given as Upper Bridgetown. Patrick was christened on 18.03.1855 at St. Patrick's Cathedral Skibbereen, the sponsors being Timothy Driscoll and Mary Hegarty, with the reference of P4774.00581. *Poundlick*, the townland, is the missing link that I have been searching for. It is the townland that this branch of the O'Driscoll's emanated from.

By December 2011 the Irish genealogy data base had been extended and a more refined search capability added. Two more of Jeremiah's siblings came to light. Importantly the oldest sibling was identified. In my previous paper, "*The O'Driscoll's of the Valley*", I had theorized that there was a missing male being the first born child. The discovery of Billing Driscoll, Jeremiah's older brother came as a revelation and a relief. Billing was christened at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1835. This discovery gives rise to the possibility that Timothy's (the father of Billing) father was called Billing, to conform to the naming pattern.

Another sibling was also discovered. Catherine was her name. She slots in the family between, twin Julia and Mary. Catherine was christened on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1839. All told Timothy and Mary had eleven children who were christened at St. Patrick's.

<u>First name</u>	<u>Bap't date</u>	<u>Sponsor 1</u>	<u>Sponsor 2</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Billing	01.02.1835	Paddy Savage	Ellen Geany	N/R	p4774.00449
Jeremiah	20.12.1836	Mick McCarthy	Kate Driscoll	N/R	p4774.00462
Bets	20.07.1837	Denis Taylor	Elis Starkie	N/R	p4774.00468
Julia	20.07.1837	R Starkie	Julia O'Donovan	N/R	p4774.00468
Catherine	22.12.1839	Daniel McCarthy	Catherine Brien	N/R	p4774.00484
Mary	07.08.1842	Mick Brien	Margt Gilberton	N/R	p4774.00505
Johannah	01.01.1845	Dudly Driscoll	Margt Gibson	N/R	p4774.00524
Jane	13.06.1847	Timy Driscoll	Margt McCarthy	N/R	p 4774.00543
Timothy	25.03.1850	Denis Regan	Mary McCarthy	N/R	p4774.00556
Michael	19.09.1852	Timy Regan	Ellen McCarthy	Poundlick	p4774.00567
Patrick	18.03.1855	Timy Driscoll	Mary Hegarty	Upper Bridgetown	p4774.00581

The list of Sponsors above, give us a little insight into some of the families that may be related to ours. Some of course, will merely be friends. The families that are over- represented, which may be directly related, are the McCarthy's, Brien's, Regan's and Starkie families.

It is probable that we can not unearth any further records from this period and are forced to construct rational inferences from the known facts. To do this we must make some broad educated guesses in order to build up a picture. I think that I have found the correct death entry for our Patriarch, Timothy, which places his birth at 1799. Also I make the following assumptions:-

- 1) Mary, his wife would be younger than Timothy. Many men during this period delayed or deferred marriage simply because they did not have enough resources to support a family. During this time they would try and build up

their asset and experience base, especially as the Irish typically had large families and security for the family unit, was paramount.

- 2) In the broad community there is a small chance that women conceive after say, their 41<sup>st</sup> birthday (+ or – 3 years). Let us assume that Timothy and Mary's last child, Patrick was conceived in her 41<sup>st</sup> year, which was in 1854, with the birth in 1855. If this was the case then, it places Mary's birth year at 1813 (1810-1816).

To test these assumptions, let's see if this information is at all feasible.

<u>No</u>	<u>Test</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Timothy</u>	<u>Mary</u>
1.	Age at Marriage	1834	35	21
2.	Age at First born	1835	36	22
3.	Age at last child's birth	1855	56	42
4.	Age at Timothy's death	1882	81	69

These inferences seem quite reasonable. Also from the data we have collected on the live births, that is to say, the christenings, we can give an informed opinion on the state of health of Mary. Children in this marriage from Billing in 1834 to Patrick in 1855 were born at regular intervals.

<u>No</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Christening Date</u>	<u>Elapsed time until next child</u>
1.	Billing	01.02.1835	-
2.	Jeremiah	20.12.1836	22 months
3.	Bets	20.07.1837	7 months
4.	Julia	20.07.1837	7 months
5.	Catherine	22.12.1839	29 months
6.	Mary	07.08.1842	31 months
7.	Johannah	01.01.1845	28 months
8.	Jane	13.06.1847	30 months
9.	Timothy	25.03.1850	33 months
10.	Michael	19.09.1852	30 months
11.	Patrick	18.03.1855	30 months

It must be remembered that these dates aren't birth dates, they are christening dates. This may account for the short duration between Jeremiah and twins, Bets and Julia. It is probably a combination of Jeremiah's late christening and maybe the premature birth of the twin girls and their prompt christening.

Remarkably the intervals between christenings, is fairly constant. From this raw data we can infer that Mary's health, and by extrapolation, the family health was quite good. This data covered the pre-famine, famine and post famine period. Ill health brought on by poor diet, due to the famine, would surely be reflected in this data. It gives rise to the theory that Timothy and Mary were good providers. Harping back to a previous theme, it probably vindicates Timothy's reticence to marry prior to setting himself up on a sound financial footing. The fertility rate around the famine years plummeted, due to poor nutrition. Some parishes in Ireland recorded no births in a calendar year.

Some of the prudential measures that Timothy and Mary adopted may have been as simple as, possessing a house cow, raising poultry and pigs, having a generous extended family, the ability to negotiate better farm leasing terms with a sympathetic landlord, having off-farm income, say from sewing or farm wages, the ability of the older children, Billing and Jeremiah to earn wages. Probably it is a combination of these and other measures that proved successful. Robbie O’Driscoll, my father, in his paper “O’Driscoll and McClymans Family History” learned from family folk lore that Jeremiah began his career with the brewery in Skibbereen at a very young age, which appears corroborative evidence of this assertion.

Before proceeding further, it is important to understand the concept of the term “townland”. Townlands are ancient and traditional localities and as such they are the smallest unit of civil land area used in Ireland. Their areas vary in size from less than ten acres to several thousand acres. Despite the name, these units do not necessarily contain towns; indeed some have no occupants at all. There are approximately 64,000 townlands in Ireland, and they are the most specific “address” usually available for rural dwellers. Townlands are generally grouped and organized (25 to 30 townlands) into civil parishes. Within the confines of the townland boundaries could live landowners, sitting-tenant farmers / leaseholders, sub leasees, labourers, servants and town folk, amongst others, along with their respective family members. Townland names have been handed down through the centuries, from medieval times. Some denote geographical landmarks, ancient ownership or building construction, to name a few of these name sources.

Poundlick is a townland about 3 kilometres walk from Upper Bridgetown (Skibbereen). It was an agricultural area with an area of 362 acres, 3 roods, and 34 perches. A search of the Griffith’s Valuation of 1853 reveals that Timothy Driscoll leased holding 1.e) from the landlord Daniel Donovan. Holding 1, in total had an area of 33 acres, 1 rood and 29 perches, which was divided into 5 parts. Timothy leased part e), which was the fifth part. No acreage allotments were made to the different parts, but it can be assumed Timothy’s apportionment would have been around 6 acres. It is said to have a house, office and land attached to this tenant holding, but it appears that the family lived in Upper Bridgetown and walked to their leased property. Residents of Poundlick probably identified their address as the rural area of Loch Hyne, rather than the urban district of Skibbereen, even though Loch Hyne was further away. The lease was in the northern part of the townland of Poundlick, fronting Baltimore Road, and sandwiched between the townlands of Carrigfadda (An Charraig Fhada – the long rock) to the east and Licknavar (Leic na bhFear – flagstone of the men, or a meeting place of men on the flat ground) to the west. Baltimore Road forms part of Highway R 595. The present day Skibbereen Golf Club, to the west, occupies part of the adjacent townland of Licknavar and borders Timothy Driscoll’s lease over Poundlick 1.e). Holding 1, predominately owned by Daniel Donovan would have its own sub-townland name and this would have been the true address of the property. Poundlick was sectionalized into 12 distinct areas, with most of these areas broken down into small tenant holdings like Timothy’s.

Daniel Donovan, the owner of Timothy’s leased land, was a doctor of medicine, having studied in Dublin and Edinburgh. Daniel was born in nearby Rosscarbery in 1808. According to Eugene Daly’s book “Skibbereen and District – Fact and Folklore”, Daniel began his medical career in Skibbereen and was then appointed to the Union Hall Dispensary after a couple of years. At Union Hall he was greatly involved in the cholera

epidemic of 1832. About 1839 he was appointed to the Skibbereen Dispensary and subsequently elected the first Medical Officer of the new Skibbereen Workhouse. Dr Donovan or as the locals called him “Doctor Dan”, perhaps more than anyone, helped focus world attention on the plight of Skibbereen and district in the worst years of the famine of 1847 and 1848. He was one of the heroic figures, championing his fellow compatriots in the face of British apathy. The *Southern Eagle* newspaper in its 6<sup>th</sup> October 1877 edition stated;

*“When we consider what he must have endured in visiting the sick, in this then extensive Union on those cold and dreary nights - entering sooty cabins, dens of pestilence, the inhabitants of which could not procure a candle, and, by the light of a splinter of bogwood, examining and prescribing – we, after a lapse of some years, are astounded how human nature was capable of such endurance. But his elastic frame and constitution of steel were equal to the occasion – strengthened by his indomitable will and a desire to ameliorate the condition of his fellow creatures in their last sad extremities.”*

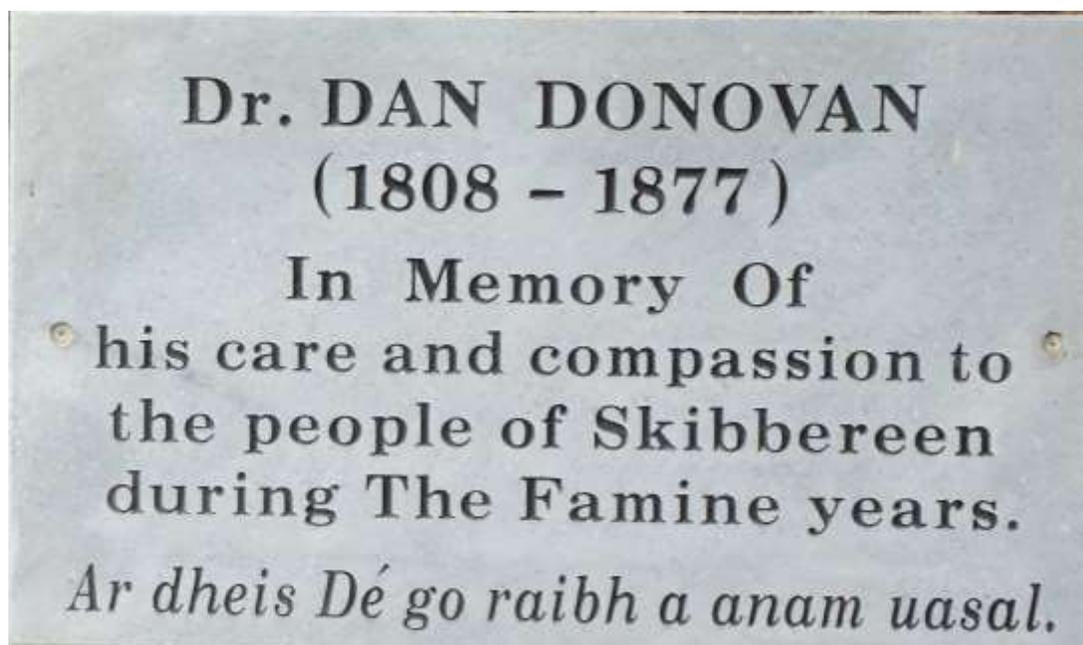
It is our family’s good fortune that such a sympathetic man as Dr Daniel Donovan leased his land to Timothy. Many other leasees had hard-hearted, absentee landlords, more interested in cash returns than the welfare of their contracted charges.

An Englishman, Archibald Stark, who had visited Skibbereen in 1844, returned in 1850, and he graphically described the changes he had seen (in part)

*“...At one time it was feared that humanity would give up in despair the task of saving Skibbereen. The Rev. John Fitzgerald P.P (Parish Priest) states that there is war to the knife, among the landlords, each of whom tries to remove the burden of the poor on his estate to his neighbours. This was the time of the parish rating system. He takes the roofs off his houses; there are no more rates to be paid on these. The outcasts die on the roadside or wander away and the landlord has gained in the rate reduction. At Tullagh (around Baltimore), the property of Sir William Beecher, this system has been carried to an alarming extent. Sir William lives quietly in Mallow and it is said his agents have expected the rents to be paid as if there was no famine...At Inishbeg, the property of James Morrogh of Hyde Park, Cork, all the tenants have been turned out except four or five and a few labourers. The most extensive landlord around Skibbereen is the Rev. Fitzstephen Townsend. He lives constantly in England and those who minister to his wants have never seen his countenance. Famine, death and emigration have sadly thinned their lands. In the townland of Reen only one farmer is left.”*

Today the northern part of Poundlick has been developed into a residential estate with houses fronting Baltimore Road from Carrigfadda Road to the Skibbereen Golf Club, and the adjoining townland of Licknavar. No vestige of the rural lands or the leased land of our Patriarch, Timothy Driscoll can be identified these days. For all intents and purposes Poundlick forms part of the seamless urban expansion of Skibbereen. Other locations and townlands around Poundlick bear very colourful names. Gortshanecrone (Gort Sheain Chroin), a townland bordering to the west, translates to “the field of swarthy Sean”, whilst Coomnageehy (Com na Gaoithe), a townland to the south, translates to “hollow of the wind”.

Poundlick’s name is derived from the Gaelic, Leic an Phona, (pronounced Lek on Phone-Ah). Lick is the anglicized version of the Gaelic word Leic and is the name given to flagstone or slate. Pound is an animal enclosure or a fenced area.



Photograph of Doctor Dan Donovan's plaque at the entrance gate to Abbeystrowry Cemetery and Famine Pit.

In other words it is an area where flagstone is found and animals fenced. Another interpretation could be, "flat ground within the pound" Flagstone was used as paving, say for kitchen floors, animal enclosures, as a roofing material or for fencing.

Superimposed on this complexity, the O'Driscolls in this area adhered to the traditional Irish naming pattern. The reoccurrence of Timothy and Jeremiah was prolific. It becomes almost impossible to differentiate so many people, with the same name, in the same area, in the same era, especially as there was no age or parental reference to go on.

Family groups of the Driscoll clan were distinguished from each other by the use of "pet names". Some of the pet names in the Baltimore area are the "Timmo's" and the "Andies". It is obvious that the ancestral lands for our family were around Loch Hyne, not the opportunistic farming area of Poundlick, near Skibbereen. A townland such as Ballyoutera, Pookeen or Ardagh, around the shores of Loch Hyne, would not be surprising. It looks like neither Jeremiah or his siblings took up their fathers farming interests of Poundlick or a continuity of farming took place amongst the male heirs. No "pet name" folklore was passed down. If one was to search for Timothy's siblings, it would almost certainly be more productive to look towards Loch Hyne and Baltimore, than around Skibbereen.

Traditionally, the whole family helped in the farming process, children and all. Education was given a low priority by Britain, to the Irish masses. Indeed the Irish famine struck during this period and the priority even by the Irish was on family survival.

Some documents describe Timothy as a farmer and others as a farm labourer. As it turns out he was both. He would have intensely farmed his leasehold land as well as drawing an income as a labourer, probably on the adjacent lands owned by Dr Daniel

Donovan. Diversifying like this undoubtedly helped the family survive the potato famine. Many farmers and farm labourers and their families, in similar or worse circumstances lost their lives to dysentery, fever and starvation. A small percentage escaped by emigration. In 1845 it was recorded that 901 people emigrated from the Port of Baltimore and a year later that figure had risen to 2122.

Some researchers have stated that Timothy and Mary Driscoll migrated to Canada. Timothy is supposedly buried near his farm at Percy Township, County Northumberland, Ontario. Research has proven that this is not our family and it has no connection.

### **Traditional Irish Naming Patterns**

A common thread runs through the names of the earliest searchable members of the family. It is quite apparent that the paternal line of Driscoll's generally adhered to the naming patterns of their ancestors. With strict rules as to who a new-born child could be named after; then the name of a child can be predicted with a fair degree of certainty. It also can be used to predict, with the same level of certainty, naming patterns for the ancestors in the generation before. The following table shows the naming pattern.

<u>Male child</u>	<u>named after</u>	<u>Female child</u>	<u>named after</u>
First	Father's father	First	Mother's mother
Second	Mother's father	Second	Father's mother
Third	Father	Third	Mother
Fourth	Father's oldest brother	Fourth	Mother's oldest sister
Fifth	Parents choice	Fifth	Parents choice

Jeremiah (Senior) complied with the naming pattern to the letter. By applying the naming pattern rules to Jeremiah's parents then we can postulate that Timothy's father was William (known as Billing) Driscoll. Mary's father was Jeremiah Driscoll. We must remember that Mary, even though she married a Driscoll, had a maiden name of Driscoll herself. Mary's mother would have been Elizabeth, probably known as Bets, but we have no clues as to her surname. Timothy's mother would have been Julia and again we have no clues as to her surname.

There seems to be a small aberration to the naming pattern for the third daughter. The third daughter was named Catherine. The naming pattern dictated that she should have been named after the mother (Mary). This was not the case. Maybe the pattern was interrupted due to the fact that twin girls arrived in the first instance. Nevertheless the next girl was named Mary, after the mother. They may have "saved" this name for a child who was viable and who was sure to survive the first few critical weeks or months of life.

In keeping with the pattern the third male born was given the name of the father, Timothy. As a consequence, knowing that an aberration has occurred, care should be taken not to rely solely on the naming pattern. It may be a good indicator but it isn't a scientific method or a fail-safe predictor.

*Returning to the main story:*

Jeremiah's surviving wife, Catherine would have been the sub-informant on the death certificate, and (Loch) Hoyne written down by the local Undertaker, W.J. Purslowe, is Hyne with an Irish brogue. Similarly, the place of marriage is recorded as Castle Townend (in 1868), whereas its proper name is Castletownshend (Baile an

Chaisleain – Castle Town). The castle of the Townshend family still exists centrally in the town today. Castletownshend is also a coastal town, lying east of Baltimore (Baile an Tighe Mhoir – Town of the big house), the big house undoubtedly being the O’Driscoll Castle, (Dun na Sead), and forming a form of triangle, with Skibbereen as the major inland centre.

Catherine was the daughter of Patrick Carey and Mary Brien. Catherine was born in the RC parish of Castlehaven (Gleann Bhearrachain – St. Bearchain’s Glen or Valley), although her death certificate records it as Skipperin (Skibbereen). They were married at the St. Barrahan’s RC church at Castlehaven, with the reception at her parents (Patrick and Mary Carey) house in Lettartinlish. The church at Castlehaven, built in 1840 is about 1 Kilometre west of Castletownshend in the townland of Knockdrum.



St. Barrahan’s Church Castletownshend

The Chapel Yard Cemetery, off High Street, high on the hill overlooking Skibbereen, is the last resting place of the Lettartinlish Carey’s. Timothy Carey, probably a brother of Patrick Carey is confirmed to be buried there according to Mrs. Josephine O’Brien of Tragumna, the last surviving grand daughter of Timothy Carey. It is assumed that Patrick and his wife Mary are also interred at this same location. In earlier times a Chapel occupied this site. Today the cemetery is the only thing that occupies this small area.

Castlehaven in earlier times (17<sup>th</sup> century) was the site of another “O’Driscoll Castle”, appropriately called Castlehaven Castle, and called Eaherine Castle in earlier times. The castle commanded a strategic position at the mouth of this safe harbour (haven). The Spanish, briefly aligned with the Irish (1601) and opposing the British, called it “El Puerto Castillo”, which translates again to the Harbour with the Castle. Geographically, Castlehaven is situated between Castletownshend and Tragumna.

The Castle probably belonged to McCarthy Clann Dernod, who controlled a semi-circle of land from Kilcoe north through Caheragh and south again to Shepperton Lakes).



Superintendent Registrar's District		Registrar's District								
18 87		DEATHS Registered in the District of <i>Lullagh</i> in the Union of <i>Shibbourn</i> in the County of <i>Wick.</i>								
No. (1.)	Date and Place of Death (2.)	Name and Surname (3.)	Sex (4.)	Condition (5.)	Age (6.)	Rank, Profession, or Occupation (7.)	Certified Cause of Death, and Direction of Inquest (8.)	Signature, Qualification, and Address of Informant (9.)	When Registered (10.)	Signature of Registrar (11.)
	18 87 24 <sup>th</sup> December Lullagh	Thomas Lullagh	m.	married	82 years	Lammer	slowly aged no medical attendance	Constance Brien President of Lullagh Society	24 <sup>th</sup> 1887	William Brien Registrar



The front view of the Carey home in Lettertinlish (above) and the rear view (below).





A view of Castlehaven Harbour





Above: Ruins of O'Driscoll's Baltimore Castle  
Dun na Sead – Fort of the jewels.



Dun na Sead, after restoration by the McCarthy's in 2002.



Above: Dun na Sead exterior



Dun na Sead – Fort of Jewels, interior

## Bridgetown

Timothy and Mary Driscoll and their family lived in Bridgetown or Upper Bridgetown. The exact location is not known. However it is known that the Bridgetown area contained the poorer sections of Skibbereen. The houses were no more than makeshift cabins. One account, recorded years after the famine, describes it as follows:

*“Some twenty years after the famine scourge had passed away and over two million of the Irish people with it, I visited Skibbereen – Bridgetown is changed now. In 1846, it contained a large population, being not much less than half a mile in length, with a row of thatched houses on either side; when the famine slaughtered the population those houses were tenantless in great numbers and there being none to re-occupy them, they fell into ruin and were never rebuilt.”*

Local folklore recounts that a Bridgetown widow with two sons, sent one son to a bakery in North St. Skibbereen to buy bread. When the boy didn't return, she sent the second in search of him. The second boy failed to return also, and after some time, the widow herself set out. She found her sons along the way. One lay dead in Bridge St, while the other had made it as far as Tanyard Lane (off Main St.).

If Skibbereen was the so called centre of the Potato Famine, then Bridgetown was the epicenter, a place of death, despair and desolation. It would be miraculous if all Timothy and Mary's children survived this calamity. The feat of survival was a triumph. For those who did, the seeds of the Fenian movement were sown, which culminated in the partial emancipation of Ireland. It is not surprising that leaders like Michael Collins and Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa and his Phoenix Society hailed from this part of West Cork, a place that was affected so much by The Great Famine, *An Gorta Mor*, as the Irish say, in their native tongue.



Corner of Bridge and  
Main Streets Skibbereen  
circa 1900

## Contemporary photograph of Skibbreen



### **Occupation and Literacy**

Folklore in the family, has however survived, for Jeremiah's occupation. He is described as a labourer on his marriage certificate and on the birth certificate of his first born Irish son (Timothy born 1868). Family folklore has it that he was a brewery worker in Skibbreen. Research yields that Daniel McCarthy (or McCarthie) of Glencurragh, built (1809), owned and operated a Porter (stout) Brewery in North Street, Skibbreen during this period.

Daniel McCarthy was usually referred to as Daniel Og. Og is an Irish term that denotes that the person is the younger or that the father and son have the same name. Daniel Og was a founding member and Skibbreen Coordinator of the Phoenix Society, which later became the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood (IRB). Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa a fellow Skibbreen-man headed the Phoenix Society. This part of Cork was the hotbed for the revolutionary causes, mainly due to the pain it went through as a result of the Irish Famine. It was a clandestine organization with its chief objective to rid Ireland of British Rule. It is not known if Jeremiah was involved in any way with this organization, but he would have been very sympathetic to its cause, like most of the native southern population. The Fenians, a name that is very well known to Western Australians was an organization that was an extension to the Phoenix Society and the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood.

The Phoenix Society was seen as a more moderate organization than the IRB or the Fenian movement and the more radical Irish Republican Army. It generally involved the more educated professionals, such as solicitors, teachers and civil servants whose main objective was to try to put pressure on the authorities by employing political

influence. Nevertheless the consequences for being caught as an active member of any of these organizations, was severe. Retribution by the authorities could be expected.



The author, standing outside the gated porch entrance to McCarthy's North Street Brewery. The shop, Discount World and the floors above were part of the Brewery site.

In 1845, there were eleven porches off the river or west side of North Street. The largest arched porchway was and still is the entrance to Daniel McCarthy's brewery. The entrance was directly opposite Windmill Lane. The brewery occupied a large site between the river and North Street. At the (Ilen) rivers edge is the Brewery Hold, the berthing place of the barges which brought the coal upriver from Oldcourt to supply the kilns. Oldcourt is a river port on the Ilen River, downstream from Skibbereen. Ships carried their cargo to Oldcourt where it was offloaded onto barges and lighters and then transported to the many quays at Skibbereen. In the nineteenth century Skibbereen supported many industries. Sadly by 1890 the flax, woolen and brewing industries were closed down. The market had opened up to mass produced products from England and Irish cities. Little remains on the brewery site or for that matter the River Hold and Quay, except for a few pylons. The brewery, upon its closure was converted into corn stores by Mr. T.D. Roycroft. The brewery closure was probably one of the reasons why Jeremiah, in 1907 on his Irish visit, lamented that Skibbereen had changed too much in his absence.

Many of the original eleven porch entrances have disappeared with time. With the closure of the river quays their purpose, as a means of accessing the Ilen River from North Street, has evaporated. Some have been converted to walkways and alfresco areas.

Jeremiah and Catherine lived on High Street, Skibbereen when Timothy was born in 1868. He probably finished his brewing career just prior to migration, taking his family to the Swan River Colony, Western Australia in April 1869. Timothy, was baptised when he was two days old (24.11.1868). His uncle, Cornelius Carey and Ellen Carey were his sponsors. It is presumed that Ellen Carey was Cornelius' wife.



The Ilen River with the disused pylons that formed part of the Brewery Hold and Quay, at the rear of North Street, Skibbereen.

Jeremiah used his brewing skills to good effect in his new home at Grass Valley, Western Australia. Part of his barley harvest was set aside for beer (probably stout) production, a recipe that he had taken with him from Ireland. Jeremiah knew weights and measures and money exchange intimately. There is conflicting evidence regarding his level of literacy. All birth registrations attended to by Jeremiah bore his X mark in the attestation. However a letter of application, in 1876, for a 60 acre adjoining block, to the Land Surveyor, seemingly shows a literate hand and signature. It seems highly probable that this letter was penned by James McClymans on his behalf for the handwriting is identical. Jeremiah was afraid that if he didn't act immediately then another farmer would submit an application and he would lose the opportunity to purchase it. The perception that literacy could add weight to the application is probably another reason for this deception. The contents of this letter appear later in this narrative (see Page 50). Probably in later times, Jeremiah's letters were penned by his oldest son Timothy.

Also due to their own illiteracy, the children were taught by the parents by rote. Because they couldn't express themselves by the written word, important family stories, prayers and poetry were repeated over and over again, as a learning mechanism. This led to the older generations, particularly, to be very interesting story tellers, having an amazing memory and the ability to retain family folklore for such an enduring time. The children learned their prayers in Gaelic, could recite the "Sack of Baltimore" by heart, and knew the genealogical pedigree of their family and neighbours and importantly carried their folklore to the next generation.

Also probably due to their own lack of education, Jeremiah and Catherine placed a great emphasis on education. All of the children received a school education even though schools were scarce and scattered, and to do so, utilized precious resources of time and money.



High Street – the area in Skibbereen where Timothy Driscoll O’Driscoll was born (1868).

### **Fenian influence**

Two Fenian contemporaries of Jeremiah and Catherine are quoted in Eugene Daly’s book “Skibbereen and District - Fact and Folklore”

### **Cornelius Keane**

The *Eagle* (a Skibbereen newspaper) of May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1892 carried the following report under the caption ‘Death of Two Skibbereen Men Abroad’

*“A Fenian Exile:*

*Intelligence has been received here of the death of Mr. Cornelius Keane, of Skibbereen, in distant Australia, while yet little beyond the prime and manhood of life. The deceased, who was a brother-in-law of Mr. Daniel Coglan of Bridge Street, took a prominent part in the Fenian movement from its very infancy, and the announcement of his unexpected demise will be received with feelings of regret by all who knew him. At the time the Fenian organization was started here, ‘the Cradle of Fenianism’, he was one of the first to embrace its principles. He was at the time a law clerk, and employed in the office of Mr. Ralph Fuller, solicitor, being previously connected with the Board of National Education. In 1861 he joined the ranks, and ere long, when James Stephens paid a visit in this town, Keane was selected by both to organize the district. Everything went well until 1864, when the deceased, with a number of others, invaded the parish of Rath, or Baltimore, as it is now called, for the purpose of organizing, the day selected being a Sunday. Here the informer came on the scene; information was*

*lodged on which Keane was arrested, and on the following court day he was charged before the Skibbereen bench of magistrates, and he was returned for trial to the ensuing session in the City of Cork, where he was, at the conclusion of the trial, released on bail. Later he was organizing in Dublin until the seizure of the "Irish People", the Fenian organ, in September 1864 when he was again arrested with Stephens, Rossa, O'Leary, Luby, Kickham and many others... He was subsequently put on trial... found guilty like the others, and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. After serving time in Portland and Millbank prisons, he was transported to Western Australia."*

### **John O'Driscoll, Skibbereen**

*... 'it will surprise many of the old guard who met John O'Driscoll, the school teacher of Skibbereen, in Dublin Prison, to learn that he is dead. He was a man full of Irish life and spirit, of love for Ireland and of hatred for Ireland's enemy. He was the grandson of John Collins of Myross, who wrote the poem on Timoleague Abbey...'*

Both of these gentlemen, Keane and O'Driscoll would have been contemporaries, and for that matter, well known to Jeremiah and Catherine, in Skibbereen's small community. The difference is that Cornelius Keane was an unwilling immigrant. Cornelius Dwyer Keane or Kain/Kane Convict # 9790 arrived in Fremantle per the "Hougoumont" on 10.01.1868. This was the last convict ship to leave England and was therefore the last opportunity for the English to get rid of its troublesome political prisoners to the colonies. The Hougoumont arrived at Fremantle a year before Jeremiah. Keane was given a Conditional Pardon (CP) on 13.03.1871, three years after his arrival. Very soon after his release to freedom, he sailed to South Australia (18<sup>th</sup> of September 1871) a free man. A search of the Western Australian convict records reveal that he was born in Ireland 1838, and was married in Ireland with two children, literate Roman Catholic, convicted Dublin Assizes 17.01.1866 for Treason and given 10 years penal servitude. One of the conditions of a CP is that the freed prisoner is precluded from returning to his homeland. To get around this, the general thing to do was to voyage to another State, as Cornelius had done, and then to arrange a trip back to the UK. Obviously the first part of the strategy was completed, however the second part was not completed through lack of funds, opportunity, ill health or will. The "Hougoumont" was the notorious ship that brought sixty two Fenian political prisoners to Western Australia including John Boyle O'Reilly # 9843. O'Reilly daringly escaped on the American whaler the "Gazelle", on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1869 from the port of Bunbury in Western Australia. Safely in Boston, and as editor of "The Pilot", O'Reilly and John Devoy, another American (based) exiled Fenian leader masterminded the escape of a further six Fenians from Rockingham, south of Perth in 1876, on the American whaler the "Catalpa". This nearly caused an International incident. O'Reilly went on to become a very important literary figure in America. President John F Kennedy quoted O'Reilly in his address to the combined Irish Parliament on his only Presidential visit.

## Disposition

Folklore tells us that Jeremiah was a quiet man of pleasant disposition; slow to anger and possessing exceptional strength. Folklore in the family went to lengths to accentuate his gentle, unruffled side. However an article in the “Northam Advertiser” dated 19.06.1929, by George Lionel Throssell (GLT), son of George Throssell, the second Premier of the State of Western Australia; under the heading “Originals and Aborigines”, shows what can happen when someone is pushed beyond their limits. The article states in part...

*“With the very many customers bringing in their produce, or carcasses of dressed pigs etc it was but natural there would oftentimes be differences of opinion in regard to the correctness of the scales, and I remember very clearly, one of these differences leading up to a real good “go” between John and Jerry O’Driscoll (father of Road Board Pat). Now Jerry was an Irishman, of this there was no doubt, and every Irishman worth his salt, loves a scrap. This morning Jerry was just in the humour to “thrail his coat” and having forcibly expressed himself in regard to the proverbial liberality of his opponent (John was an Aberdonian – this has been proved incorrect, John was born in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland-Editor), they went at it, and it was about as willing an International “go”, as one could wish to be an onlooker at, but not a participant in. John had a way of his own, and affectionately encircled Jerry’s neck with one arm, drew down on to his hip, and with a good heave, up went Jerry into the air, and onto the ground with John’s fell weight on or in the softest part of his anatomy – that settled it.”*

It would have taken considerable courage and a sense of outrage to stand up to this overbearing duo. John Lyon’s low blow may have given temporary victory to the unscrupulous, but a fair bet would be that Jeremiah (and those similarly affected) would have voted with their feet and taken their business elsewhere.

Research shows the John, in the abovementioned quote, was in fact William Lyon-White, Convict # 4106, a massively built Glaswegian, raised in the “House of Refuge for Boys” and who came to prominence in the Glasgow (Food) Riots of 06.03.1848. Having narrowly escaped arrest, he journeyed to the Isle of Anglesea, off the coast of Wales, where he was subsequently arrested and convicted for the offence of house breaking. He was sentenced in Beaumaris, Wales to 10 years transportation. He arrived in Fremantle per “Sea Park” on 05.04.1854. William, by degrees, transformed his name to John Lyon, in order to shield himself from his criminal past and to give himself a veneer of respectability. John eventually became Northam shopkeeper, George Throssell’s head storeman, the position he held when the altercation occurred. John was married to Susannah Carter, daughter of Robert Carter, Convict # 3180, who arrived at Fremantle per the convict ship “Ramillies”. John ended his days as Northam’s, stand-over debt collector, dying on 12.06.1924, at the age on 94.

Apparently John’s brazen attempt to defraud Jeremiah was too much to bear and Jeremiah threw caution to the wind and tackled the Glaswegian hard-nut. The reference to “having forcibly expressed himself in regard to the proverbial liberality of his opponent” undoubtedly meant recalling John’s checkered convict history.

Store owner, George Throssell, commenced business in Northam around 1861, (in the town’s infancy), and built his business up, to be one of the largest concerns outside

the Perth metropolitan area. George Throssell had a well earned reputation for placing a higher than normal margin on his retail lines, a luxury that a near- business monopoly affords. Under weighing produce on one hand, and overpricing on the other, to the most vulnerable of clients, the illiterate, the so called Irish “Paddies”, was fair game to Mr. Throssell. The protestant / catholic prejudices that afflicted Ireland were present in the Colonies. As a touch of irony, George Throssell himself was born at Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland on 23 May 1840. His Protestant father, George Michael Throssell arrived at Fremantle per “Scindian” on 01.06.1850 as the Officer in Charge of convicts accompanied by his wife and children. The “Scindian” bought the first 75 male convict prisoners to Western Australia’s shores. He was an Enrolled Pensioner Guard (Private - 17<sup>th</sup> Dragoons) and served in the Convict Service until 20.01.1853. He then applied and was appointed Sergeant of Police in Perth on the 16.01.1853, holding this rank until 1855, when he was promoted to Police Inspector. Shortly after this event he met his untimely death. George Michael Throssell’s wife, Jane Ann (Ledsam) Throssell had predeceased him on 02.10.1854. George Throssell had lost both his parents in the space of less than 7 months. These events had a very severe impact on young George. It made George grow up extraordinarily fast, eventually to become a self made man. However the personal cost was his empathy for his fellow man. As an aside, George Throssell had at least two sons who fought in World War 1, Ric (Frank Eric ‘Ric’ Cottrell Throssell) a 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horseman, was killed in the second battle of Gaza, and Hugo, also of the same Company, distinguished himself by earning a Victoria Cross on Gallipoli’s Hill 60; the only Australian Light Horseman Victoria Cross winner. Bedevilled by his wartime experiences, Hugo committed suicide in 1933. The supreme irony is that the dispassionate George Throssell had fathered two sons who displayed outstanding courage and selflessness in defence of their country and fighting compatriots.

### **Surviving records**

William Casey, who I have quoted earlier in this article states;

*“In 1852, the British Government completed a valuation of properties in this part of County Cork. The resultant report, published in 1853, is called the “Griffiths Valuation”. Anyone who owned or leased land (or property) to a certain value was recorded in this valuation process. For each holding, the acreage, value of the land, and the value of any buildings were recorded. This process was carried out for each individual townland. Each holding was also given a plot number within the townland and this plot, and the house associated, was clearly marked on the ordinance survey map of the townland. Hence we are able to accurately locate the exact plot of land our ancestor occupied at the time of the initial survey.*

*Another important source of information is the census returns. The first true national census was attempted in 1813. However this was abandoned as people became too suspicious of the census motives, with many refusing to co-operate. The Government tried again in 1821 and this time it was a success. From then on, a census was completed on a ten yearly cycle.*

*The census for the years 1861 to 1891 were destroyed by government decree, once the statistical information was extracted. In 1901 this policy of census destruction was discontinued.*

*All of Ireland's surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century census returns, as well as the 1766 religious census and countless other documents were housed in the National Archives in the Four Courts Building, Dublin. During the Irish civil war of 1922, republican forces occupied this building, using the archives to store munitions. In July of that year Free State Forces attacked the Four Courts complex, resulting in an artillery shell hitting the archival collection. The archives fuelled by the munitions totally destroyed the building and contents. Hence Ireland lost all her 19<sup>th</sup> century records, the records of all its entire population, including the most humble of its inhabitants, whose existence was recorded nowhere else."*

The oldest surviving census record for Ireland is for 1901. Fortunately from 1901 (inclusive) onwards, the census returns were not housed in the Four Courts Building and were spared the resultant destruction.

In the 1990's the Irish Government waived the normal 100 year release-rule covering census returns. As a consequence the 1901 and 1911 censuses have been published and are readily available for public research.

Two Registrar General Records (Births, deaths and marriages) pertaining to my Great Grandparents still exist. Their marriage certificate (11.02.1868) and the birth certificate of Timothy (22.11.1868), their first born and only Irish (born) child has been obtained. Only a small window of opportunity exists for this however, as Jeremiah, Catherine and infant Timothy sailed for Australia in 1869, five years after registration commenced in 1864.

Fortunately the christening records of the Roman Catholic Church have survived. Without these records, the task of reconstructing the family tree would have been futile. These records give a starting point for my research. The result of this search gives rise to the potential to identify the descendants of my great grandfather's siblings; and a possible reunification, after more than 140 years of separation with any living relative in Ireland.

In June 2012 a fellow researcher, Pamela Day, researching her McClymans roots, alerted me to an article that appeared in the "*West Australian*" (newspaper) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 1916. The article broadly speaking is seeking applications from relatives seeking claimant status and contesting the application of Eliza (or Elizabeth) O'Leary, the sole claimant of the Estate of their Irish uncle from the Administrator, in the Courts in Ireland. Mary O'Halloran, Eliza's sister had challenged Eliza's claim over the Estate. The names listed in the Public Notice are the "blood relatives" of "Old Jerry's", brother, Patrick Driscoll. Patrick had died at Chapel Lane, Skibbereen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1914, a bachelor, without making a will (intestate). Patrick Driscoll's, sister-in-law, Catherine (Carey) O'Driscoll who by this time was quite elderly and infirm was not included in the submission. This 'find' is quite a revelation, as it seemed that there was no practical way of unraveling, or for that matter, identifying, our "Patrick" from the plethora of other Patrick Driscoll's that inhabited this part of County Cork. Irish records have a massive shortcoming; a death certificate does not reference other family members, so that a death certificate for one Patrick is indistinguishable from another Patrick, especially if they are of similar age. The degree of certainty is reduced, but no one can definitively declare that this is the correct entry, simply because the case can not be accurately authenticated. The public notice in this case is a breakthrough in authentication that comes along very infrequently and a boon for any family trying to trace their family line. Gladly we'll seize the opportunity!

**The “West Australian” Newspaper**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1916 Page 2 - Legal**

*“Take Notice that by a Decree dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 1915, for the Administration of the Personal Estate of Patrick Driscoll, of Chapel-lane, Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland, made in a suit pending in the Country Court of the County of Cork, West Riding, Division of Bantry, Ireland, Equity Side, wherein one Mary Halloran, Administratrix of the said Patrick Driscoll, deceased, is Plaintiff and one Eliza O’Leary is Defendant, it was ordered that personal service of the notice of said Decree by advertisement published in this newspaper and by posting prepaid registered letters to their addresses respectively be deemed good service on the following next of kin of the said Patrick Driscoll, deceased, residents in Western Australia:- Patrick O’Driscoll, Jeremiah O’Driscoll, and Mistress Catherine Sermon, all of Grass Valley; Timothy D O’Driscoll, Timekeeper W.A.G. Railways, Turton Street Guildford; William McClymans, care of M.T. Padbury, Koogan, Midland Railways; Henry McClymans, of Narrogin; Mistress Agnes Langdon, of Northam, who are respectively at liberty to apply to the said Court to add to or vary said Decree within four months from the date of publication of this notice. Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 1915. Daniel M.J. O’Connell, Clerk of the Crown and Peace County of Cork & Collins and Kennedy, Solicitors, Skibbereen, Ireland.”*

The result of the action defined above was resolved in a hearing at Bantry (County Cork) in 1917. It appears that the claimants were all nephews and nieces of the deceased, Patrick Driscoll. The defendant, Eliza O’Leary and the plaintiff, Mary or ‘Minnie’ (O’) Halloran, were sisters, their father, Michael was a brother to “Old Jerry” and to the deceased, Patrick. The Court ordered that each claimant share the spoils of the estate equally along with another twelve claimants.

***Bantry 31<sup>st</sup> January 1917***

***Mary Halloran – Plaintiff; Eliza O Leary - Defendant***

*Motion to allocate funds includes particulars of payments and the payees;*

*Having defrayed costs and expenses, all itemised in detail, fourteen beneficiaries are named, including the plaintiff and defendant; they each receive £24.9s.3d.*

*(Twenty four pounds, nine shillings, three pence) one fourteenth of what remained of the estate.*

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*The fourteen beneficiaries were: Timothy D. Driscoll; Jeremiah Driscoll; Patrick Driscoll; Catherine Sermon; plaintiff [Mary Halloran]; defendant [Ellen O Leary]; Jer. Driscoll (Michael); Margaret Bennett; Michael Driscoll; lodgement made to separate credit for Wm Driscoll; Ellen Driscoll; Wm McClymons; Henry McClymons and Agnes Langdon*

The Australian contingent of Timothy, Jeremiah and Patrick O’Driscoll and their married sister Catherine Sermon as well as their first cousins, William and Henry McClymans and their married sister, Agnes Langdon shared the 445 pound estate with their City of Cork cousins.

Further research also indicates that Patrick’s sister Catherine (Kate), a spinster, lived with Patrick in their Chapel Lane house in Skibbereen. Kate was at this address in the 1901 census but it appears that by the 1911 census she had passed away. The plaintiff, Mary Halloran had attested that

“According to the administrator’s oath Mary Halloran of No 7 Travers Street in the City of Cork, married woman, wife of John Halloran of the same place, labourer, was *the lawful daughter of a brother of the said deceased, and who predeceased him*. On oath she stated that *Patrick Driscoll, late of Chapel Lane Skibbereen in the County of Cork Labourer deceased, died intestate a bachelor -- without parent or grandparent, brother or sister or uncle or aunt*. That she was the lawful niece and one of the next-of-kin of the said deceased. That she would well and faithfully Administer the Personal Estate of the said Patrick Driscoll by paying his just debts, and distributing the residue of said Estate according to Law. That she would *exhibit a true and perfect Inventory of all the said Estate and render a just and true account thereof, whenever required by Law so to do; that the said Deceased died at Chapel Lane, Skibbereen in the County of Cork on the Twenty second day of December One Thousand Nine Hundred and fourteen, and that the whole of the Personal Estate of the said Deceased amounts in value to the sum of Four hundred and forty four Pounds, and no more, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.*”

The transcript above verifies that Kate had predeceased Patrick. He was “*without parent or grandparent, brother or sister or uncle or aunt.*” There are not too many possibilities as direct descendants, excepting nephews and nieces. Great nephews and nieces were not claimants to the estate otherwise the likes of Eugene (Timothy), Thomas (Jeremiah) and Gerald O’Driscoll (Patrick) would have been co-claimants in Australia.

The important point to note from this information is that all of Jeremiah’s (Old Jerry’s) siblings were deceased before 1914. In order of age, only Jeremiah, Johannah and Michael (O’) Driscoll of this line had produced children. The other siblings had either died, maybe in childhood from effects of the famine or like Catherine and Patrick who were confirmed to be spinster and bachelor respectively and had died later in life. From a genealogical view there were two Australian families (Jeremiah and Johannah McClymans) and one Irish family (Michael) in Cork City, County Cork that could populate the earth.

### **Michael O’Driscoll**

Michael O’Driscoll was a younger sibling to Jeremiah. He was born at “Poundlick”, a townland which adjoins Skibbereen. We know where he was born because it was stated on the christening record at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Skibbereen. The christening record also records that he was baptised on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 1852, his sponsors being Timothy Regan and Ellen McCarthy. Michael was the penultimate child with Patrick being the youngest, being born in 1855 at Upper Bridgetown in Skibbereen.

Michael was married to Mary Thompson whose parents were thought to be John and Eliza Thompson. The Thompson’s were a City of Cork family and lived on the

poorer south side of Cork City. Their local church was St Finbarr's. Needless to say, Michael and Mary Thompson were married in the bride's St Finbarr's Church on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1877. The witnesses were Matthew Thompson (probably a brother of the bride) and Catherine Galvin. Mary Thompson was born in Cork City in (circa) 1858. In all twelve children were born to this union, all on the south side of Cork City, but as has been attested when Patrick O'Driscoll died in 1914, only seven attained adulthood. The full run-down is shown below.

<u>No</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Alias</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Buried</u>
1	Patrick		23.08.1878	-		<1901	
2	Michael		01.02.1880	-		< 1891	
3	Mary	Minnie	26.05.1881	John Halloran	07.08.1901		Curraghkippane
4	Elizabeth	Lizzie	10.03.1883	John O'Leary	27.09.1902		Douglas, Cork
5	Matthew		04.11.1884			<1901	
6	Timothy		01.12.1885			< 1901	
7	Jeremiah	Michael	08.02.1887	Maureen Radley?			
8	Margaret	Maggie	28.09.1888	Joseph Bennett	27.01.1910		
9	Catherine	Kitty	15.03.1890			< 1901	
10	Michael	Mickie	20.08.1891	Margaret O'Connor	24.10.1915		

Note: Margaret (O'Connor) remarried - Garrett Walsh on 29.07.1939 Cork City

11	William	Willie	11.10.1893	Kitty Kelleher			
12	Ellen	Nellie	21.02.1895	Patrick O'Connell		1936	

Very little is known of these family members, besides the information above. Jeremiah O'Halloran, son of Mary (No 3) and John O'Halloran's, immigrated to Florida (USA). Jeremiah, No 7 above is thought to have had two of his male children immigrate to the USA. Michael, alias Mickey (No 10) was purported to be a very capable boxer. William, alias Willie immigrated to Blackpool in England? Ellen (No 12) and Patrick O'Connell's son, Michael O'Connell, immigrated to Gelligaer, Wales. They in turn have a son Michael O'Connell who lives in the Guernsey Islands.



L-R Back: Mary O'Leary b 1907  
 Elizabeth (Driscoll) O'Leary b 1883  
 Denis O'Leary b 06.01.1904  
 John O'Leary b 1908 (front)

## Johannah O'Driscoll – Jeremiah's sister

### & James McClymans - her husband

As alluded to previously in this article, Jeremiah had a younger sister, Johannah, who preceded him out to Western Australia. She undoubtedly responded to the advertisements placed in the local papers by the Colonial Offices, Land and Emigration Commission Agents, whose job was to enlist single young women to immigrate to the new colonies. A search of the Land and Emigration Commission records for Jeremiah and Johannah has proven fruitless. Emigration applications were not archived and no correspondence has survived.

One of the pre-conditions, for the Swan River Colony accepting male convicts, was that an equal number of single females were to be enlisted as free immigrants. Emigration Agents were paid a bounty when they successfully enlisted an approved applicant. Johannah was specifically sponsored by Edmund Ralph Brockman, a farmer from Grass Valley, Western Australia, to become his domestic servant. In return for this sponsorship, Johannah was indentured to Brockman for two years, after which time she was free to move to an employer of her own choosing.



Once settled in Western Australia, Johannah made contact with Jeremiah in Ireland, and extolled the virtues of the new colony, describing it as a “land of milk and honey”. Due to her efforts, facilitation was made, and an indentureship drawn up whereby Jeremiah, Catherine and Timothy were sponsored out to the Swan River Colony by Edmund Ralph Brockman under the British Colonial Office’s, Land and Emigration Commission Scheme.

Johannah, herself arrived at Fremantle per “Robert Morrison” on 07.03.1866 to start her own indentureship. She is reported as paying 10 English Shillings for the fare. By the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October of the same year she was married to a convict Ticket of Leave man, James McClymans. James was semi-literate, and in time his name took on many variations of McClements, McClymont and eventually McClymans. James McClymans also worked for Brockman as a shepherd.

James McClymans, Convict # 3271 was born in Glasgow, Scotland around 1835 to Irish parents, William McLimont (or variations) – weaver, born c 1816 and Martha nee Davidson, stay maker, born c 1818. James McClymans’ known siblings were Martha, born c 1842, Glasgow, Isabella, born c 1851 Glasgow and William, born 04.04.1856 Glasgow. The family lived at 32 New Street, Calton Glasgow at the time of his offence. James was charged with house breaking and stealing from two premises on the night of 21<sup>st</sup> of September 1852 or the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1852. The first premises were that of Robert Cruickshanks, grocer, at the corner of High Street and Havannah Street, Glasgow. James in the company of William Sloss or Watson and Patrick Murray gained access by means of a false key or picklock. They broke into the cellar entrance, off Havannah Street. The charge read:

*“...did, all and each, or one or more of you, then and there, wickedly and feloniously, steal and theftuously away take, from the shop,*

*One Shilling and Sixpence sterling, or thereby, in Silver Money,  
Thirty, or thereby, Penny Postage Stamps,  
Seven Pounds weight, or thereby of Tobacco,  
Ten and a Half Pounds weight, or thereby of Tea,  
Six, or thereby, Pots containing Jam or other Preserve,  
Six Pounds weight, or thereby, of Lozenges,  
One Pound weight, or thereby of Liquorice,  
A Parcel containing One Pound weight, or thereby, of Mustard; One Pound weight, or thereby of Black Pepper; One Pound weight, or thereby, of Candy-Sugar; and One Pound weight, or thereby of Cream of Tartar,  
A Wooden Drawer, and  
A Canvass Sack or Bag,*

*The property, or in the lawful possession, of the said Robert Cruickshanks.*

The second break-in occurred in George Street, Glasgow at the cellar, of a premises occupied by a widow by the name of Jane Nelson Mercer or Renwick on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 1852

*“...wickedly and feloniously, break and enter, by forcing open, or by means of a crow-bar, or by some other means to the prosecutor unknown, the lockfast door of the said cellar or cellars, and entering thereat; and this you did with intent to steal from the said cellar or cellars, as also from the bakehouse and shop, or other premises hereinafter libeled...”*

The charge also documented the previous conviction of the three defendants on the crime of theft, albeit that James was referred to as James McClymont, before the Sheriff-court of Lanarkshire, with a jury, at Glasgow, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 1851. James was obviously placed in jail or juvenile detention for this previous conviction and as a result was not with his siblings at the family home, on census night 1851.

All three defendants were found guilty of the charges of shop breaking, house breaking and stealing and were sentenced to 14 years Transportation. The eighteen year old Glaswegian Potter was to be temporarily held in a Glasgow jail until he was transferred to “Millbank”, a prison closer to London. The final holding place was on the Thames River hulk “Defence”, before finally beginning the Transportation voyage aboard the barque “Stag” which left London on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1855, reaching Fremantle on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 1855. Convicts began boarding the “Stag” on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 1855, with the ship sailing on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1855. One of his partners-in-crime, William Sloss or Watson was to accompany him aboard the convict ship “Stag”. Sloss went on to marry Sarah Murray at Fremantle on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1859. A month later, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1859 he received his Conditional Pardon. A little over a year later, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 1860, he left Western Australia, bound for Callao, just west of Peru’s capital of Lima, aboard the “Rubens”.

It seems that James and his companions were well seasoned lads. In the time between committing the offences and their apprehension, they frequented the many Gin-Shops that abounded in their neighbourhood. Although young, they all had previous convictions; the appeal to the judge for clemency fell on deaf ears.

Prior to the era of photography, and besides sketching, the convict was described, for identification purposes. James McClymans description reads:-

Name: James Lymant

Convict No # 3271

Occupation: (Potter) Labourer

Married / Single: S

Children: None

Height: 5 foot 2 inches

Hair: Dark brown

Eyes: dark hazel

Face: Round

Complexion: Fresh

Build: Middling stout

Distinguishing marks: J M S L S left arm (tattoo)

Ink ring, second finger, left hand

Now, returning to James McClymans in Western Australia. In those days there was no fencing on the properties and it was the shepherd’s responsibility to ensure that the sheep didn’t stray. This region was also notorious for the poisonous plant life that was endemic to the area. Part of the job was to ensure that the livestock were kept out of these areas. It was a lonely existence with the shepherd living rough and having to endure both hot and cool conditions. The bonus was that it taught many of the skills it takes to be a self employed farmer. The shepherding job was a mature age “apprenticeship” in

Western Australian agriculture that an ambitious Jeremiah, James' brother-in-law, thrived on.

In the ensuing years Johannah bore nine children, with only three attaining adulthood. Tragedy was to follow the McClymans family. Sometime in late 1880 her husband died, leaving her with three children at foot and pregnant with another. Johannah had to apply for Poor Relief from the York Courthouse, as her circumstances were desperate. Her two oldest children, William and Henry were placed in "Glenrowan Orphanage", more commonly known as St. Joseph's Orphanage, Subiaco. The orphanage had an association with Glenrowan and the Kelly gang because of its founder, Fr. (later Bishop) Matthew Gibney. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1879, a short while before William and Henry were institutionalized, the orphanage was badly damaged by lightning strike. Fr. Gibney received permission to tour the Eastern Colonies, giving so called "charity sermons" in an effort to raise restoration funds. He happened to be on the train that stopped at Glenrowan, Victoria at the height of the Kelly Gang siege. Ned Kelly had been captured whilst the balance of the gang members were held up in the Glenrowan Inn. So bad were Ned's injuries that Fr. Gibney gave last rites and heard Ned's confession. Police torched the Inn where the other members were held up. Gibney ignored the advice to stay away, entering the building only to find all the gang members dead. He was hailed a hero. The contrary view was widely held for (lack) of courage shown by the Police. It helped in filling the rebuilding subscription and allowed the orphanage to continue its operations.

Johannah was granted relief of one shilling per diadem (a day). Once she had given birth at the end of her confinement all relief payments were stopped in accordance with the recommendation of the Poor Relief Office in York. It is believed that Johannah and Obed raised Agnes and the young James until Johannah's death in 1888.

With no social security available in these times she hurriedly remarried. Johannah married Obediah Edom Hitchcock on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 1881 (arrived per "Simon Taylor"). Obediah would not accommodate the two older McClymans children, William and Henry, but relented in the case of the two youngest children. With the arrival of the two McClymans children, after Johannah's death in 1888, the population in the two-roomed house O'Driscoll dwelling, swelled to nine; two adults and seven children. Agnes McClymans, having being bought up in the same household, was particularly close to her O'Driscoll cousins, especially Catherine (Sermon), so much so that she was chosen as a bridesmaid at Catherine's wedding to Richard Sermon on 28<sup>th</sup> of January 1899. Agnes married some six months later to George Langdon.

The two older McClymans children, William (married Hannah Cook) and Henry (married Mary Jane McVee) had to be handed over to an orphanage for upbringing. The effect of the family disintegration, particularly for the families of the two older boys was very severe. A trail of broken families was to continue for generations to come.

Johannah's last born child, James, was born at "Shamrock Villa" on 23.03.1881. Her first husband, James McClymans, had died in late 1880, during the course of her pregnancy. Effectively the family bread winner had died and with the arrival of her last boy she had four children to care and provide for. For the time being she was forced to take refuge with Jeremiah, Catherine and their five children. "Shamrock Villa" must have been at breaking point with three adults and nine children in the confines of the two room house. A partial resolution wouldn't eventuate until she remarried in November 1881.

Johannah was to have two more children with her new husband, Obediah Hitchcock; Margaret Lavinia (1883) and Mary May (1884). Both children died in childhood aged 8 months and 11 months respectively. In the meantime Johannah and Obediah Hitchcock moved from the Boramin to Guildford where Obediah secured work as a gardener. A short time later Johannah was struck down with liver cancer. Catherine travelled to Perth (Guildford) to nurse her sister-in-law in her last days. On the 28<sup>th</sup> May 1888 Johannah died from the effects of the cirrhosis and was buried in plot 72 at the East Guildford cemetery. The East Guildford Cemetery was located at the corner of Helena Street and East Street. However the cemetery has closed and the land re-gazetted residential. A housing sub-division occupies the cemetery site. The problematic evidence of a headstone has disappeared, when the housing estate came into being.

James, Johannah's last born son who was being raised by Jeremiah and Catherine, died on 04.06.1892 from dropsy. The adoptive parents would have taken this death very hard as they had raised him from infancy. James (Jnr) is interred in the family grave in York along with his uncle and aunt, Jeremiah and Catherine O'Driscoll. (See page 65)

### **Discovering the identity of James McClymans**

Johannah Driscoll, as we know married James McClymans, at York on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 1866. However nothing was known about her husband, James. There was no passenger arrival list bearing his name. The entry in Rica Erickson's "Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians" did not list his parentage or his details of arrival in Western Australia. By contrast the details of his wife, Johannah were included. There was not a reference to a convict named McClymans or a close derivative of this name. James seems to have just appeared from nowhere.

#### **"Eastern Districts Chronicle"**

**Saturday 05.10.1878**

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#### **YORK COURT HOUSE**

(Before W. Cowan, Esq., R. M.)

Friday, Sept. 27, 1878.

**JAMES McCLEMENTS was summoned on the information of Thomas Maughan with unlawfully detaining his property. The case was dismissed for want of proof.**

There were nine children born to James and Johannah, many of whom bore the surname of McClements or a close likeness to this spelling.

Research into the register "Police Visitations to the York Settlers" has also verified that Jeremiah and James lived close to one another and that the quarterly entry for James had recorded his name as (Mc) Clements. James' name discontinued in this register, in the last quarter of 1880. It is quite apparent that this discontinuation coincides with his unregistered death at Seabrook, his domicile.

Laboriously the task of trawling through the local newspaper, "The Eastern Districts Chronicle" had to be undertaken, in an attempt to find any reference to him. Eventually an entry appeared in 1878, pertaining to a charge of unlawfully detaining the property of a complainant, Thomas Maughan, a fellow ticket of leave man #2354.

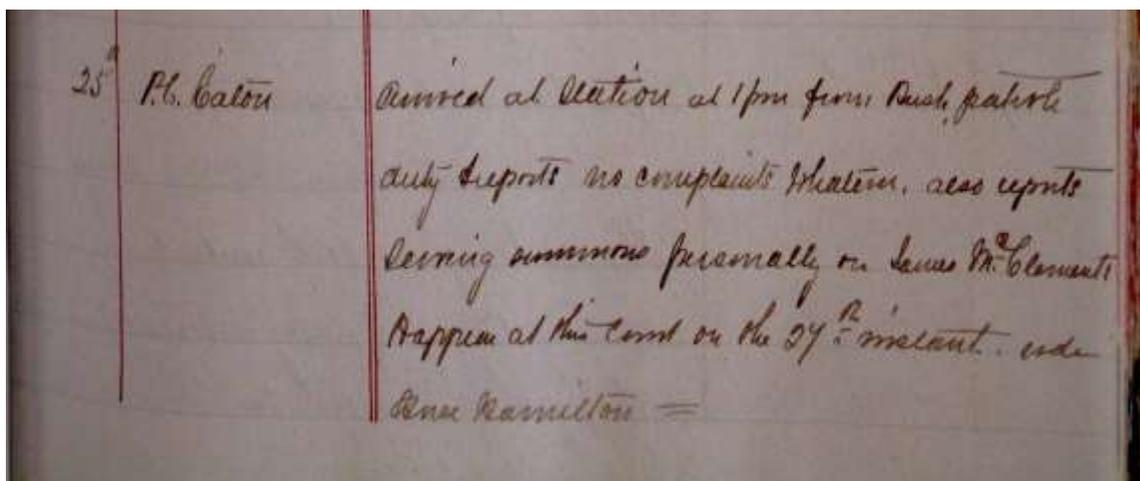
The trial and subsequent dismissal of the case appeared in the "Eastern Chronicle" on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 1878. A copy of this article appears above.

*Report of Occurrences at Sub Police station during the*

<i>Date</i>	<i>P.C. or Name</i>	<i>Nature of Occurrences</i>
<i>1878</i>		
<i>Sept 23</i>	<i>P.C. Eaton</i>	<i>Left Station at 9 1/2 am to Seabrook to serve summons on James McClements to appear at this Court on the 27<sup>th</sup> instant. Charged with unlawfully detaining sundry articles of clothing &amp;c the property of Thos Maughan also to visit settlers &amp; selectors. rode horse Hamilton</i>

**Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1878    P.C. Eaton    Left Station at 9.30 AM, to Seabrook serve Summons on James McClements to appear At this Court on the 27<sup>th</sup> instant. Charged With unlawfully detaining sundry articles Of clothing, the property of Thomas Maughan. Also to visit settlers and selectors. Rode (Police) horse Hamilton**

A search of the “State Records Office” reveals that there were three distinct entries in the York Police Occurrence Book for this offence. It is apparent that James was not personally served the summons as per the entry of 23<sup>rd</sup> of Sept. 1878. Probably Police Constable Eaton was admonished by his superior officer in York, for his oversight and sent back to Seabrook to personally serve the Summons. Shepherds normally yarded their sheep overnight at last light before retiring home to their families. In all probability P.C. Eaton had to ride his horse “Hamilton” the 18 kilometre trip to Seabrook (Boramin) arriving at dusk, in order to personally serve the summons on the 24<sup>th</sup> of Sept. Ironically he probably had to camp out overnight, or stay with the McClymans family, for the Occurrence Book reveals that he did not arrive back in York until 1 PM, the following day, from his bush patrol and summon-serving duties. Regardless, it did not leave James McClymans much time to prepare his defence. James was very familiar with the justice system, having endured at least two trials back in his native Scotland.

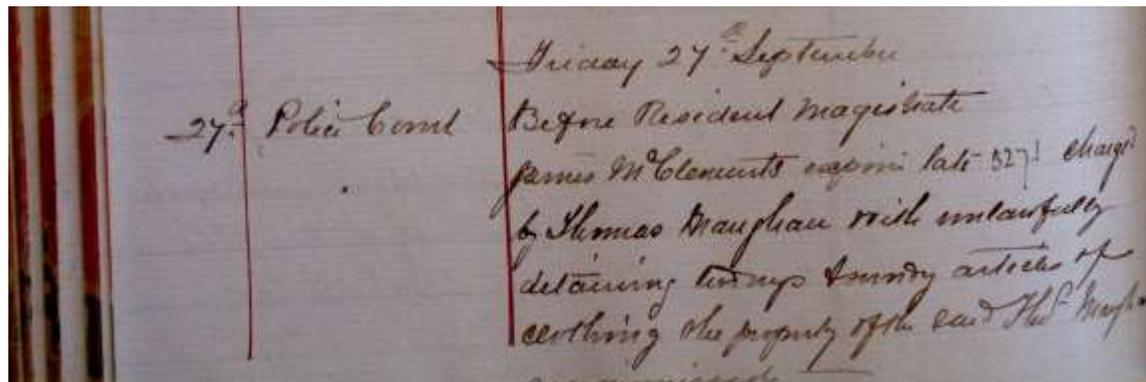


***Arrived at Station at 1 PM from Bush patrol duty & report no complaints whatever also report serving summons personally on James McClements to appear at this Court on the 27<sup>th</sup> instant. Rode horse Hamilton.***

. In reality with little financial support, he probably represented himself. If he did so, then the results were exemplary. The case was dismissed for want of evidence, which he must have exploited in his defence.

The consequences for being found guilty of any offence for a former convict were severe. A guilty verdict would probably have incurred a period of incarceration, a prospect that would have unsettled James. It would also have had severe repercussions on the welfare of his wife and family. As it happened, James died nearly two years, to the

day, after this trial, and the repercussions he had artfully avoided at the trial; came home to roost on his untimely death.



*27<sup>th</sup> Sept. Police Court*

*Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September  
Before Resident Magistrate  
James McClements expirée late 3271 charged  
by Thomas Maughan with unlawfully  
detaining & sundry articles of  
clothing the property of the said Thomas Maughan.  
Case dismissed.*

The final entry in the Police occurrence Book is the most vital clue. It states the fact that James McClements – “expirée, late 3271”, is a former convict. The entry below, an excerpt from the Convict register, solves the identification problem we have for James and has led to the discovery of the trial and prerogative court trial papers in Scotland.

**LYMANT (LYMONT McLYMONT McCLEMENT**  
etc) James (3271) 1835–c1880—Unm lab,  
semi lit Prot, conv Glasgow 1853 shop  
breaking 14yrs; arr *Stag* 23.5.1855  
TL30.12.1856 CP14.1.1860 CF30.1.1868  
York; Perth, Guildford. Mar Joanna  
DRISCOLL 22.10.1866 York RC.\*

In some ways this is a tale of two diverse families. Jeremiah’s story is largely about triumph and progression with a sparse sprinkling of misfortune. By contrast Johannah’s story is more about tragedy and loss, with moments of joy. Both shared the same Irish upbringing but the fate of their respective family fortunes could not have been more divergent. The other story about Michael O’Driscoll’s family (Cork City) has not developed sufficiently to draw a considered conclusion.

The uniqueness of the McClymans name guarantees that the lineage can be traced to James (Snr) and Johannah anywhere that it appears in Australia.

### **Interim Summation**

Johannah was born just prior to the start of the Irish Famine, in late 1844, being christened at St. Patrick's Cathedral Skibbereen on 01.01.1845. Doubtlessly, her parents and her siblings would have suffered terribly as a consequence of the famine. The potato famine didn't end until after 1850, some four years after its onset. It was a prolonged and dark chapter in Irish history and left bitter memories of the British apathy shown towards a desperate Ireland. The legacy of this bitterness is still evident to the present day.

The fate of her other siblings, Billing, twins Bets and Julia (their premature birth at 7 months casts doubts that they lived for any substantial period of time), Catherine, Mary, Jane, Timothy, Michael and Patrick is not fully known, in the aftermath of the famine. Almost certainly, six out of the eleven siblings died either in infancy, childhood or early adulthood. Of the five surviving siblings, Patrick and Catherine remained unmarried. Old Jerry and his City of Cork brother, Michael were to maintain the O'Driscoll lineage and Johannah to start the McClymans legacy throughout Australia.

It is not surprising that Johannah jumped at the first opportunity to leave the once, famine racked Ireland, as so many of her contemporaries did, for the new colonies. When glowing reports were published in the local press, enticing advertisements and a subsidized 10 shilling fare, were put on offer, Johannah secured her berth on the "Robert Morrison", embarking at London on the 26.11.1865 and disembarking at Fremantle on 07.03.1866. It was a so called "bride ship", transporting mainly young single females to the Swan River Colony, to correct the gender imbalance created by the onset of convict transportation. Unlike her brother, Jeremiah, Johannah was not destined to see the Emerald Isle again.

Jeremiah returned to his land of birth in 1909 for an extended stay, and to visit family and friends. His only surviving sibling would have been Patrick in Skibbereen. Michael O'Driscoll's children being Jeremiah's nephews and nieces lived in Cork City and he undoubtedly visited them when his ship docked in Cobh, the port town for Cork City. Apparently he found that conditions had changed too much in Skibbereen and Ireland generally and decided to return to his Australian home after a three month sojourn. The outward or return journey from Plymouth to Fremantle was documented. The newly commissioned "Otway", a steamer of over 12,000 tons and carrying over 1,000 passengers, left Plymouth on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1909 and arrived at Fremantle in early September 1909. It steamed out of Fremantle on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 1909 on its journey back to Britain. Jeremiah's description on the "Otway" manifest reads "Gentleman". This label doesn't denote a level of etiquette or class. Its significance is to denote that the passenger paid his own fare and as such would have travelled in 1<sup>st</sup> Class as opposed to Steerage (assisted-passenger) Class as he had done on his original trip on the "Hastings" in 1869. The term "Gentleman" probably grated with Jeremiah as he saw himself as one of the poor who through his own hard work had risen through the ranks. He had not forgotten his humble Irish beginnings and identified with, and championed, the cause of any perceived underclass, in an effort to mould a more egalitarian Australian culture.

### **Land and Emigration Commission- and- Bounty Agents**

Bounty Agents were used by Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commission, the government instrumentality charged with arranging subsidised travel for its citizens who wished to resettle in the colonies.

In March 1853 The Commissioners revised the rules of eligibility for Assisted Emigration. In the "Colonization Circular No 13" there is notice of funds, provided to the British Emigration Commissioners, by Colonial revenues, for assisted passage for New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia (also stated, for the moment is that funds were also available for Western Australia and Van Dieman's Land, but no funds available for assisting those wishing to emigrate to North American Colonies). The rules for those wishing to apply were laid out thus:-

#### *Passages to Australia*

*The following are the regulations and conditions under which emigrants are to be selected for passages to the Australian Colonies, when there are funds available for the purpose.*

#### *Qualifications of Emigrants*

*1) The Emigrants must be of those callings which from time to time are most in demand in the Colony. They must be sober, industrious, of general good moral character, and have been in the habit of working for wages, and going out to do so in the colony, of all of which decisive certificates will be required. They must also be in good health, free from all bodily or mental defects, and the adults must be in all respects be capable of labour and going out to work for wages, at the occupation specified on their Application Forms. The candidates who will receive a preference are respectable young women trained to domestic or farm service, and families in which there is a preponderance of females.*

*2) The separation of husbands and wives and of parents from children under 18 will in no case be allowed.*

*3) Single women under 18 cannot be taken without their parents, unless they go under the immediate care of some near relative. Single women over 35 years of age are ineligible. Single women with illegitimate children can in no case be taken.*

*4) Single men cannot be taken unless they are sons in eligible families, containing at least a corresponding number of daughters.*

*5) Families in which there are more than 2 children under 7, or 3 children under 10 years of age, or in which the sons outnumber the daughters, widowers, and widows with young children, persons who intend to resort to the gold fields, to buy land, or to invest capital in trade, or who are in the habitual receipt of parish relief, or who have not been vaccinated or not had the small-pox, cannot be accepted.*

The Commissioners were wary of applicants with assumed names. Young females in Ireland sometimes applied for passages out to Australia, and on receiving their embarkation orders; their parents refused to let them go, so they re-applied with an alias name. Alternatively, others had friends whose interest was sufficient to procure free passages. The girls would apply, and if successful, sell their orders for a premium of five shillings.

The Commissioners employed Bounty Agents to select suitable emigrants. The bounty agents were remunerated on the number of approved successful relocations. The term Assisted Immigrant means that all, or the vast majority, of the total fare was paid for by the Commissioners. Upon arrival, employment advice and other transitional matters were provided as well. The ultimate goal was to have as many people in the colony being productive to enable macro self sustenance.

In return, the agents were paid money by the government for each person they supplied to the colony. One of the more prominent agents was a firm called Carter and Bonus of 11 Leadenhall Street, London, nowadays the site of a Starbucks Café franchise. They were allied with the British East India Company. For instance in 1844 this agent was paid 18 Pound 14 Shillings per Statute adult they successfully handled. In all probability, both Johannah and Jeremiah & family were signed-up by this Emigration agent or a body very similar to this. In most cases the prospective emigrant heard about the scheme through newspaper advertisements and was subsequently signed up on behalf of the Commission.

### **Jeremiah, Catherine and Timothy- Australia bound**

Family folklore again fills in the knowledge void, of why Jeremiah chose to immigrate. Once Johannah had settled into her new surroundings, at Seabrook (Grass Valley area) of Western Australia, she contacted her brother, and gave a glowing report of “a land of milk and honey” at her new abode. Upon receiving this advice, Jeremiah, Catherine and infant Timothy were signed up with the same sponsor (Brockman) and the same indentureship terms, his new occupation being, shepherd. One of the clauses of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commission regulations said, in part, an emigrant is “...under an indenture to serve for two years an employer who will repay to the Colonial Government such balance (cost of the fare), and deduct it by eight quarterly instalments out of the emigrant’s wages...”

Nothing is known of the travel arrangements that were made by the Land and Emigration Commission, excepting the London to Fremantle sailing leg. The railway line from Cork City to Skibbereen was only completed in 1877, some 8 years after they had left Ireland. At the time of the family’s departure from Ireland (1869), the rail line had only reached Dunmanway, some 26 mile (42 KM) short of Skibbereen.

An extract from the *West Carbery Eagle* on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1873 states:

*‘The tide of emigration is setting in this season with unabated vigour. Forty-six of the youth of both sexes – twenty-two from Bantry and twenty-four from Skibbereen –*

*having passed through Drimoleague and Dunmanway for Queenstown, on Monday last. The numbers from Skibbereen occupied two of Mr. Marmion's long cars. The usual wailing of friends and relatives accompanied the departure, whilst those leaving, cheered and waived their handkerchiefs as the cars passed through Bridge, Main and North Streets, their friends running wildly after the cars until they disappeared from view. A great many of those who left were sent for by their friends in America. It is expected that a considerable number will leave during the summer whose passages have been paid by their friends at the other side of the Atlantic. On Wednesday a similar scene was witnessed here."*

I suspect that the scenes described in the article above, would have been reminiscent of Jeremiah, Catherine and Timothy's departure from Skibbereen. Regardless of the mode of transport, be it coach, train or ship, the Port of Queenstown (nowadays known as Cobh, Cork City's port) was the initial destination, then boarding another ship to the Port of London. The excitement and apprehension would have been electric.

Nevertheless the "Hastings" departed London on the 17.04.1869, the full fare being 15 English Pounds per adult, with 44 Irish and 25 English passengers, bound for Fremantle, arriving on 26.07.1869. Besides the clothing essentials, little is known of the personal effects they carried, excepting for a shillelagh (a traditional Irish stout club or cudgel) and a gold plated Cross and Communion set complete with chalice, wine and water crucibles, inset in its own wooden carry case. Neither item has survived to the present day. Both were probably given as departing gifts, and a keepsake remembrance of "the old country".

### **Settling into a Shepherds life**

The 77 mile (123 Km) journey to Seabrook was probably traversed by foot on their way to Edmund Ralph Brockman's "Seabrook" and "Booramin" farms. The farm "Seabrook" gave its name to the locality around the farm and the unnamed districts beyond.

William Locke Brockman, Edmund's father purchased this property for his 18 year old son in 1841. It is interesting to note that the name "Seabrook" was a derivative of the former name of the Mortlock River. The Mortlock was formerly known as "Salt River". Sea (Salt) brook (River) was and still is the locality around where Mulakine Road intersects the York-Northam Road at the Mortlock River bridge crossing. Seabrook locality originally took in the farm at "Shamrock Villa" and the Boramin area; but these days it is restricted more to the immediate locality around the river crossing and the small settlement nearby. The locality of Boramin has nowadays ceased to exist, being supplanted by the locality of Grass Valley.

In the local Aboriginal Noongar language, Bor was the name for the Australian Grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea Presissi*). Literally, Boramin means, "the place of (many) Grass Trees. There is little wonder that the original roof at "Shamrock Villa" was made from Grass Tree quills as the area obviously had an abundance of this species.

The remnant stone ruins can now hardly be recognized, however the well, equipped with a windmill, still serves its original purpose. It was at this location that the family's second son, Patrick, was born (17.06.1871). Patrick, as a toddler, was saved

from drowning in the well by his vigilant mother. So we can safely say the family stayed at the Boramin till late 1872 / early 1873. This gives us a clue that Jeremiah continued his employment with Edmund Ralph Brockman, even after the two year term of his indentureship had expired which would have been around August 1871. An application for a conditional purchase lease over the 100 acre Avon Location 7274 later named “Shamrock Villa” was made in 1871, following the indentureship expiry



The Boramin cottage would have been similar, maybe larger in size than this modest one room dwelling, which has remained remarkably “intact” with its original earthen floors and glassless, shuttered windows. Virtually nothing remains of the Boramin cottage, except the corner and some foundation stones and some glass and cast iron artifacts. This shepherd’s cottage is still standing today. It is situated about 5 kilometres from the Boramin site, as the crow flies, adjacent to Carter Road.

It has been discovered that there were at least two, maybe three stone cottages immediately to the east of Boramin Well. The presumption is that the McClymans’ occupied one of these humble cottages nearby. They would have been grouped in this fashion, close to the Boramin Well water source. The ruins of all these cottages on the hillside is carefully disguised, as they look for all intents and purposes like the many other stone heaps sprinkled liberally in the vicinity. The remnant glass fragments, some rusted tin, pick and adze artifacts, broken crockery, rusted bed rails and the flat rock foundation stones are all tell-tale evidence of the cottages existence and the presence of its inhabitants. The closest cottage is about 120 metres east and uphill from the Boramin Creek, well and windmill. The well provides water year round, throughout the dry summer months and would have been a favoured spot to build a shepherds settlement.



Ruins of Boramin Cottage – Jeremiah and Catherine’s first home.

On arrival at Boramin, Jeremiah and Catherine were supplied with a small stone cottage a short distance east and uphill, from Boramin Well, on the property called “Horse Hill”.



The author at Boramin Well and windmill 10.01.2011

The following, are excerpts from Brian Peachey’s book “Unbroken Spirit” – The life of William Boxal Convict #3744 (contemporaries of Jeremiah and Catherine), which gives us an insight into a shepherd life and the preparations he must undertake before he embarks on a career as a farmer in his own right. It states in part:

*1) The common wages paid to (ticket of leave) labourers was about eight shillings a week and keep.*

*2) Because of the shortage of cash, many pastoralists often remunerated good shepherds with a portion of the increase in the flock that they husbanded. This would have only been suitable to those shepherds who had secured leases or freehold land or were prepared to squat on unclaimed land and had erected a fold in which to keep sheep. Many shepherds did graze their stock without permission on unclaimed land and on land leased or owned by pastoralists.*

3) *There were, however, certain prerequisites that a man had to possess before he could acquire land and stock. A good horse, saddle and bridle were a priority to enable him to travel with any efficient use of time. The horse would also have to be suitable for pulling a cart and plough, which needed harness and some form of wagon.*

4) *To grow any sort of crop he would have had to acquire or borrow a single-blade plough. There was a need to purchase basic implements, such as an axe, adze, cross-cut saw, sledge hammer and wedges, a shovel and sundry other tools. These were essential for him to construct the primitive, typical slab-built or mud-brick accommodation and to erect fencing.*

5) *Once laid on the stone foundation, the mud bricks were plastered. As Peter Cunningham recorded: "This plaster is composed of alluvial soil, mixed with a portion of cow dung to prevent it from cracking and with chopped grass to enable it to adhere, the coat being put on with a light spade... On being quite dry, white-washed with, plaster of paris or ashes and sour milk..."*

6) *The method of construction would have again been to first dig a well (or in our case a soak) into the creek bed during the dry season. The slurry of extracted clay was mixed in a wooden trough and shoveled into wooden box moulds; when set, left to dry on a flat area of ground. This arduous work had to be done during the summer. The magnitude of the task can be gauged by an estimate of the amount of clay required for the bricks, which was more than twenty tons. An additional ten tons was used in the compacted floor, which had to be thick enough to insulate the home from dampness and cold in winter.*

7) *The stone used in the foundations was readily available, but had to be gathered by hand, would have weighed about 25 tons.*

8) *It is likely that flattened bark (in our case, Blackboy quills) was used for the roof. Although corrugated iron sheeting was available in the colony, it was expensive and the cost would have eaten into the cash that was being saved to purchase land.*

9) *A good fireplace and chimney were essential. These were made of field stone, which was plentiful, cemented with a slurry of clay soil and lime. Lime could be readily purchased in Perth for ten pence a bushel.*

10) *Window openings would have had wooden shutters. Framed glass was both scarce and expensive. The floors of most similar homes were usually a mix of clay and green cowdung, rammed firm and rubbed to make a hard smooth surface."*

*The old hand told me how to build a clean dirt floor;  
Beat it hard with spades and tread of feet,  
Then soak green cow dung and sweep again,  
Now sprinkle water, fire and clean creek sand,  
And sometimes strew with cool green leaves;  
Sprinkle and sweep it twice a day  
Until, clean and sweet and hard,  
It gleams, black, polished like a board.*

10) *Ten acres of crop was about as much as one man, working on his own could have managed. With good rains and without the use of fertilizers, ten acres ... could produce as much as thirty bags of wheat, which would last a family for a year. Land was rarely cropped again the following year; had it been so the yield would have been poor.*

*The settlers then lacked the knowledge – even if seed was available – that the sowing of legumes, such as clover, lupins and medic restored nitrogen to the soil. New land was cleared, burnt, ploughed and sown each year.*

*11) Once the land was cleared and stumps burnt, the planting of a crop of wheat, oats or barley would have been a long and physically demanding task. Ploughing was done with a horse drawn, single blade, hand held plough. Seed was broadcast by hand into the ploughed furrows. The ripened crop was cut by scythe, raked with a wide wooden rake with wrought iron prongs... and the stooks bound with a twine made from twisted stalks.*

*12) The harvest was threshed with a wooden flail on a stone and clay floor and the wheat gathered and stored in bags. The hay would have been stacked for feed for the stock. An implement of high priority but expensive, would have been a chaff-cutter to provide feed for the milking cows and horses.”*

Even after the family had settled into the new farm at “Shamrock Villa” it was incumbent on Catherine to walk back to the reliable water source of the Boramin Well and “yoke” back two buckets of water for their daily domestic use. It was not until a soak was built closer to their house on “Shamrock Villa” that the daily trudge to the Boramin discontinued.

The origin of the farm name, “Shamrock Villa”, is not known but it seems that there is probably a connection to a place in or around Skibbereen / Baltimore. Maybe it was the name of his father’s (Timothy) tenant holding back in Poundlick, Ireland?

It was apparent that the family would require an ongoing income, until such time as farm improvements were made on their newly acquired property, and a positive cash flow was generated from farming activities. Their nearest neighbours were James and Johannah McClymans (and their young family), Jeremiah’s brother-in-law and sister respectively, who worked on the same “Booramin” and “Seabrook” farms, as fellow shepherds. Their cottages were located in close proximity to one another on the Boramin hillside.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1872 at Herne Hill WA, William Locke Brockman, father of Edmund Ralph Brockman, died. Soon after his fathers demise Edmund Ralph Brockman, Jeremiah’s employer decided to sell his farming interests in the “Seabrook” farm and purchased a property adjacent to his deceased fathers place at Herne Hill. The timing was perfect, as Jeremiah’s indentureship was at a close and he was developing his “Shamrock Villa” holding. Leastways we know that when Jeremiah and Catherine’s daughter, Mary was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1873, it was at Muchakine Gully. This being the location of their new farm, “Shamrock Villa”.

It is presumed that James and Johannah McClymans continued their employment with Brockman or the new owner of “Seabrook” farm after the O’Driscoll’s had purchased “Shamrock Villa”.

Edmund Ralph Brockman in later years, became a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) in Western Australia’s Parliament. Jeremiah and Brockman’s paths would cross each others at the Agricultural Royal Commission, many years in the future. It seems ironical that Brockman was to choose Jeremiah to give his opinions on the state of agriculture in Western Australia, given that he had himself sponsored the Irish immigrant himself in 1869 and given him his original grounding in the industry. The wheel seems to have turned a full rotation (see page 55 and 56).

## Farming at “Shamrock Villa”

Some time shortly after the expiration of his indentureship, Jeremiah applied for and was granted a conditional purchase lease over 100 acres of land which he later named “Shamrock Villa”. It bordered on the east side of Brockman’s farm, with the Muchakine (sometimes referred to as Muckrakine) Gully running through its entire length. It is believed that these various names, including Sermon’s adjoining farm of “Moogakine” were a derivative of the native word “Moodjar or Mudjar” which was the name of the species, “Christmas Tree”, bearing the botanical name *Nuytsia Floribunda*. The power station and mine at Collie bears another corrupted title, Muja. It is therefore “the place of (many) Christmas trees”.

This “selection” was virgin bush, comprised mainly of York Gum (*eucalyptus loxophelba* or in Noongar language, Djaawit”), jam tree (*acacia acuminata*, in Noongar “Mangart”), the gum that extruded from the bark was commonly called Manna Gum, obviously a compression of the longer word Mangart, Gimlet (*eucalyptus salubris*, in Noongar “Ngarrip”), and the Australian Grass Tree commonly called ‘Blackboy’, (*xanthorrhoea preissii*, in Noongar, “Bor”). Jam trees owed their name to the aroma they produced when they were sawn or cut down. The smell was likened to that of raspberry jam. Bush potatoes, which could be found in the woodlands reserve of the “Clover Paddock”, and it had the Noongar title “Djubak or Kona” and the botanical name *Platysace Cirrosa*”



Australian Grass Tree *Xanthorrhoea Preissii*

The family had to fence the property, using jam tree posts, build a house and clear the land before they could till the land for cropping. It was all manual, back breaking work, subsistence agriculture in the main, with cash being obtained from grain crops and livestock sales. It is interesting to note that moulds were made, to manufacture mud bricks on site. Once they were sufficiently dry enough to remove from the mould, they were sun cured, ready for the construction phase. Cash was at a premium in these pioneering days. Much of the materials in the house construction, like mud bricks, roofing timber and grass tree (blackboy) rushes or quills were procured or manufactured by the family and even built on site by themselves. The resultant house would have been “rough” by modern standards, but made homely by its occupants. Undoubtedly, in earlier times, Jeremiah would have helped build family houses in rural Ireland. This prior experience would have been a boon for this fledgling farming family.

Fencing the property was a priority. Log fences were first used around the farm perimeter. Also used was a system of fencing known as the “Harper Fence”, in recognition of Charles Harper (b 15.07.1842 Toodyay WA d 20.04.1912 Woodbridge, Guildford), a Beverley farmer, who first used this method. This consisted of (jam) rails laid, one on top of the other, and held in place by two upright posts, bound at the top by greenhide thongs, then at later times by a wire twitch. The intervals between the posts were four foot six inches (1.370 metres) and the post holes were dug to a depth of 22 inches (0.560 metres). It was very time consuming work but it had the advantage of being cheap in terms of capital outlay. The raw material, jam trees were harvested from the cleared land and the greenhide from the slaughtered cattle reared to support the family. The stockyards adjacent to the dwellings at “Shamrock Villa” still retained the Harper fencing system, up until the 1960’s, when they were eventually demolished. The accompanying photograph of Marie (O’Driscoll) Sherrington (6 year old Granddaughter of Jeremiah), at “Shamrock Villa”, reclining on the “house” cow, perfectly illustrates the early fencing methods used around the stockyards and barn.

Logs and remnant vegetation were cleared and stacked in rows, as a type of barricade, to stop stock from straying. It was a cheap type of fencing and a good repository for the cleared timber. When a decision to construct a more permanent fence was made, then this combustible barricade was simply burnt, to make way for other fencing systems.

A Crown Grant, for the land, was issued on completion of the nominated improvements and payment of the prescribed leasing fees. This gave them freehold title, called a Crown Grant to the land. During Jeremiah’s (Snr) tenure, the landholding increased to over 600 acres. The original holding, even to today, is referred to as the “Old Place”, although it was officially called “Shamrock Villa”. It was often called by the incorrect title “Shamrockville”

One of the Land Department’s documents to survive was the handwritten application by Jeremiah in 1878, for a 60 acre virgin block, on the south east of the original holding. The writing style closely resembles that of James McClymans!

Northam Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 1878

*The Land Surveyor Office Perth.*

*Sir,*

*I wish to take up the piece of land I have endeavoured too (sic) map out.*

*It lies (sic) on the south east of my present lease No 7274 Avon Location. There is a block of about 60 acres, not taken up, from the road joining E.R. Brockman's land (and) joining Carter (Road) on one side & my own line & the New surveyed road.*

*Please let me know if I can have the land on a lease as that is all the unoccupied land there is near mine and I am poor & do not wish to lose that bit. Please let me know what the rent will be yearly so I can remit the half yearly rent at once.*

*I remain,*

*Your humble servant.*

*Jeremiah Driscoll*

*Address*

*Jeremiah Driscoll*

*Seabrook Nr Northam.*

Battye Library Accession: SDUR D4 371

Patrick O'Driscoll



.Marie Therese O’Driscoll, reclining on a cow at “Shamrock Villa”, Grass Valley



### **Farming life**

Exactly to the day in 1969, the O’Driscoll’s celebrated the centenary of Jeremiah, Catherine and Timothy’s arrival. The “Northam Advertiser” edition of 14.08.1969 devoted an article to the celebrations. It quoted Jeremiah’s only capital assets were a billy can, an axe and plenty of courage. The first few bushels of wheat, produced on “Shamrock Villa” were made into bread. In good old Irish tradition, part of the barley crop was fermented into beer (probably a porter or stout), in keeping with his brewing background. The homestead was a mud brick house of two very large rooms, but with only one doorway leading to the outside. There was no sawn timber in the constructed house, mainly bush timber. The rafters were constructed of “gimlet” and touched up using a broad axe to make the sides flat. Gimlet is a eucalypt with a smooth reddish brown, almost copper coloured bark, sometimes with multiple trunks, growing up to 18 metres (60 feet) in height, crowned at the top with deep green leaves. Selected for its uniform slender girth size, its hardness and durability, it was easy for bush carpenters to shape it, in the absence of mechanical milling equipment. Its “Achilles Heel” was that it was susceptible to termite attack. Using gimlet for rafters, well above the ground, reduced this risk of white ant infestation. The house had a mud or clay floor, which was intermittently watered, to keep the dust down. Watering also had the effect of bringing the clay to the surface, creating a hard concrete-like shiny crust which made brooming easier. The roof was thatched with blackboy rushes (the quills of the so called Grass Tree – *Xanthorrhoea Preissii*), as a means of weatherproofing the dwelling. Later on, a galvanized iron roof, fixed down with lead headed spring nails, replaced the thatched roof. It had an internal fire place, but no oven, so cooking was done on an outside fire, using camp ovens. The camp oven was usually placed on the coals of a fire, with the remnant coal base shoveled over the sides and lid. Meals were mostly grilled, fried or pot roasted. Pot roasting was an art, all of its own, as a camp oven required a high degree of

cooking skill. The cooking utensils and methods in Ireland and Australia were almost identical.

The dwelling had two large rooms, interconnected inside, to accommodate the parents and five children. This building was orientated north-south, as was Jeremiah Junior's later house. The original dwelling lay some 50 metres to the east, downhill from the second building, and offset to the north of it. The southern side gable roofline was extended past the building proper, as a verandah shelter. This verandah was propped up with bush poles. The entrance to the house was under this verandah, with the doorway located centrally. The southern entrance was probably a mistake and a throwback to their Irish customs. It was probably the worst quarter for light and the weather. In the northern hemisphere houses usually have their entrances facing south to maximize the light. The reverse is true for the southern hemisphere where a northern aspect is preferred. This anomaly was corrected with the construction of the second house. To the west of the house, close by, was a small sulky (horse drawn spring cart) shed, with the open side facing south. A small fig tree grew next to the sulky shed. The stables and a 100 foot by 30 foot barn were situated adjacent to the stockyards, and south of the house, with the opening towards the east. The northern section of the barn was enclosed and used as living quarters from time to time. It is evident that the two roomed original dwelling was too small to accommodate everyone in the household. The overflow probably gravitated to the barn. The house had no formal kitchen, meaning food was prepared on the verandah and stored inside in a meat safe or a "Coolgardie Safe". Needless to say it had no running water and lighting was by lamp or candle. It would have been cramped, with privacy at a premium; a typical pioneer set up; not for the faint of heart or self conscious.

Jeremiah (Snr) lived at the original house until his death in 1911. At a later time Hughie Connole, the farm foreman occupied the house. In 1928 the family purchased "Horse Hill". Everyone, with the exception of Kevin O'Driscoll (Jeremiah Jnr's son), moved to the newly acquired farm. It is not known when these houses were finally vacated. Hughie Connole was probably the last resident of the original house and he probably vacated it in the late 1930's / mid 1940's. By the 1950's no sign existed of this dwelling, barring the lone fig tree and the sulky shed.



Marie O'Driscoll aged 6 in front of the original two roomed house.

At some point in time, Kevin O'Driscoll vacated his parent's house (Jeremiah Jnr's house) at "Shamrock Villa", and lived at "Horse Hill" with his brother Bernard and sister-in-law, Nell and their family.

Life for the women of the household was very tough. Each day Catherine would rise at four in the morning and trudge several miles through virgin bushland back to her old stamping ground at Boramin Well, carrying two, two gallon buckets, slung over one shoulder to collect the daily ration.

Every Saturday Catherine and Jeremiah would walk 16 or 17 miles (27 Km) to York. The weekly trip probably served many purposes. It gave the couple the opportunity to carry produce (or skins) etc. to York to sell or trade. On Saturday they would purchase their weekly stores. That night they could indulge in a little socializing, attend Sunday morning Mass and then haul the stores back home and relieve their oldest son Timothy of his baby sitting duties.

They knew where to cross the Mortlock River and just how much they could carry home. Folklore also tells us that on another occasion, Jeremiah and 14 year old Timothy walked via York, St Ronan's Well, Half-way House (The Lakes), Mahogany Creek and Greenmount, on route to Guildford (an eastern outpost of Perth). It was a round trip of over 180 Km. It took 2 days by foot to reach Guildford, and 3 days to return home, carrying 100 lb and 25 lb (45 Kg and 11 Kg) of flour respectively.

Folklore also tells us that the local aboriginal tribe (Noongar) contracted measles and were consumed with fever. In order to cool off they decided to bathe in the Muchakine Gully creek. The shock from immersion and the lack of immunity from this introduced disease, resulted in the death of many of them. It is apparent that the aborigines were still nomadic at the outbreak of this disease and vast tracts of virgin bush still existed on the southern side of Boundary Road / New Line Road (Carter Road), opposite their "Shamrock Villa" holding and elsewhere in the district. This was the second measles outbreak in Western Australia, the first being in 1841. This epidemic probably occurred in 1883, rapidly spreading from colonist to the indigenous population, with dire consequences for the latter.

Several newspaper references to Jeremiah and Catherine have survived. On the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September 1887, Governor Broome announced the creation of a Royal Commission into the state of agriculture in Western Australia. The results of the inquiry were published and tabled in Parliament in 1891. It took several years for information gathered at the Commission to be published in the press. Appointed to the Agriculture Commission were Messrs. Henry Whittall Venn, Edmund Ralph Brockman, Alexander Robert Richardson, all of whom were members of the Western Australian Parliament (Member of the Legislative Council – MLC's), together with John Henry Monger and Walter Padbury.

It is interesting to note that Edmund Ralph Brockman was one of the Commissioners at the inquiry. He of course sponsored Jeremiah and Catherine, as assisted migrants, to come from Ireland to Western Australia. It is therefore not surprising that two old identities, Jeremiah Driscoll and William Sermon were summons to give evidence at these Commission hearings.



Bernard O'Driscoll



Left to right: C 1937 at "Horse Hill" farm  
Hughie Connole, Kevin O'Driscoll, Bernard O'Driscoll, Marie O'Driscoll  
John McBreen Moore (cousin), Robbie O'Driscoll, Tom O'Driscoll,  
Seated: Emily O'Driscoll

Brockman appears to be a vexatious character with legal altercations, in the Supreme Court, with several neighbours including William Sermon and then William Haddrill of Herne Hill. Sheep stealing charges and trespass and fence damage charges were lost on both occasions, respectively by Edmund Ralph Brockman. It is to William Sermon's credit that he conducted himself with such constraint with a man like Brockman. The Supreme Court action would have been devastating to an ex convict with severe ramifications, had Brockman's actions been successful. It had the potential to ruin William Sermon.

The Northam hearings were conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1887, as reported by the *Western Mail* newspaper on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1887. Jeremiah was described as a successful farmer.

Years later an article was published, shedding some light into the workings of this Commission.

**“The West Australian”**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of February 1909, page 6**  
**An Ancient Agriculture Commission**  
**Wisdom, Folly and Humour**

*“...Mr. Sermon said he wouldn't care to sell wheat under 4s 6d or 5s – “That is the lowest price it would pay me, and I reckon my land is better than most people's for growing wheat”. Asked what would be the result if wheat went down to 3s 9d, he said farmers would be out of pocket. His experiences with ensilage are quaintly reported. “Last year I made a pit of it and it came out like a lot of dung, but when the cows and pigs began to get the taste of it I'm bothered if they would eat anything else. I daresay it would answer very well if you went the right way about it. My cows used to leave their cracked wheat and go to the blessed stuff...Some of my neighbours saw it, but they didn't say much about it.” What a wealth of unconscious humour lurks in that last sentence.*

*Mr. J Driscoll who described himself as a cockatoo farmer, must have given the Commission trouble to maintain a gravity becoming the dignity of the occasion. At the request of the Commission he gave his experience in farming.*

*“Well Sir, I came out in 1869 and took up a 100 acres tillage lease. I started upon that without as much as would go in your eye, but by my own labour entirely, working late and early from 4 o'clock in the morning and by moonlight. I struggled on, and now I have 600 acres of my own. I have my two horses, a spick-and-span new cart, my little flock of sheep, and I owe no man anything. If I was 50 pounds in debt I would go mad. If I had a little assistance to get a grubbing machine, one of those 'forest devils', instead of a man clearing 19 acres he would clear 20 or 25 acres per year. But a poor man cannot get these things, and that's what keeps the poor man down. He is the flower of the country, but he is kept down for want of money.” And asked if he had any poultry he said,*

*“About 50; if I had my way I wouldn’t own either goats or poultry, but the ‘old woman’ will have them”*

*The Commission then asked him if there was money to be lent at 6%, would he mortgage his land and borrow a hundred or two.*

*Mr. Jeremiah Driscoll said he would never pay interest. “It’s the interest on money and the booking system of this country that is keeping the poor man down. He could sell wheat at 4s, If only I had the price of a grubbing machine.”*

*He was asked if he thought other farmers could pay for the accommodation of borrowed money.*

*“The Lord knows” said he; “From one year’s end to another they are ‘dragging the bull by the tail’”*

*“At any rate” said the Chairman of the Commission, “You have not done so badly without borrowing.”*

*“No, thank God” was the reply, “if I could only get a grubbing machine.”*

*Whether Mr. Driscoll eventually got his one desire, a ‘forest devil’, or not, is not revealed by the report”.*

Jeremiah’s obvious mischievous sense of humour was not lost on the Commission, or the reporter.

Other newspaper references from this time have come to light.

**“The West Australian”**  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 1887 page 3**

**Tender Accepted**

*Jeremiah Driscoll’s tender to clear one and a half miles of the Boundary Road, according to specifications at 1s 6d per chain.*

This is evidence that the family took on outside work to supplement the farm cash flow.

**The “Western Mail”**  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1887**

**Northam Road Board**

**Accounts Paid**

*Jeremiah Driscoll 5 Pounds 8 Shillings, being for clearing 7 chains at 1 Shilling 6 Pence per chain.*

**“The West Australian”**  
**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 1891 page 2**

**Northam Road Board**

*A letter from Jeremiah Driscoll was read, requesting permission to install gates on the terminus of Boramin Road (at Boundary Rd / Carter Rd) to the south of his property and on the north end of his property, bordering Sermon’s property. The request was granted.*

. Obviously the access track used to gain entry to “Shamrock Villa” had been formerly gazetted into a public roadway named Boramin Road. It required permission to place gates on a public road. This submission formalized this arrangement, and allowed public access to connect the extension of Boramin Road to Boundary or New Line Road, which at a later time was renamed Carter Road. These gateways and gates are not evident today as there have been road resumptions and farm re-fencing.

**“The West Australian”**  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 1892 page 2**

**To the editor**

Jeremiah signed a petition, along with 19 other signatories, petitioning the government to have the proposed Yilgarn (Kalgoorlie) rail line pass through Northam, and by inference, Grass Valley, in lieu of through York.

The petitioner’s wishes were granted, and the rail line passes Grass Valley on its way to the Kalgoorlie Goldfields and links to Adelaide and the other Eastern State Capitals.

**“Western Mail Saturday 24.11.1900”**  
**Telegram from the Mayor of Northam**

*“The Minister of Lands received a telegram on Wednesday from the Mayor of Northam (Mr. Lionel Throssell) in reference to a fire. The Mayor, in his communication, stated that the greatest fire ever known in the Eastern Districts was then raging. It had swept across the Muresk Estate, the property of Mr. Andrew Dempster, thence to the Seabrook Estate, thence across the main York Road, and across the Salt River, burning some of the Seabrook paddocks en route, and destroying eighty tons of hay and 600 bushels of wheat, together with 25 tons of hay in another field, the property of Mr. A Martin. The fire, at the time the telegram was lodged at Northam – 10 a.m. on Tuesday – was raging round Messrs. Driscoll’s and Sermon’s farms, and grave fears were entertained as to whether the adjoining farms could be saved. The people were turning out in large numbers, and every effort was being made to check the conflagration.”*

This must have been a tense and frightening time for Jeremiah and Catherine. The efforts to better themselves in this far flung country may have been made in vain, if the fire had destroyed his house, improvements, livestock, hay, wheat and pasture. There are no other reports of destruction. We know that the major assets of house, barns and

fencing survived the inferno. However the experience would have been unsettling, even for the most seasoned farmers. Not to dramatize it too much, but it would have been truly backs-to- the wall, to fight for one's survival.

Jeremiah actively farmed "Shamrock Villa" for thirty six years, (semi) retiring in 1907, and was reputed to be a very strong man in his younger days. He could lift great weights of wheat or machinery. He was tall, over six foot, very erect and of a pleasant disposition. Jeremiah handed over "Shamrock Villa" to his youngest son Jeremiah in 1907. "Old Jerry" as he was called remained in the original dwelling and helped with the farming operations until his death in 1911.

Catherine was a small lady, similar to Jeremiah in that she was unafraid of hard work. Besides housework, domestic duties and rearing 5 of her own children, and two adopted McClymans youngsters, she also helped Jeremiah in her spare time. Catherine could use a hand scythe very well, cutting the green crop, gathering it into bundles, and then stacking it in large heaps for later feed out.



The author operating a "Binder", making sheaved hay, on the house block at "Shamrock Villa", with the Muchakine Creek following the tree line in the background. This is probably the same area of land where Jeremiah and Catherine grew their first crop, and where Catherine helped with hand scything the hay into bundles. A binder, in later times performs this same task, with the added benefit of mechanical innovation. A binder was beyond the resources of the original farming settlers of the earlier generations.

## The next generation

Timothy Driscoll O'Driscoll as has been previously stated was born in Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland. He was the last Irish born child. Patrick, Timothy's younger brother was born at the stone shepherd's cottage above the Boramin well. Jeremiah's shepherding indentureship was just about to finish at this time. Mary, Catherine (Jnr) and Jeremiah (Jnr) were all born at "Shamrock Villa" on the Muchakine Gully. The timing of these children gives us a good indication of the transition from the shepherding life, to that of the fledgling farmer. The two roomed house had been constructed by the time Mary was born on 31. 07.1873.

### **Children of Jeremiah and Catherine**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1) Timothy Driscoll O'Driscoll | b 22.11.1868 Skibbereen Co Cork Ireland<br>m 21.09.1909 Northam WA Mary Egan<br>d 28.09.1928 Northam WA        |
| 2) Patrick O'Driscoll          | b 17.06.1871 Boramin (Seabrook) WA<br>m 04.02.1902 Northam WA Mary Morris<br>d 14.07.1957 Northam WA           |
| 3) Mary O'Driscoll             | b 31.07.1873 Muchakine Gully WA<br>d 01.10.1884 Northam WA   |
| 4) Catherine O'Driscoll        | b 24.03.1876 Muchakine Gully WA<br>m 28.06.1899 Shamrock Villa WA<br>Richard Sermon<br>d 19.11.1941 Northam WA |
| 5) Jeremiah O'Driscoll         | b 10.06.1879 Muchakine Gully WA<br>m 01.05.1907 Northam WA<br>Emily McBreen<br>d 07.02.1926 Northam WA         |
| 6) Stillborn- unnamed female   | b 16.02.1882 Muchakine Gully WA  |

### Cillin burials

The stillborn birth of the sixth child would have been another emotional setback for the family along with the premature death of Mary in 1884. Mary was buried in Northam's Pioneer Cemetery, whereas the stillborn appears to be buried on "Shamrock Villa". No death or burial record exists. The location of the grave is not recorded, except in the hearts of the grieving family.

Part of the ancient Irish cultural practice, through medieval times, to very recent history, was the custom of burying stillborn unchristened children in an area called a cillin (Keel-LEEN). Cillin's were located on the sites of old medieval enclosed settlements, around the ruins of old churchyards, beside rivers or on the boundaries of adjoining townlands, on unconsecrated land. The Catholic Church disallowed the burial of unchristened children on consecrated ground.

The closest cillin to Poundlick and Timothy and Mary's lease, was on the border of the townlands of Curravally (An Corrbhaile – a noticeable town or a walled farm) and Boolybane (An Bhuaile Bhan), meaning white booley or a mountain dairy.

According to P.W. Joyce's "Irish Names and Places" vol. 1 page 239 "The term booley (Bhuaile) was not confined to the mountainous country; for in some parts of Ireland it was applied to any place where cattle were fed or milked, or which was set apart for dairy purposes". The summit of Boolybane rises to a height of 518 feet (158 metres) hardly mountainous, rather a panoramic view overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, in the immediate vicinity of Lough Hyne. Bane (Bhan) is the term for white. Together it translates to "The white (light coloured) milking shed or parlour"



Drombeg Druid's Altar about 15 KM east of Skibbereen, near the town of Glandore. The presence of Cillin's, Ancient Burial Grounds, Standing Stones, Stone Rows, Boulder Burials, Megalithic Tombs, Fulacht Fiadhs, Bullaun Stones, Castles, Lios and Ring Forts, to name a few, are prolific in this part of West Cork. The area is an archaeological treasure trove of the old world, preserved no doubt by the practice of superstition and piseog which is explained later in this text.

Cillin's often were located on the townland borders, beside a river which was the watershed between two hills; all symbolic of the spiritual state of "limbo".

The cillin at Lettertinish was located within the townland boundary and was probably the site of a medieval settlement. It appears that the practice was continued in the new colonies, not only with Jeremiah and Catherine, but with Johannah and her five children that died in infancy.

Catherine and Jeremiah's last child was an unnamed female stillborn, and was probably buried in close proximity to their house on Muchakine Gully. No cillin has been discovered for this child and no recorded burial in either York or Northam.

Edward O'Driscoll (the author's brother) may have discovered the partial remains of Johannah's cillin. A small circle of stones was located opposite the Boramin Well on the south side of Boramin Road. The cillin is on the east bank of the Boramin Creek, no more than 100 metres from the road, beside a river as was the Irish custom, located in such a way as to escape the path of the plough. It looks like stone pickers have unloaded their dray or truck loads of paddock stones onto the cillin, unaware of the

significance of the burial site, and partially covering the circle formations. Presumably the cillin would have contained the remains of the children as well as the father, James McClymans, whose death and burial was not registered at the time of his death in 1880.

Johannah was in no financial position to organize an expensive funeral service for her husband or her many children who died in childhood. Upon the death of her husband, the use of the shepherd's cottage was obviously withdrawn, and she moved the family to temporary shelter at "Shamrock Villa", and later into the household of her second husband Obediah Edom Hitchcock. It was a high price to pay for security; she heart wrenchingly had to forfeited access to her children by placing the older two into orphanages. In keeping with Irish and family tradition, the Irish naming pattern was strictly adhered to in the first generation of (Irish) and Australian born O'Driscoll children, reciting the children's grandparent and parent names, as was the custom.

In the later years Jeremiah and Catherine lived apart, Jeremiah near his youngest son's place (Jeremiah Jnr), still at the original holding of "Shamrock Villa", while Catherine lived with her now married daughter and son-in-law, Catherine and Richard Cornelius Sermon, at "Tank Farm"



L-R: Kevin Bryan O'Driscoll b 1910  
Thomas Francis O'Driscoll b 1908

### Jeremiah (Jnr) O'Driscoll

My Grandfather



### Catherine (O'Driscoll) Sermon





The eastern verandah of “Shamrock Villa”, being Jeremiah and Emily O’Driscoll’s house  
Christmas school holidays of 1921/ 1922

Left to Right:

Emily O’Driscoll (pregnant with Marie), Kevin O’Driscoll\*, Frank Davidson#,  
Robbie O’Driscoll^, Bernard O’Driscoll# and Tom O’Driscoll\*.

Standing in the shaded background, Jeremiah O’Driscoll (Jnr)

\*Holding shotguns #Holding rifles^ Holding a watermelon.

### **Piseog’s – Irish Superstitions**

In the mid nineteenth century, and indeed for countless centuries preceding, the Irish adhered to the practices of superstition or piseog (Pi-shougue). Superstitions abounded in many activities in life. Jeremiah and Catherine would have been no different from the rest of the population of West Cork. West Cork was probably the heartland of this practice. Undoubtedly many forms of superstition would have impacted their daily lives.

Piseog is an Irish word meaning superstition, charm, spell or hex. Old Ireland, especially the West, was known to be a place full of Piseog. For instance these practices greatly helped with the preservation of ring forts. It was believed that to disturb the ruins of these structures would bring a hex upon themselves. In some ways this superstitious behaviour has preserved a great deal of Ireland’s archaeological past. The stealing of babies by changelings, ghosts wandering the countryside, holy well cures and the presence of fairies or little people are but a few of these superstitions. Little, if any of this superstitious behaviour remains in modern Ireland. However remnants of this superstitious practice can still be found in Ireland today. Some practices like counting magpies is quite common, though it is doubted if anyone still practicing the habit, takes it too seriously.

### Magpie Piseog



*One for sorrow  
Two for joy  
Three for a girl  
Four for a boy  
Five for silver  
Six for gold  
Seven for a secret  
Never to be told*

*Two Australian Magpies*

### Death of Jeremiah

Jeremiah died from the effects of a cerebral haemorrhage on 10.12.1911, aged 75, at his beloved “Shamrock Villa”. Jeremiah (Senior) lived in the original building, whilst his married son and daughter-in-law, Jeremiah (Junior) and Emily (nee McBreen) and young family, lived in a new house built close by. Apparently he was having a romp with his two grandchildren, Tom and Kevin when the stroke occurred.

Upon being told of the death of Jeremiah, Catherine is reported to have said, “*The poor old man.*”

The Undertaker was James William Purslowe, the patriarch of the Purslowe Funeral Home dynasty, who stayed overnight at “Shamrock Villa” and led the horse drawn hearse and funeral cortege at 7.30 the following morning, to the York Cemetery (old section). As the procession wended its way down New Line Road (now known as Carter Road), one wonders if Catherine would have reflected on that epic trek 42 years previous. As a pioneer, with a babe in arms, she had walked the same track, albeit in the opposite direction, to start a new life with her husband, not knowing what hardships and happiness they would encounter, in the new colonies.

The cortege would have crossed the Mortlock at a very familiar spot at the terminus of Carter Road, a crossing she had forded on many occasions; onto the York-Northam Road, and past Tipperary School and Church, which had schooled many of her children, and who now accompanied her on this sad occasion. I am sure years of memories would have flooded back, before the township of York was reached around midday. Jeremiah, from Poundlick, Irish brewer and Australian farmer was finally laid to rest.



Tipperary Church

### **Death of Catherine**

Roughly seven years later, on 24.08.1918, Catherine died at “Tank Farm”, home of her daughter, Catherine Sermon. The cause of death was recorded as senile decay. She had reportedly attained the age of 76 (b c 1840 Letterinlish, IRL) although it seems probable that she was 78, and it was obvious that her mind and body were spent, after a lifetime of service and hard work. Catherine was buried in the family grave in the York Cemetery, alongside Jeremiah and young nephew, James McClymans. The “Celtic Cross” headstone recites that Mary, their daughter, was also buried here in 1884, however it appears that she was buried in Northam’s Pioneer Cemetery, under the name of Mary Driscoll. The O’ was not used regularly until around the turn of the century.

It is believed that Timothy, their son, penned the following epitaph on the headstone pictured below:

**Some on the shores of distant lands  
Their weary hearts have laid  
And by a strangers heedless hand  
Their lonely graves were made**

**York headstone and grave of Jeremiah and Catherine O'Driscoll**  
**And James McClymans (Jnr).**



Timothy was born in Ireland, and sailed to the Swan River Colony with his parents, as an infant. His poem probably reflected a nostalgic view of Ireland and the fact that his parents had died in a far off land, away from their Irish family connections. It was probably a form of identity crisis, not knowing whether one was Irish or Australian.

To use an analogy, it is like being issued (by birth rite) a ticket to an All-Ireland sporting grand final, but prevented from entering the stadium, due to circumstances beyond your own control. You know the players, the rules, the setting, as relayed to you, through your parents eyes. However, you are never destined to see it first hand. Your grandparents, uncles, aunties, first cousins are (or were), with the exception of the McClymans family, all living in Ireland. You have grown up living and breathing Ireland, without ever visiting its shores, except as an infant. It is little wonder that the sentiment of being cast onto a distant shore and being buried by a stranger's heedless hand, alone, prevail. The alternative, being interred in Ireland, amongst loving homeland relatives is an appealing concept. It probably echoes the sentiments of all first generation colonists who have felt the loneliness of separation and the total powerlessness to remedy it.

The Irish folk song, "Dear Old Skibbereen", a lament, in the form of a dialogue between a father and his son illustrates this point

### Dear Old Skibbereen

O, father dear I often hear you speak of Erin's Isle  
 Her lofty scenes, her valleys green, her mountains rude and wild  
 They say it is a lovely land wherein a prince might dwell  
 So why did you abandon it, the reason to me tell

My son, I loved my native land with energy and pride  
 Till a blight came over all my crops and my sheep and cattle died  
 The rents and taxes were to pay and I could not them redeem  
 And that's the cruel reason why I left old Skibbereen

'Tis well I do remember that bleak November day  
 When the bailiff and the landlord came to drive us all away  
 They set the roof on fire with their cursed English spleen  
 And that's another reason why I left old Skibbereen

Your mother, too, God rest her soul, lay on the snowy ground  
 She fainted in her anguishing seeing the desolation round  
 She never rose, but passed away from life to immortal dreams  
 And that's another reason why I left old Skibbereen

Then sadly I recall the days of gloomy forty-eight  
 I rose in vengeance with the boys to battle again' fate  
 We were hunted through the mountains as traitors to the queen  
 And that, my boy, is the reason why I left old Skibbereen

Oh you were only two years old and feeble was your frame  
 I could not leave you with my friends for you bore your father's name  
 So I wrapped you in my cota mor at the dead of night unseen  
 And I heaved a sigh and said goodbye to dear old Skibbereen

Well father dear, the day will come when on vengeance we will call  
 And Irishmen both stout and tall will rally unto the call  
 I'll be the man to lead the van beneath the flag of green  
 And loud and high we'll raise the cry, "Revenge for Skibbereen".

## The children of Jeremiah and Catherine O'Driscoll – a brief description

A more detailed account of this section can be found in Robbie O'Driscoll's "O'Driscoll and McClymans Family History", held at the State Library of Western Australia. Quoted extracts are in italics below.

### Timothy Driscoll O'Driscoll

As previously stated Timothy was the oldest of Jeremiah and Catherine's children. He was the only Irish born child, the balance of his siblings were born at the Boramin or at "Shamrock Villa" on the Muchakine Gully.

*"...He was born in Ireland in early 1869 (actually 22.11.1868 Skibbereen Co Cork Ireland) and came to Fremantle with his parents aboard the "Hastings" as a six month old baby in arms. The "Hastings" arrived on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1869. Timothy received his only schooling at the Tipperary School from the then teacher, Miss Sarah Sermon. He was a brilliant scholar and it soon became evident, who was teaching who?*

*He helped his father with the farm, but being an avid reader, he thus furthered his own education. His knowledge of general subjects was amazing and his vocabulary extensive. His love for reading was paramount all his life and it seemed a natural progression for him to leave the farm and take up mainly academic work."*

The article (by Robbie O'Driscoll) chronicles his teaching activities at Albany Boy's School and the Northam School Board, taking up the license of the Grass Valley Hotel and farming at "Warding", near Quellington.

*"About 1894 he went to Kalgoorlie where he had successful mining interests but became mixed up in a law suit which lasted for five years and eventually finished in the Privy Council. Although he won the legal case it cost him dearly in both time and money."*



Timothy O'Driscoll Born 22-11-1868 Skibbereen County Cork  
Died 28-09-1928 Northam W.A.

What was left unsaid was that the legal action eventually led to bankruptcy, a position which was to dog him for the rest of his days. It curtailed his ability to borrow money at respectable rates and in a sense make good his indebtedness to his creditors.

It would be fair to say that Tim had contracted the deadly ailment “Gold fever” that had been inflicted on so many of his generation. The goldfields of Western Australia were just opening up. There were fortunes being made daily by prospectors picking up the alluvial deposits, or shallow workings. The affliction that Timothy caught has been passed down to the successive generations, morphing into the formation of renowned Geologists and Metallurgists. Timothy would have made a better geologist than a prospector. He was better suited to academia than the rigours of prospecting. The opportunities and resources at his disposal were limited, and once he had made a mistake the unforgiving system denied him another proper chance to redeem himself and prosper.

*“He was attached to the literary staff of the “Goldfields Courier” and “The Record.” He frequently wrote for “The West Australian”, “Western Mail” and “The Morning Herald”.*

*In 1909 Timothy married Mary (Maymie) Marguerite Agnes Fitzgerald Egan in St. Joseph’s Church, Northam. Dean Anthony Walsh was the officiating priest.”*

Two of Maymie’s sisters attended her. The reception was held at McCarthy’s Hotel in Northam. Maymie’s parents were Eugene Egan and Ellen Emily “Emma” (Mahon). Eugene Egan was born in County Kerry, Ireland around 1844. Emma Egan was born at Blackwood, Victoria about 1856. They were married in Victoria (Reg 674/1881) in 1881. Eugene was the manager of “Mullagh Station”, a grazing pastoral holding near Horsham, in the Harrow District of Victoria. The rabbit plague of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century crippled the pastoral industry and the family had to pack up and move from the Station. Eugene, Emma and their five children moved “West” to the booming Goldfields of Western Australia. Maymie was the eldest of the five children. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 1896 Emma had her last child, Eugenie at Day Dawn, in the Murchison District of Western Australia. Eugene secured employment as a Station Master, whilst Emma was a teacher. Most of the children followed their parents vocation, either teaching, nursing or in the Government Services (Postal). Maymie was a teacher at Grass Valley School, where she met her husband Timothy O’Driscoll. Maymie was to stick by her husband through thick and thin, raising the children, after Timothy’s untimely death, and educating them all to University and beyond. She was truly a remarkable woman.



Maymie and Emma (seated) Egan at Cunderdin 1923



Standing: left to right - Lily Goodshaw “Noni” Egan, Eugene Thomas Egan, Mary Margeurite Agnes Fitzgerald “Maymie” (Egan) O’Driscoll, Geraldine Emma Egan, Eugenie “Babs” Egan,  
Seated: Eileen Eugene Egan, Timothy Driscoll O’Driscoll, Ellen Emily “Emma” Egan  
 Wedding photograph 21.09.1909 Northam, Western Australia.

*“In later years he became a Contractor on the Northam to Southern Cross section of rail line which linked Perth to Kalgoorlie and the Eastern States. He was also a Contractor for the Babakin water supply scheme.*

*He was working at Emu Hill, south of Naremben when he took sick after inhaling Carbon Monoxide from a coke burning plant.*

*Timothy came back to Grass Valley and visited most of his relatives before he went to the Northam Hospital where he died on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 1928, aged 59 years.*

*He also recognized that he was dying and told his two brothers (This statement can't be correct as the only surviving brother alive at this time was Patrick O'Driscoll) that he would not recover from this poisoning of Carbon Monoxide. He was buried in the Northam Cemetery and left a wife and three young sons, Eugene (Married 1st Ena Claire Houston 2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Alice Secker), Desmond (Married Kathleen Gladys O'Connor) and Elliott Sylvester Timothy (Tim) (Married Rosemary Elsegood)."*



Left to Right  
Eugene Patrick Driscoll O'Driscoll, Desmond Fitzgerald O'Driscoll  
and Elliott Sylvester Timothy (Tim) O'Driscoll.

All three brothers were to become eminent Geologists in Australia. Tim was credited with finding the huge uranium and mineral deposit at Roxby Downs and Olympic Dam in South Australia with his geological structural theory. The other two brothers were leaders in their respective fields



Left: Eugenie Egan, a music teacher, holding her nephew Eugene Patrick Driscoll O'Driscoll (five and a half months old) at Guildford September 1913

Right: Eugene O'Driscoll aged ten at Cunderdin circa 1923.

### **Patrick O'Driscoll**

Patrick O'Driscoll was born at the Boramin on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 1871. His early schooling was at the Tipperary School, where he and Timothy attended. The pair walked to school on Monday morning, a distance of about 12 miles or 19 kilometres; boarding close by and then walking home on Friday afternoon after school hours.

After his schooling finished Patrick worked on his father's farm. Eventually he took up land in his own right, calling his property "Baltimore" after the area in Ireland that his father hailed from. "Baltimore" adjoins "Shamrock Villa" on the latter's eastern boundary.

He was an exceptional athlete, especially hurdle racing. Patrick was a tall person, well over 6 feet in height and in his day, they would have described him as, "cutting a very handsome figure." He also excelled in pigeon shooting in an era when live pigeons were used.



The ruins of “Baltimore” house in Grass Valley

He served fifty unbroken years on the Northam Road Board, vacating the position for his son, James Vincent O’Driscoll. A cumulative total of 66 years for a father-son combination is an Australian record.

Patrick married Mary Morris on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 1902 in Northam. Mary’s father was James Fox Morris, who arrived in Melbourne, in September 1857 per “Donald McKay”, as a nine year old with his father, Timothy Morris, from Moanvurrin, Parish of Drangan County Tipperary, Ireland. James Fox’s mother had died in childbirth in Tipperary and Timothy had sold-up in Ireland and relocated to Victoria as an unassisted immigrant. They had come to Victoria to join the international gold rush. James Morris came to Western Australia at the onset of the Kimberley gold rush, but was talked out of going to this remote location by George Throssell, the well known Northam shopkeeper and politician. He took up land at Jennapullin, near Northam, calling his holding “Forrest Hill.”

James Fox Morris was also inflicted with the “gold fever” condition. He and his father (Timothy) had left Ireland in search of it in Victoria, New Zealand and finally Western Australia.

Mary Morris’ mother was Georgina White from Minyip, Victoria. Prior to arriving in Western Australia, James and Georgina Morris farmed at Georgina’s home town of Minyip.

It seems apparent that Jeremiah Senior divided his holding between Patrick and Jeremiah Junior. The holding “Baltimore” and the “Milefield” were transferred to Patrick. The balance of his holding, comprising of the home block of “Shamrock Villa” and the “Lane” paddock was to go to Jeremiah Jnr. However no land transfer was completed for the latter, and on the death of Jeremiah Snr, the incumbent, Jeremiah Jnr, farmed on. The authorities were none the wiser as both these parties shared the same name. In some ways it was very expedient as conveyancing fees, stamp duty on the land transfer, and death duties were not levied on this portion of Jeremiah Snr’s estate.

A later newspaper article that appeared in the Western Australian press, gives us a good insight into the workings of our Irish – Australian family.

**“Western Mail”**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 1921 page 14**

**Lively meeting at Northam, Sein Fein motions defeated.**

*“Probably the largest, and certainly the most animated public meetings that has been held in Northam for many years past, was that which took place in the Town Hall on Sunday evening under the auspices of the Michael Davitt branch of the Self - Determination for Ireland League. The hall was crowded to its utmost capacity in all parts, about a thousand persons being present.*

*The Mayor (Mr. AW Byfield) occupied the chair, and amongst those on the platform were Messrs. P O’Driscoll (Chairman of the Northam Road Board), J Carroll and C Hansen (Members of the Northam Road Board), and the four delegates from the Western Australia to the National Convention of the Self-Determination for Ireland League of Australia, to be held shortly in Melbourne: - The Rev. Father Neville, Messrs. M O’Dea, J Monaghan and T Stack.*

*The Mayor explained that he was simply there as chairman in his capacity as mayor of the town. His private opinions had nothing to do with his taking the chair. He appealed to those present to give the speakers a fair hearing.*

*Mr. O’Driscoll, President of the Northam Branch of the League, said they were there to put before those present, phases of the Irish Question which probably they had never heard before. He hoped that that evenings meeting would be a happy and informative, for, as they know, there was a conference in London which he trusted would settle the vexed questions between the two nations. (Applause)*

*Mr. Searle moved:- “That this meeting of citizens of Northam affirms the right of the people of Ireland to choose freely, without coercion or dictation from outside their own governmental institutions and their own political relationships with other States and Peoples.....”*

Even though Patrick was not born in Ireland, he had taken on board much of his parent’s philosophies and values, as did the other members of the family.

An amusing story was told about Patrick. Jeremiah, his brother, had noticed that Pat had a bandaged thumb. Upon enquiry it was revealed that Pat had received a nasty cut from a chaffcutter knife. Pat explained that he had applied separator oil to the wound and bound it for ten days in a bandage. With typical dry understated O’Driscoll humour, he said to Jerry, “... *And do you know what Jerry? ...In all that time it hadn’t healed a bit.*” A separator was a hand operated device used to separate milk into skim milk and cream.

Patrick and Mary had three children, Gerald (Married Minnie Barbara Reid), James (Married Kate Sheila Langan) and Monica (Married Michael Joseph Hart). Both parents lived to the ripe old age of 86, enjoying good health practically up to the end.

## Mary O'Driscoll

The third child was Mary, named in the tradition of the Irish naming pattern, to honour the mother's mother. In this case both the mother's mother and the father's mother were called Mary, so the name would have greatly pleased both Irish Grandparents. Mary was born at the newly established "Shamrock Villa" on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1873.

Unfortunately Mary died when she was 11 years old on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1884 at "Shamrock Villa". The cause of death is not well known. Folklore in the family tells us that Catherine upon finding Mary sick called on Jeremiah for assistance. Apparently his response was somewhat tardy, being unaware of the severity of the situation. Mary died suddenly, leaving grief stricken parents.

It fell upon young Timothy to register the death of his sister. Due to the suddenness of the death and the remoteness of the farm, there was no Doctor's certification regarding the cause of death. In the absence of such certification the Northam Registrar had callously notated that the cause of death was, "*Supposed to be cold.*" In the years to come, Jeremiah and Catherine were to live apart. It is said that the cause of the rift was the sudden demise and the trauma associated with Mary's death.

Initially, it appears that Mary was interred in the Northam Pioneers Cemetery. However a grave just meters from her parent's grave in York, show that she must have been exhumed. The Northam Pioneer Cemetery still retains the original memorial inscription on show.

## Catherine Mary O'Driscoll

Catherine, the fourth child was born on 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1876 at "Shamrock Villa". Her birth certificate shows her as Catherine, however later documents, including her marriage certificate show her as Katherine. It was probably done to differentiate the mother and daughter of the same name. Mary was added later, in memory of her only sister who died early in life.

*"She received her early education from a friend of her father. Mr. Williams was a teacher with a long white beard and lived at "Shamrock Villa" with Jeremiah Senior.*

*When Catherine was about 16 -17 years of age she went to the York Convent, firstly as a student and later as a teacher. Then at the age of 20 years Catherine became a teacher at the Northam Convent.*

*In 1899 at the age of 23 years Catherine was married to Richard Sermon of "Tank Farm", Grass Valley. They were married at "Shamrock Villa" by the parish priest of Northam, Rev. Father Bernard O'Dee who came out the night before and had his breakfast cooked by Catherine before the wedding. The wedding day was 28<sup>th</sup> January 1899.*

*Dick Sermon chose his brother Jim to be his best man, while the bride was attended to by her cousin, Agnes McClymans.*

Folklore in the family tells us that just prior to the wedding of Catherine and Dick a controversial event occurred. Jim Sermon and Jeremiah (Jnr) were returning from the Grass Valley Hotel, in Jim's horse drawn buggy. Apparently an argument started over some matter and a few harsh words were exchanged. Jeremiah's rejoinder was to tell Jim that he was "only a lag's son". A lag was the Australian slang term for a convict. The old expression to lag someone meant to punish them, usually by a flogging. Jeremiah was promptly evicted from the cart, along with his case of whisky (twelve bottles), which remained unharmed. Thank goodness!

The wedding was imminent and the three brothers, Timothy, Patrick and Jeremiah boycotted the wedding at their own place. In time, memories faded and the relationship(s) were restored.

*"Tank Farm" was the adjoining farm to "Horse Hill", which was owned by Jim Sermon. Catherine was of a very loving disposition, who loved her family and home, which was gracious. Catherine and Richard cared for her ageing mother for about 10 years, until her death on the 24<sup>th</sup> August 1918. Richard Sermon was the son of William and Mary (nee Ryan) Sermon, the founder of "Horse Hill", "Tank Farm", and "Mugakine". Dick was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1873 at Grass Valley."*



It is interesting to note that William Sermon's property of "Moogakine" (above) is the head waters for the Muchakine Gully which flows through "Shamrock Villa". It is the same aboriginal word pronounced and spelled differently. Moogakine is said to be an aboriginal word meaning "more water" or a camping place of abundant water. However there is an argument that can be mounted to suggest that it may be derived from "Muja", the native "Christmas Tree" (*Nuytsia Floribunda*).

Dick and Catherine Sermon lived full and successful lives. Catherine died at her home at "Tank Farm" on the 19th of November 1941, aged 65 whilst Dick lived to the age of 83, dying at "Tank Farm" on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 1956.

The children of Dick and Catherine were Eileen (Married William George Spencer), Kathleen, Leslie (Married Beryl Mary McEvoy), William (Bill), Frederick and Lawrence (Married 1st Corinne Gladys Norton 2<sup>nd</sup> Christine Raymond- nee McShane).

### **Jeremiah O'Driscoll (Junior – or – "Young Jerry")**

The Irish naming pattern dictates that the third son is named after the father. Jeremiah and Catherine strictly adhered to the pattern with all their children. In this article I have referred to Jeremiah Senior and Jeremiah Junior. The reality is that Jeremiah Senior was commonly called "Old Jerry" and Jeremiah Junior as "Young Jerry" to differentiate the two. In Ireland he would have been referred to as Jerry Og and his father as Jerry Mor. In fact the Baptismal register at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen records the Christening of "Jerry", not Jeremiah in 1836, if we want to be official.

"Young Jerry" is my Grandfather, and the youngest surviving member of the family. He, like his brothers, was over 6 feet in height. In his younger days he competed around the district, as did his brother Patrick (who specialized in hurdling), mainly in sprint races, with much success.

Strictly speaking, Jeremiah had no second Christian name. Joseph was commonly used; however it was his confirmation name and as such had no legality, in fact it complicated his estate affairs and delayed the granting of probate. The Electoral Rolls for 1910, the year before Jeremiah's (Snr) death, recited that Jeremiah (Jnr) was a farm hand, whereas Patrick was listed as a Farmer at "Baltimore". Transitional arrangements for the hand over of "Shamrock Villa" from Father to Son would not be completed before his death untimely death in 1911.

Jeremiah was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1879 at "Shamrock Villa", Muchakine, in the original two room dwelling. Due to the parent's literacy problems, and difficulties with the Irish brogue, the Registrar recorded the birth as best he could phonetically.

DRESELL, JERREMEYER of SEABROOK, son of JERREMEYER and CATHERINE CARY, registration number 19949/ 1879.

*"He was educated at the Quellington School. He walked to school every Monday morning and returned home on Friday afternoon, by foot, a distance of 10 miles (16 Km). During the week he stayed with the Gentle family.*

It is apparent that the name Quellington has been corrupted, anglicized and lengthened. “Kwel” is the local Noongar word for the Casuarina tree species (*Casuarina Obesa* or *Casuarina Pauper*) known as “Sheoak” which abounds around the Mortlock River around Quellington. Locals probably adapted the name from “Kwel” to “Quellington”.



*Jeremiah, like Patrick was an outstanding athlete and won the York Sheffield Foot Race over 120 yards and this race was the premier foot race of the district. For the win he received a lovely green marble chiming clock.*

*He was a very fast runner and trained with his brother Patrick. Jeremiah was a flat racer, while Patrick was a champion hurdle racer.*

*Jeremiah was also an above average fast bowler at cricket and some thought he was too fast for the home made cricket pitches. He was just as good on concrete pitches and matting, he bowled at the stumps and seldom hit a batsman, but he secured a lot of wickets just the same on both surfaces.*

*It was not uncommon for either Patrick or Jeremiah to get another job while the farm was coming into production. Usually the two sons took it in turns and they mostly went to Kalgoorlie and worked for Mr. Ned Pauley, a produce merchant. By this way they could earn extra money.”*

Edward Pauley’s produce business thrived on the back of Kalgoorlie’s mining industry. Pauley had the contract to supply hay and chaff to the mine and pit horses. It was the start of an interest in Livestock Produce production, manufacturing and retailing that would blossom for the O’Driscoll’s in later years.

In one story that was passed down, Patrick and his young brother Jeremiah travelled to Kalgoorlie to work at Ned Pauley’s livestock produce business. At the completion of their working sojourn, they caught the Westland train, bound for the Grass Valley Railway Station. With their pockets slightly bulging with money from their working endeavours they decided to partake in a few whiskies’s on their eight hour or so, return journey. The drinks attendant was summonsed and the orders placed for whisky, ice and water. Everything went according to plan until shortly before the Grass Valley station was reached. A slightly embarrassed waiter had to inform them that they could no

longer enjoy ice with their whiskies. Asked the reason for this disastrous turn of events, the waiter had to admit that the ice was being procured from the casket of a cadaver which was being transported to Perth for burial. Apparently the ice was getting to a critically low level and they could no longer enjoy the icy accompaniment! Needless to say the brave duo endured the hardship until their destination was reached.

### Sarah Jane (Dunne) Woods



*“On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1907, Jeremiah married Emily Jane McBreen in St. Joseph’s Church Northam. Dean Anthony Walsh was the celebrant, while the bride was attended by Sarah Jane Dunne (Emily’s Aunt – her mother’s sister, and licensee of the Grass Valley Hotel), and the best man was Timothy O’Driscoll. The wedding reception was held in the “Avon Bridge Hotel.”*

*Jeremiah was a very good sheep man and had the art of training a sheep dog. “Tiger” was a remarkable dog but was shot by an irresponsible person who also shot Patrick’s good dog on the same night. A thoughtful neighbour gave Jeremiah a blue German Collie named “Ike”, and that dog could nearly talk. Ike would go up to the paddock and bring in the cows for milking – he was a champion sheep dog.*

*Jeremiah added to his father’s holding, until it was up to 815 acres. Those 815 acres is still in the family today as well as the 1640 acres over the road (Carter Road) in Smith’s property which was purchased in 1946.*

*During wheat carting in 1915, (Probably January / February) Jeremiah was carting wheat to Grass Valley by wagon and horses. He was coming along after sun down and missed the turn into the gate. He tried to back the horses and wagon but slipped between the sharves of the wagon and broke his leg below the knee. He was taken to the Northam Hospital and put in plaster. Today the treatment would have been simple, but those days without antibiotic drugs it was different.*

*Gangrene set in and after a series of major operations his leg was amputated up to the thigh. It was a bitter blow to someone so healthy and active.*

*He used an artificial leg but was never happy with it, although he walked with a slight limp, you would never have known of his disability.*

*He lived another eleven years or so, but died on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 1926, aged 46, and is buried in the Northam Cemetery.*

*Mrs. Jeremiah O'Driscoll was born Emily Jane McBreen on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1883. She was the fourth daughter of Thomas Bryan McBreen (of Knockbride, Bailieborough County Cavan, Ireland) who married Mary Ellen Dunne (born in Tullamore Ireland) in 1878 at Ballarat, Victoria, and lived in Fitzroy in Melbourne.*

*Her father was an Excise Officer in Melbourne. Emily McBreen first came to the "west" to help her Aunt (Sarah Jane Dunne) in the Grass Valley Hotel, which she had recently built. This was before the turn of the Century.*

*Emily was too young for any work so her Aunt packed her off to boarding school at Loretto Convent in (Claremont) Perth, to finish her schooling. After that period when her schooling was finished, she returned to Melbourne again.*

*Emily came back again in 1904 to help her Aunt again and served in the bar at the Hotel. It was here that she met Jeremiah O'Driscoll and on the 1st of May 1908 they were married. They farmed together for about eight years when the accident put Jeremiah in hospital, where he lost his leg. This was an awful thing to happen to any farmer, but he soldiered on and it took a while before he would find some reliable men to operate the farm.*

*Meanwhile his near neighbour, Mr. Mick Sermon and his two sons Cyril and Austin came down and put in the 1915 crop and took it off again before Christmas. The men did the farm work and Jeremiah concentrated on sheep, but was able to oversee the farm work.*

*About 1923 a very reliable man came to work for him who was very experienced and competent. He was still there when Jeremiah died. Hughie Connole took over the running of the farm for Emily.*

*Emily was only a slightly built person and was left a widow with four sons and a daughter. She was an ambitious type of person with remarkable foresight and business ability, but above all she believed in her own ability and hard work.*

*In 1928 she bought "Horse Hill", a farm that had been in the Sermon name since 1860, and owned by Jim Sermon – a brother of Mick and Dick Sermon, and a sister of Sarah Sermon (The teacher from Tipperary School) and who was now married to Frank O'Rourke from the Grass Valley Store. The purchase price of 10 pounds per acre was considered high, and there was 1100 acres in the farm.*

*Her five children were young and only the eldest son, Tom had finished schooling. The other four had yet to be educated. Tom was not old enough to assume the role of co-executor with his mother. Patrick O'Driscoll was the co-executor, but resigned because he said that Emily was foolish to commit herself to such a venture. Mr. Bob Black became the co-executor until Tom was old enough to take over.*

*Emily would have managed very well, but hard times lay ahead because the "Great Depression" years were to follow from about 1930 onwards.*

*Her commitment never wavered and her sheer ability and hard work won the day. This was the age of the horse teams as tractors had not yet arrived.*

*Tom, the eldest son, took over as co-executor with his mother when he turned 21 years of age."*



Left to Right: Jeremiah Joseph O’Driscoll, Ike (the trusty sheep dog), Emily Jane (McBreen) O’Driscoll, Robert Alexander Davidson (Emily’s brother-in-law) and Hughie Connole, the farm foreman, sitting on the verandah at “Shamrock Villa”. The dog is probably “Ike”, the one referred to in Robbie O’Driscoll’s 1990 publication.

In Robbie O’Driscoll’s account (above) he touched on the story of Jeremiah’s accident which led to the amputation of his leg. As a result of the accident he had a compound fracture of his Tibia and Fibula, so much so that it was reported that the broken bone had pierced the skin and was clearly visible. Jeremiah was somehow transported back to “Shamrock Villa”, probably via the “Lane” paddock and through to the homestead. It must have caused a great deal of consternation in the family for the bread winner to be injured so severely. All the family members from young to old would have been involved in some way, either as co-opted stretcher bearers or spectators to the grizzly sight.

It was reported that the kitchen table became a makeshift bed and the wounds attended to by Emily. Fragments of splintered bone were removed. The gravity of the situation was not lost on the family. Arrangements were made to transport Jeremiah to the Northam Hospital. The trip was probably conducted in a spring cart or buggy. Each movement, pot hole, bump or bounce of the cart would have caused pain and distress to the patient.

Once in Northam Hospital the leg was reset as best as it could be. In these days there were no such aids as X ray, penicillin or modern anesthetics. Ether had only recently replaced chloroform as an anesthetic agent and the advent of, and wide acceptance of penicillin was some 25 years down the track.

Gangrene, the nemeses of all nursing staff, caused by the major disruption of blood flow, was a dreaded and feared outcome. Although the break was encased by plaster, it did not stop the onset of this malady. Jeremiah had to endure two subsequent amputations, one below and one above the knee, at the thigh, to ward off the spread of gangrene.

The Australian trait of helping your neighbour in these troubled times was applied throughout the district; none more so than the aid dispensed by the Sermon family, until Jeremiah's good health was regained.

Emily's long term housekeeper was Elsie Harris. After the death of Jeremiah, her husband, in 1926, Emily threw herself into the primary role of farmer. Elsie Harris married John Barclay in 1929 and moved away from the farm after the move to "Horse Hill". Close ties were still kept with the Barclay family, including their children, Emil (obviously named after Emily), John (Jack), Margaret (Married Cullinane) and Jim.



Elsie (Harris) Barclay with infant Emil  
1930

Emil Barclay in "Willie Weeties" fancy dress

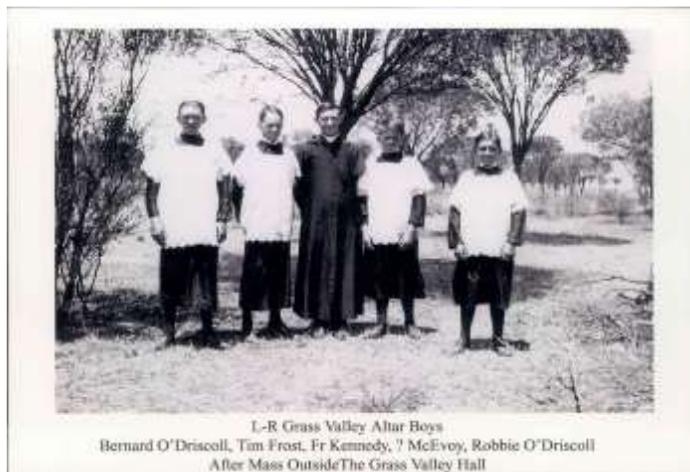




Back: Emil and John (Jack) Barclay  
Front: Margaret and Jim Barclay

Emily was a remarkable woman, having been brought up in a predominately female household in suburban Melbourne and suddenly thrust into the leadership role with very little experience. Her capacity for farm expansion with her sons, firstly as E. J. O'Driscoll and Sons and then to O'Driscoll Bros was extraordinary. With the inception of O'Driscoll Bros partnership she bowed out of active management. In later years she purchased the Grass Valley Hotel which she eventually handed onto her daughter Marie.

**L-R Bernard O'Driscoll, Tim Frost, Fr. Kennedy, John? McEvoy and Robbie O'Driscoll.**



I vividly remember the day she died. It was a Sunday morning the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1959, when all the family was at Mass in the Grass Valley Church. Just prior to the end of Mass, Kevin O'Driscoll, her son was called out. As children we didn't know what was happening. We followed Uncle Kevin outside and watched as his car sped off spinning the wheels toward the Grass Valley Hotel and his mother's bedside. Kevin's driving behaviour that day was so out of character, usually he drove slowly and cautiously. The gravity of the situation wasn't to hit home for me, for many years.

The children of Jeremiah and Emily are Thomas Francis, Kevin Bryan, Bernard (Married Nellie Agnes Antonio), Robert James (Married Betty Kathleen Stormon) and Marie Therese O'Driscoll (Married Allan Reginald Sherrington).

### Legacy

Today, the broad acre holdings of the O'Driscoll descendants, in and around Grass Valley, run into thousands of acres. It is a testament to the courage and sacrifice of these pioneers; and it has laid the foundations, for the future generations of O'Driscoll's.

Grass Valley is the spiritual home of this branch of the O'Driscoll's. Just as Baltimore and Skibbereen was for their forebears in Ireland. Like the Irish forebears this branch of the clan has spread across Australia and beyond.

One thing that can't be overstated is the stability of the family environment, which was achieved with distinction, by Jeremiah and Catherine. Good, old fashion values of honesty, fair play and integrity were displayed in abundance, and were picked up by the ensuing generation(s).

Emily Jane (McBreen) O'Driscoll



## **Relationship of author to Jeremiah and Catherine (Carey) O’Driscoll**

Jeremiah (O’) Driscoll and Catherine (Carey) (O’) Driscoll are my Great Grandparents. Like everyone else, they are two of eight Great Grandparents; everyone has on this pedigree echelon.

<b><u>Pedigree Position</u></b>	<b><u>Bloodline Name</u></b>	<b><u>Spouse</u></b>
Great Great Grandparents	Timothy Driscoll and Mary Driscoll	-
Great Grandparents	Jeremiah (O’) Driscoll	Catherine Carey
Grandparents	Jeremiah Joseph O’Driscoll	Emily Jane McBreen
Parents	Robert James O’Driscoll	Betty Kathleen Stormon
Self	Thomas Philip O’Driscoll	Patricia Yvonne Butler

### **Acknowledgement**

I would like to acknowledge the publication by my father, Robbie O’Driscoll, “The O’Driscoll & McClymans Family History”, published in December 1990, a source that I have quoted from literally and liberally. I would also like to thank my Aunty Marie Sherrington (Robbie’s younger Sister) for the wonderful stories, photographs and recollections she provided, which greatly enhanced this story. Many other family members have provided me with so much information. I would like to thank them all for their contributions.

I would also like to thank Eammon and Patrick, my two sons and my workmate Tione Williams who helped with the formatting and setup of this document.

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I would also like to thank Karen Linden of Skibbereen for the guidance, support and input of editing this article.

### **The last word**

***“God invented beer to stop the Irish ruling the world”***

***George Bernard Shaw***

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 Emil Kevin Barclay b 374/1929 Northam WA d 05.06.2006 Lyneham, Perth WA  
 James 'Jim' Barclay b  
 John Watt Barclay b d 26.12.1977 South Fremantle WA  
 John 'Jack' Thomas Barclay b 105/1931 Northam WA  
 Ellen Bennett b 18.11.1910 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Joseph Bennett b 1885 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Margaret 'Maggie' (Driscoll) Bennett b 28.09.1888 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Bob Black (Co-Executor of Jeremiah Jnr estate) b d  
 Edmund Ralph Brockman b 22.10.1828 Sandgate ENG d 17.09.1908 Cannington WA  
 William Locke Brockman b .05.1802 Cheriton Co Kent ENG d 28.11.1872 Herne Hill  
 Alfred William Byfield b C 1873 d 17.10.1956 Northam WA

### C

Cornelius Carey b christened 03.02.1845 Castlehaven, Castletownshend Co Cork IRL d  
 Mary (Brien) Carey b c 1812 Castletownshend IRL d  
 Patrick Carey b c 1812 Castletownshend IRL d  
 Timothy Carey b Letterinlish County Cork d Chapel Yard Cemetery, Skibbereen.  
 Robert Carter b 07.05.1820 Shouldham ENG d 08.06.1899 "Malabine" Northam WA  
 John Michael Carroll b 05.09.1866 Seabrook WA d 29.09.1953 Northam WA  
 Eileen Eugene (Egan) Chapman b 04.10.1885 Goroke, Vic d 13.10.1981 Bunbury, WA  
 Geraldine Emma (Egan) Clarke b 04.05.1891 Minimay, Vic d 28.02.1975 Perth WA  
 Michael Collins (Irish Fenian) b 16.10.1890 Sam's Cross West Cork d 22.08.1922  
 Beal na mBlath West Cork IRL  
 Hubert Connole b 08.01.1873 Morphett Vale SA d 02.04.1946 Karrakatta WA  
 Margaret Ann (Barclay) Cullinane b d m 417/1956 Fremantle, WA

### D

Francis Joseph Davidson b 857/1913 Perth WA d 07.11.2001 Karrakatta WA  
 Robert Alexander Davidson b 27.05.1881 Eltham, Melb, Vic d 15.08.1955 Perth WA  
 John Devoy (Irish / American Fenian) b C 1842 Kill Co Kildare IRL d 29.09.1928 New York City USA  
 Daniel Donovan (Skibbereen Famine Doctor) b C1808 Rosscarbery Co Cork d 1877 Co Cork IRL

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 Catherine Driscoll c 22.12.1835 Skibbereen IRL d  
 Catherine 'Kitty' Driscoll b 15.03.1890 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d <1901 Cork City  
 Catherine 'Kitty' (Kelleher) Driscoll b 29.01.1900 Fairfield, Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Jane Driscoll c 13.06.1847 Skibbereen IRL d  
 Jeremiah 'Michael' Driscoll b 08.02.1887 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d 22.06.1938 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl  
 Julia Driscoll c 20.07.1837 Skibbereen IRL d  
 Margaret (O'Connor) Driscoll b 28.11.1897 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Mary (Thompson) Driscoll b 1858 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Mary Driscoll c 07.08.1842 Skibbereen IRL d  
 Mary (Driscoll) Driscoll b c 1812 Skibbereen IRL d  
 Matthew Driscoll b 04.11.1884 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d < 1901 Cork City  
 Michael Driscoll c 19.09.1852 Poundlick, Skibbereen IRL d  
 Michael Driscoll b 01.02.1880 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d 1891 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl  
 Michael 'Mickie' Driscoll b 20.08.1891 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d < 1939 Cork City  
 Patrick Driscoll c 18.03.1855 Upper Bridgetown, Skibbereen IRL d 22.12.1914 Skibbereen, Co Cork, Ireland  
 Patrick Driscoll b 28.08.1878 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d < 1901 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl  
 Timothy Driscoll c 25.03.1850 Skibbereen IRL d  
 Timothy Driscoll (Patriarch) b c 1812 Skibbereen IRL d  
 Timothy Driscoll b 01.12.1885 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d <1901 Cork City  
 William 'Willie' Driscoll b 11.10.1893 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d Blackpool, Eng

### E

Ellen Emily "Emma" (Mahon) Egan b C 1856 Blackwood Vic d 154/1925 Northam WA  
 Eugene Egan b C 1844 Co Kerry IRL d 01.06.1896 Day Dawn / Cue WA  
 Eugene Thomas Egan b 06.01.1884 Harrow, Vic d 21.06.1955 Perth WA  
 Eugenie Egan b 14.06.1896 Day Dawn WA d 12.07.1985 Karrakatta WA  
 Lily Goodshaw 'Noni' Egan b 23.11.1888 Gorokey, Vic d 1940 Eng (Air raid)

### F

Timothy Frost b 149/1907 Northam WA d

## Surname Index cont'd

### G

Beryl Mary (McEvoy) (Sermon) Galloway b 26.03.1917 Northam WA d 24.01.1988 Northam WA  
 Samuel Setchell Frederick Gentle b 15.01.1850 England d 09.06.1937 York WA  
 Fr. Matthew Gibney b C 1839 County Cavan d 22.06.1925 North Perth WA

### H

William Haddrill b c 1799 / 1802 Eng (thatcher) d 8339/ .02.1875 Swan WA  
 Christian Hansen b 06.12.1867 d 06.05.1937 Northam WA  
 Charles Harper b 15.07.1842 Toodyay WA d 20.04.1912 Woodbridge Guildford WA  
 Mary Monica (O'Driscoll) Hart b 20.12.1907 Northam WA d 14.04.1978 Karrakatta WA  
 Michael Joseph Hart b 29.03.1903 IRL d 28.12.1979 Karrakatta WA  
 Johannah Hitchcock christened 01.01.1845 Skibbereen Co Cork d 28.05.1888 E Guild.  
 Margaret Lavinia Hitchcock b 18.03.1883 Boramin WA d 08.12.1883 York WA  
 Mary May Hitchcock b .05.1884 Boramin WA d 08.04.1885 Guildford WA  
 Obediah Edom Hitchcock b 18.09.1839 Cuddington Buckinghamshire Eng d 26.11.1915 Guildford WA

### I

### J

### K

Cornelius Dwyer Keane b C 1838 IRL d 1892 Australia  
 Father Kennedy (RC Priest) b d

### L

Agnes (McClymans) Langdon b 01.12.1875 Boramin WA d 22.11.1939 Northam WA  
 Albert George Langdon b C 1877 d 03.04.1946 Northam WA  
 John Lyon b 29.05.1830 Glasgow SCT d 12.06.1924 Northam WA  
 Susannah (Carter) Lyon b 02.08.1844 Shouldham ENG d 30.11.1928 Northam WA  
 William (John) Lyon-White b 29.05.1830 Glasgow SCT d 12.06.1924 Northam WA

## Surname Index cont'd

### M

Mary Ellen (Dunne) McBreen b 01.07.1853 Tullamore Kings Co IRL d 17.01.1928 Hawthorn, Melbourne VIC  
 Thomas Bryan McBreen b.11.1839 Knockbride Co Cavan IRL d 29.01.1912 Fitzroy Vic  
 Daniel McCarthy Mor (original founder of McCarthie's Porter Brewery) b d  
 Daniel McCarthy Og (son) b C 1804 Skibbereen IRL d 27.11.1869 (65) West Cork  
 Hannah (Cook) McClymans b 18281/1877 Victoria Plains WA d 28.05.1944 Midland Junction WA  
 Henry McClymans b 04.06.1871 Seabrook WA d 12.03.1943 Karrakatta WA  
 James McClymans b c 1835 Glasgow Scotland d c 1880 Grass Valley WA  
 James McClymans (Jnr) b 23.03.1881 Muchakine Gully WA d 04.06.1892 York WA  
 Johannah (Driscoll) McClymans c 01.01.1845 Skibbereen IRL d 28.05.1888 East Guildford WA.  
 Mary Jane (McVee) McClymans b 25737/1884 Victoria Plains WA d  
 William James McClymans b 04.09.1869 Seabrook WA d 28.12.1945 Midland WA  
 Isabella McLimont b c 1851 Glasgow Scotland d  
 Martha (Davidson) McLimont b c 1818 Scotland? d  
 Martha McLimont b c 1842 Glasgow Scotland d  
 William McLimont b 04.04.1856 Glasgow Scotland d  
 William McLimont b c 1816 Ireland d  
 (John?) McEvoy (Grass Valley Altar boy) b d  
 John Henry Monger b 25.01.1831 Perth WA d 23.02.1892 Perth WA  
 John McBreen Moore b 26562/1913 Sunshine Vic d 28494/1974 Bent. VIC  
 Georgina (White) Morris b 1859 Minyip VIC d 30.10.1947 Northam WA  
 James Fox Morris b c 1842 Co Tipperary IRL d 08.05.1915 Northam WA  
 Mary (Fox) Morris 31.03.1818 Gragaugh, Co Tipperary, Irl d 1864 Moanvurrin, Co Tipp  
 Timothy Morris b 1805 Moanvurrin Parish, Co Tipperary, Irl d 05.11.1886 Minyip, Vic

### O

Josephine (Carey) O'Brien (Tragumna) b C 1924 Skibbereen Co Cork.  
 Ellen 'Nellie' (Driscoll) O'Connell b 21.02.1895 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d 23.09.1937 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl  
 Michael Finbar O'Connell b 03.10.1928 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d 01.01.2009 Cefn Hengoed, Glamorgan, Wales  
 Michael O'Connell b 19.11.1952 Cefn Hengoed, Glamorgan, Wales d  
 Patrick O'Connell b Avonmore, Queenstown, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Father Bernard O'Dee b d

## Surname Index cont'd

### O Cont'd

Bernard O'Driscoll b 01.01.1914 "Shamrock Villa" d 13.06.1975 Northam WA  
 Betty Kathleen (Stormon) O'Driscoll b 20.07.1915 Kalgoorlie WA d 28.01.1990  
 Northam WA  
 Catherine (Carey) (O') Driscoll b c 1840 Castletownshend IRL d 24.08.1918 "Tank  
 Farm" buried York WA  
 Desmond Fitzgerald O'Driscoll b 29.12.1917 Guildford WA d 08.10.1986 Buderim  
 Waters QLD  
 Eammon Robert O'Driscoll b 06.07.1983 Perth WA  
 Edward John O'Driscoll b 18.05.1946 Northam WA  
 Elliott Sylvester Timothy "Tim" O'Driscoll b 25.12.1213/1919 Guildford WA d  
 .10.2004 Adelaide SA  
 Emily Jane (McBreen) O'Driscoll b 15.02.1883 Fitzroy VIC d 12.04.1959 Northam WA  
 Ena Claire (Houston) O'Driscoll b 25.07.1282/1915 Perth WA d 14.08.1961 Adelaide sa  
 Eugene Patrick Driscoll O'Driscoll b 17.03.1913 Guildford WA d 02.08.1999 Karrakatta  
 Gerald O'Driscoll b 19.10.1902 Grass Valley WA d 05.04.1954 Northam WA  
 James Vincent O'Driscoll b 16.12.1905 Northam WA d 21.06.1996 Northam WA  
 Jeremiah (O') Driscoll c20.12.1836 Skibbereen IRL d 10.12.1911 Grass Valley WA  
 Jeremiah (Joseph) O'Driscoll b 10.06.1879 Grass Valley WA d 07.02.1926 Northam WA  
 John O'Driscoll (Irish Fenian) b IRL d Dublin Prison 1892  
 Kate Sheila (Langan) O'Driscoll b 28.03.1911 Greenmount WA d 28.10.2007 Northam  
 Kathleen Gladys (O'Connor) O'Driscoll b 29.06.1916 Claremont WA d 19.01.1973  
 Canberra ACT (died Sydney)  
 Kevin Bryan O'Driscoll b 22.08.1910 Northam WA d 06.11.1971 Northam WA  
 Margaret Alice (Secker) O'Driscoll b 16.03.1919 Dewsbury Eng. d 28.05.2009  
 Karrakatta WA  
 Mary (O') Driscoll b 31.07.1873 Grass Valley WA d 01.10.1884 Northam WA  
 Mary "Maymie" (Egan) O'Driscoll b 04.02.1882 Smythesdale Vic d 14.06.1946  
 Karrakatta WA.  
 Mary (Morris) O'Driscoll b 22.05.1880 Minyip Vic d 26.02.1967 Northam WA  
 Minnie Barbara (Reid) O'Driscoll b 377/1911 Fremantle WA d  
 Nellie Agnes (Antonio) O'Driscoll b 24.12.1917 Katanning d 19.12.1997 Northam  
 Patrick O'Driscoll b 17.06.1871 Boramin WA d 14.07.1957 Northam WA  
 Patrick Lawrence O'Driscoll b 13.05.1987 Lower Hutt, Wellington NZ  
 Robert James O'Driscoll b 13.09.1917 Northam WA d 09.04.1999 Northam WA  
 Rosemary (Elsegood) O'Driscoll b 19.10.1919 Broken Hill NSW d C 1999 Adelaide SA  
 Thomas Francis O'Driscoll b 05.07.1908 Northam WA d 16.11.1940 Northam WA  
 Thomas Philip O'Driscoll b 15.11.1951 Northam WA  
 Timothy Driscoll O'Driscoll b 22.11.1868 Skibbereen IRL d 28.09.1928 Northam WA

**Surname Index cont'd****O Cont'd**

Jeremiah O'Halloran b 27.02.1904 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d Florida, USA  
 John O'Halloran b 11.02.1873 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d 24.06.1932 Cork City, Co Cork  
 Mary 'Minnie' (Driscoll) O'Halloran b 26.05.1881 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Curraghkippane Cemetery, Cork City, Co Cork, Irl  
 Eliza or Elizabeth 'Lizzie' (Driscoll) O'Leary b 10.03.1883 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Douglas Cemetery, Cork City, Co Cork, Irl  
 Denis O'Leary b 06.01.1904 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 John O'Leary b 16.05.1872 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 John O'Leary b 14.09.1907 Cork City, Irl d  
 Mary O'Leary b 11.07.1906 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 John Boyle O'Reilly b 28.06.1844 Rathkenny Co Meath IRL d 10.08.1890 Boston USA  
 Michael Francis O'Rourke b 1868 Effin, Limerick, IRL d 29.03.1941 Northam WA  
 Sarah (Sermon) O'Rourke b 3196/ 1856 York WA d 24.04.1955 Northam

**P**

Walter Padbury b 22.12.1820 Stonesfield Oxf Eng d 18.04.1907 East Perth Cemetery  
 Edward Pauley b 177/1906 Boulder WA d 250/1942 Kalgoorlie WA  
 James William Purslowe b 1340 / 1872 Gulgong NSW d 17.02.1927 Northam WA

**Q****R**

Alexander Robert Richardson b 04.07.1847 Islington Eng d 02.05.1931 Karrakatta WA  
 Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa c 10.09.1831 Rosscarbery Co Cork d 29.06.1915 Staten  
 Island New York USA buried Glasnevin Cemetery Dublin

**S**

Austin Michael (Ted) Sermon b 3172/1900 Northam WA d 28.08.1975 Northam WA  
 Catherine (O'Driscoll) Sermon b 24.03.1876 Grass Valley WA d 19.11.1941 Northam  
 Christine (McShane) (Raymond) Sermon b d  
 Corinne Gladys (Norton) Sermon b 2261/1920 Perth WA d  
 Cyril Richard Sermon b 2626/1898 Northam WA d 76/1962 Perth WA d  
 Frederick Augustine Sermon b c 1913 Grass Valley WA d 26.06.1917 Northam WA  
 James Sermon b 01.04.1867 York WA d  
 Kathleen Marguerite Sermon b 21.01.1903 Grass Valley WA 04.04.1995 Northam WA  
 Lawrence Augustine Sermon b c 1919 Grass Valley WA d 13.01.1993 Karrakatta WA  
 Leslie Edwin Sermon b 17.06.1904 Grass Valley WA d 27.09.1959 Grass Valley WA  
 Mary (Ryan) Sermon b 1837 Nenagh Tipperary IRL d 24.07.1905 Northam WA  
 Michael Sermon b 14.12.1868 York WA d 05.03.1964 Northam WA  
 Richard Cornelius Sermon b 02.09.1873 Grass Valley WA d 19.12.1956 Grass Valley

**Surname Index cont'd****S Cont'd**

William Sermon b 1826 Compton, Berkshire ENG d 16.12.1920 "Horse Hill" Grass Valley WA  
 William Richard Sermon b 1910 Grass Valley WA d 28.05.1985 Northam WA  
 Eileen Mary (Sermon) Spencer b 30.05.1900 Grass Valley WA d 18.03.1957 Northam  
 William George Spencer b 3463/1901 Northam WA d  
 Allan Reginald Sherrington b 08.02.1921 Perth WA d 11.11.1980 Karrakatta WA  
 Marie Theresa (O'Driscoll) Sherrington b 03.04.1922 Northam WA

**T**

Eliza (unknown) Thompson b 1835 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 John Thompson b 1835 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Matthew Thompson b 1855 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Frank Eric "Ric" Cottrell Throssell b 1882 Northam WA.d 19 .04 .1917 Munkela, Gaza, Palestine.  
 George Throssell b 23.05.1840 Fermoy Co Cork IRL d 30.08.1910 Northam WA  
 George Lionel Throssell b 23.12.1863 Northam d 05.08.1930 Northam WA  
 George Michael Throssell b 1807 (IRL) d 27.04.1855 East Perth WA  
 Hugo Vivian Hope Throssell b 27.10.1884 Northam d 19.11.1933 Karrakatta Perth WA  
 Jane Ann (Ledsam) Throssell b C1810 d 02.10.1854 East Perth WA

**U & V**

Henry Whittall Venn b 27.10.1844 Adelaide SA d 08.03.1908 Bunbury WA

**W**

Anthony Walsh (RC Priest) b d  
 Garrett Walsh b Cork City, Irl d  
 Margaret (O'Connor) Walsh b 28.11.1897 Cork City, Co Cork, Irl d  
 Mr. Williams (Shamrock Villa teacher) b d  
 Tione Williams b 30.07.1960 Rotorua NZ  
 Sarah Jane (Dunne) Woods b Tullamore, Kings Co IRL d 02.02.1943 Karrakatta WA

**X, Y & Z**

## Place Index

Albany Boy's School, Albany, Western Australia  
 "Avon Bridge Hotel", Northam, Western Australia  
 Babakin Water Supply  
 Baltimore, (Dun na Sead), County Cork, Ireland– Fort of the jewels.  
 "Baltimore" Farm, Grass Valley  
 Boolybane, (An Bhuaille Bhan) County Cork Ireland – white booley or mountain dairy.  
 Bridgetown and Upper Bridgetown, Skibbereen, County Cork Ireland  
 "Booramin" Farm, Grass Valley  
 Boramin (locality)  
 Boramin Well  
 Carrigfadda Townland, (An Charraig Fhada) County Cork Ireland – The long rock.  
 Carter Road, Grass Valley  
 Castlehaven, (Gleann Bhearrachain) Parish (RC) County Cork Ireland  
 Castlehaven Castle, O'Driscoll Castle, Puerto Castillo, Castlehaven, Ireland  
 Castletownshend, County Cork, Ireland  
 Chapel Yard Cemetery, Skibbereen County Cork Ireland  
 Coomnageehy, (Com na Gaoithe) County Cork Ireland – Hollow of the wind.  
 Creagh Parish (RC), Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland  
 Curravally Townland, (An Corrbhaile) County Cork Ireland – A noticeable town.  
 "Forrest Hill", Jennapullin  
 Fremantle, Western Australia  
 "Glen Rowan" or St. Joseph's Orphanage, Subiaco, Western Australia  
 Gortshanecrone, (Gort Sheain Chroin) County Cork Ireland – the field of swarthy Sean.  
 Grass Valley, Western Australia  
 Grass Valley Hotel  
 Greenmount, Perth, Western Australia  
 Guildford, Perth, Western Australia  
 Halfway House (The Lakes), Western Australia  
 "Horse Hill" Farm, Grass Valley  
 Lettertinish, (Leitir tSinlis) Townland, County Cork, Ireland – Hillside of the fort house.  
 Licknavar Townland, (Leic na bhFear) County Cork Ireland – Flagstone of the men.  
 Loch Hyne, Baltimore, County Cork, Ireland  
 Loretto Convent, Claremont, Perth  
 Mahogany Creek, Western Australia  
 McCarthy's (Porter) Brewery, North Street, Skibbereen, Ireland  
 Millbank Prison, England  
 Minyip, Victoria  
 Mortlock River (Salt River), Grass Valley  
 Muchakine Gully, Grass Valley  
 "Mugakine" Farm, Grass Valley  
 Mulakine Road, Grass Valley  
 New Line Road (Carter Road), Grass Valley  
 Northam, Western Australia

### **Place Index Cont'd**

Northam Pioneer Cemetery  
 Northam Road Board  
 Northam School Board  
 "Old Place", Shamrock Villa, Grass Valley  
 Olympic Dam, South Australia  
 Poundlick Townland, (Leic An Phona) County Cork Ireland – Flagstone of the pound  
 Quellington School, Quellington, Western Australia  
 Roxby Downs South Australia  
 Salt River, Grass Valley  
 Seabrook, Western Australia  
 "Seabrook" Farm  
 "Shamrock Villa" Farm, Grass Valley  
 Skibbereen, (An Sciobairin), County Cork, Ireland – Little boat harbour.  
 Skibbereen Golf Club, Skibbereen County Cork Ireland  
 St. Barrahan's RC Church, Knockdrum, Castletownshend, Co Cork, Ireland.  
 St. Patrick's Cathedral (RC), Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland  
 St. Ronan's Well, York  
 Swan River Colony  
 "Tank Farm", Grass Valley  
 Tipperary (Anglican) Church, York, Western Australia  
 Tipperary School  
 "Warding" Farm, Meckering- Quellington, Western Australia  
 York, Western Australia  
 York Cemetery  
 York-Northam Road  
 York "Sheffield" Foot Race

## Subject Index

Irish Assisted Immigration  
 Irish potato famine  
 Skibbereen Heritage Centre  
 Driscoll of Cork website  
 Townlands in Ireland  
 Flagstone or Slate in Ireland  
 Irish Naming Patterns  
 “Pet Names” in Ireland  
 Brewery workers in Ireland  
 Brewing beer, Grass Valley, Western Australia  
 Throssell, Son and Stewart, Shopkeepers, Northam  
 Illiteracy  
 Griffith’s Valuation (Ireland) in 1852/3  
 Irish Census returns of 1901 and 1911  
 Registrar General of Ireland – Births, Deaths and Marriages  
 Irish Genealogy website Skibbereen christenings [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)  
 Colonial Office, Land and Emigration Commission (The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England, United Kingdom. TW9 4DU)  
 Colonial Office (The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England TW9 4DU)  
 Convicts  
 Shepherds  
 Avon Valley  
 Farming  
 Farm workers  
 Emigration Agents  
 Indentured workers  
 Domestic servants  
 “Bride Ships”  
 Conditional Purchase Lease  
 Crown Grant  
 Northam Advertiser  
 Jam tree (acacia acuminata)  
 York gum (eucalyptus loxophelba)  
 Blackboy (xanthorrhoea preissii)  
 Gimlet (eucalyptus salubris)  
 Broad axe  
 Fencing  
 Mud brick housing  
 Mud floors  
 Camp ovens  
 Blackboy rush thatched roofing  
 Harper fences  
 Measles outbreak among the Noongar Aboriginal Tribe  
 Cillin – Burial grounds in unconsecrated areas for children (stillborn) in Ireland

**Subject Index cont'd**

Hand scythe harvesting  
Farming at Grass Valley  
Funeral arrangements  
Horse drawn hearses  
Purslowe Funeral Homes

## Ship Index

- “Hastings” ex Port of London 17.04.1869, arrived Fremantle 26.07.1869 – Jeremiah, Catherine and Timothy Driscoll O’Driscoll
- “Robert Morrison” ex London 26.11.1865, arrived Fremantle 07.03.1866 – Johanna (Driscoll) McClymans
- “Sea Park” ex Plymouth Eng 27.12.1853, arrived Fremantle 05.04.1854 – John Lyon White
- “Ramillies” ex Plymouth Eng 05.05.1854, arrived Fremantle 08.08.1854 – Robert Carter
- “Scindian” ex Portsmouth Eng 04.03.1850, arrived Fremantle 01.06.1850 - George Throssell
- “Hougoumont” arrived Fremantle 10.01.1868 - John Boyle O’Reilly
- “Gazelle” 03.03.1869 Bunbury Western Australia – John Boyle O’Reilly
- “Catalpa” Easter Monday 20.04. 1876 Rockingham Western Australia – John Boyle O’Reilly
- “Simon Taylor” ex Port of London 30.04.1842, arrived Fremantle 20.08.1842 – Obediah Edom Hitchcock
- “Stag” ex London 05.02.1855, arrived Fremantle 23.05.1855 – James McClymans
- “Otway” ex Plymouth 10.07.1909, Devon, England arrived Fremantle early September 1909 – Jeremiah (Old Jerry) O’Driscoll

Other publications related to this subject or district of Grass Valley,  
Western Australia that are lodged at the Battye Library of W.A

<u>Author</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Publication</u>	<u>Date</u>
Robert James O'Driscoll	Father	The O'Driscoll and McClymans Family History From 1838 to 1990	December 1990
Thomas Philip Self O'Driscoll		O'Driscoll's of "The Valley"	17.03.2008
Robert James O'Driscoll	Father	The life of George Graham Barrett-Lennard From late 1921 to mid or early 1925	10.01.1990
Thomas Philip Self O'Driscoll		George Warner, Elizabeth (Martin) Warner and their children	18.07.2008
Thomas Philip Self O'Driscoll		John Holland & Johannah Mathews (Milton) Holland	30.05.2009

## GPS CO-ORDINATES

### “Shamrock Villa”

Original Mud Brick Dwelling	S31	41.698
At “Shamrock Villa”	E116	48.734
Fig Tree and Sulky Shed	S31	41.702
	E116	48.730
Jeremiah Jnr Mud Brick Dwelling	S31	41.718
	E116	48.720
Stockyards and Barn	S31	41.744
	E116	48.723

### “Boramin”

Cottage	S31	42.072
	E116	46.821
Well	S31	42.003
	E116	46.815

### “Baltimore”

House	S31	41.450
	E116	49.346