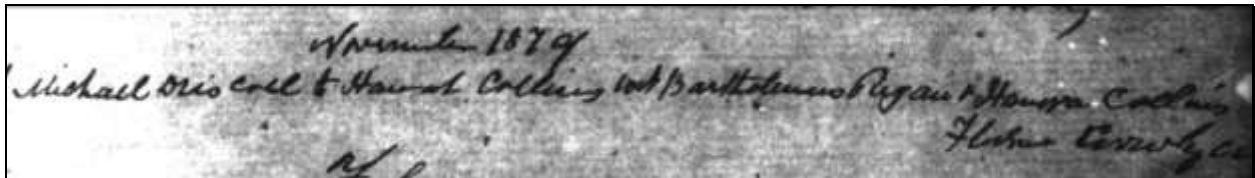


Hanora (Noria) Driscoll of Currabeg, Castlehaven

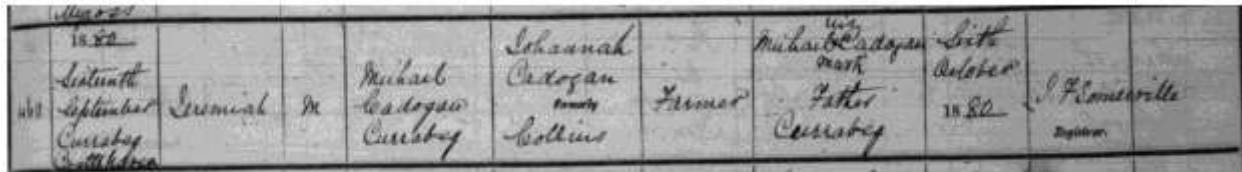
As the family historian, I have relied on my Aunt Peg to tell me what she knows about our family. When I mentioned to her how I usually dreaded looking at death records, she sighed and said, "Ireland is full of sad stories." This is one of them.

Hanora Driscoll (20 October 1890 – 21 February 1903), or 'Noria' as she was written in the 1901 census, was the third to the last child in a family of at least eight children, in Currabeg, at the north end of Castlehaven parish. Her father was Michael Driscoll, who also went by Cadogan. Her mother was Johanna Collins, from Lower Lissane, in Caheragh. Michael and Johanna were married in Caheragh R.C. parish in November 1879.¹

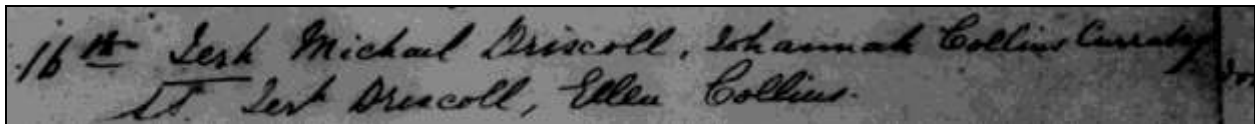


The marriage record of Michael Cadogan Driscoll and Johannah Collins (Caheragh R.C. Parish).

Noria's oldest sibling was Jeremiah (baptized as Driscoll but registered as Cadogan), born September 1880. He was followed by Helena, Maggie, Hannah, and Ellie (Eliza), and Noria. Julianne followed Noria in July 1893. Mary Anne, the youngest, arrived two years later.



The civil registration birth record of Jeremiah Cadogan Driscoll, Noria's oldest sibling.



The baptism record of Jeremiah Cadogan Driscoll (Castlehaven & Myross R.C. Parish).

Very little is known about Michael Driscoll, Noria's father. Griffith's Valuation lists a few Driscolls in Currabeg, Castlehaven, as well as one Jeremiah Cadogan. Perhaps the latter was Michael's father.² The Castlehaven Tithe Applotment of 1825 does not say much, stating "Driscolls" in Currabeg, with no further details.³ On son Jeremiah's baptism record are sponsors Jeremiah Driscoll and Ellen Collins.

Noria's mother, Johanna Collins (1856-?), was the eldest child of Michael "Micky" Collins⁴ of Lower Lissane and his wife, Ellen Driscoll. Ellen Driscoll's family was from Garrane Beg, a townland wedged between Coolbane and Coolboy, along the southwest edge of the parish of Caheragh. Whether there was a family relationship between Garrane Beg and Currabeg is unknown. The circumstances of Johannah's death are not known⁵, but what is clear is that by 1901, Michael Driscoll had several young daughters to look after on his own.

Hanora (Noria) Driscoll of Currabeg, Castlehaven

Michael sent one daughter to live in Russagh, south of Skibbereen. Julianne was welcomed into the home of James Collins and his wife Catherine Driscoll. James may have been from Lower Lissane⁶, but his relationship to Micky Collins is not clear. It is unknown if Catherine Driscoll Collins, was a close relative of Michael in Currabeg, or of Ellen Driscoll Collins.⁷

Noria went to live with her Collins grandparents in Lissane. Perhaps Nana and Granddaddy and Uncle Michael and Aunt Noria sat by and watched, amused, as Noria studiously filled out parts of the 1901 census form. Was that a child's hand that churned out the misspelt "Roman Catholic" on the top line by her grandfather's name? That nearly forgot the "e" in "niece" on the line with her name, and scrawled out "Scholar?"

Michael Collins	head of family	Roman Catholic	Read write	58	M	Farmer	Married	to Cork	Irish & English
Ellen Collins	wife	Roman Catholic	Read write	46	F		Married	to Cork	Irish & English
Michael Collins	son	Roman Catholic	Read write	20	M	Farmer's son	Married	to Cork	Irish & English
Freida Collins	daughter	Roman Catholic	Read write	31	F	Farmer's daughter	Married	to Cork	Irish & English
Noria Driscoll	niece	Roman Catholic	Read write	10	F	Scholar	Married	to Cork	Irish & English

1901 census return of Michael Collins of Lower Lissane. Noria listed her relationship to her uncle, not her grandfather.

That may have been one of their last happy times together as a family. Just a few weeks after the 1901 census return was submitted, Micky Collins was dead.

On the afternoon of Saturday, February 21, 1903, Noria said goodbye to Uncle Michael and Grandmother Ellen and started walking to Currabeg to visit her father, taking the road leading from Lissane to Rearahinagh. Even in better weather, the water of the Saivnose River rushed by with an urgency. But there had been heavy rain that February and now the river was alarmingly swollen and flooding the banks. A neighbor saw Noria fall in as she tried to cross, but she went under and he could not find her, making rescue impossible.



Bridge over the Saivnose River, between Rearahinagh and Bredagh Cross (Google Street View).

Hanora (Noria) Driscoll of Currabeg, Castlehaven

THE DROWNING NEAR SKIBBEREEN.

Mr Richard Neville, solicitor, Coroner for the West Riding, opened an inquest on Tuesday, touching the death of a little girl named Honora Driscoll, who was accidentally drowned whilst crossing the river from Lissane to Bearahanagh, on Saturday evening last.

A jury, of which Mr John Good was foreman, having been sworn,

Michael Driscoll, uncle of deceased, deposed that Honora Driscoll lived with him, and was 12½ years of age. He last saw her alive on Saturday, about 3 o'clock. She left shortly after to go to her father's place, who lives at Currabeg. He found the body at Toureen, on Sunday morning.

Cain O'Mahony deposed that on Saturday evening last he saw a little girl trying to cross the river, in which there was a flood at the time. She came back after the first attempt, and again tried to cross. The second time witness saw her fall into the river, and ran towards where she fell in, but on his arrival he could neither find or see the body. He ran along the bank, but did not see the little girl. The body was found the following morning about three quarters of a mile from where she fell in.

Dr. O'Driscoll, M.O., Drimoleague, deposed to seeing the body, and in his opinion death was due to suffocation from drowning. There were no marks on the body except *post mortem* ones.

The jury found that death was due to accidental drowning.

Uncle Michael found her body downstream in Tooreen on Sunday morning.

What was everybody thinking that awful night from the time she fell in until the time her body was discovered the next morning? How unbearable was the grief that must have filled Uncle Michael, Aunt Noria, and her grandmother? What regret did Uncle Michael feel allowing her to travel unassisted, not considering the danger of her path? How do you feel when you have been entrusted to care for a dead sister's child and something terrible happens to that child? And what of Noria's father Michael Driscoll, and her siblings? How did they feel knowing that her journey to see them had a part to play in her death?

Uncle Michael was to know more sorrow. His wife, whom he married around the time of the census, died in 1905. Within four years, Michael lost his father, his wife, and his niece.

Skibbereen Eagle, February 25, 1903. Noria's uncle Michael Collins is erroneously named Michael Driscoll.

Ireland is full of sad stories, but, fortunately for the rest of us, life does go on. Michael remarried in 1906; Michael's sister Noria is believed to have married Michael Lynch of Coolnaclehy. By 1911 the dead Noria's oldest sister Helena had married Patrick Cadogan and her husband headed the household in Currabeg. Father Michael Driscoll and several of his daughters were still alive.

This full article is available at the [Driscoll of Cork](http://driscollcork.com) website under "Family Biographies."

Two, possibly three different Driscoll families are mentioned.

Ellen Driscoll Collins of Garrane Beg and of Lissane Lower was my maternal grandfather's paternal grandmother.

I would be interested in corresponding with anybody who is descended from people in this article.

Hanora (Noria) Driscoll of Currabeg, Castlehaven

¹ To date, I am unable to locate the marriage in civil registration.

² Michael Driscoll's age is listed as 47 in 1901 and 65 in 1911. That might place his birth year between 1846 and 1854. There are a few records of a Michael Driscoll born to a Jeremiah Driscoll falling within or just outside this range, but so far as I've seen, none list Currabeg as a residence or fall within Castlehaven & Myross R.C. Parish.

³ There is a Jeremiah Keddigan in the nearby townland of Rea, listed in the Tithe Applotment of Abbeystrowry of 1835.

⁴ There are unresolved questions about the origin of Micky Collins, making it difficult to establish any relationship to James Collins of Russagh, if any. From census and death records it is believed he was born circa 1822. It is assumed that since his oldest son was named Humphrey Michael, Micky was the son of a Humphrey Collins. There is indeed a family headed by Humphrey Collins (whom I'll call Humphrey #1) and Johanna Barnane, in Lissane, starting in 1820, but there is a gap in the baptism records between two children, one born 1820, the other born 1824. To date I have been unable to find a son Michael for this couple. There **is** a Michael Collins born to a Humphrey Collins (Humphrey #2) and Ellen Sweeny in Knockgorm, in 1822. However, there are no baptism records available for other children of this couple and there is no marriage record available. It is possible that Humphrey #2 ended up widowed and married Mary Galvin O'Brien. The baptism records for some of their children are in Skibbereen & Sullon, starting in 1836. (There is evidence that Johanna Barnane was alive at least until 1846. This would rule out the possibility that it was Humphrey #1 who married Mary O'Brien.) The witnesses for the wedding of Micky Collins and Ellen Driscoll included one Catherine Sweeny and a Humphrey Collins. A Mary O'Brien is the baptism sponsor of one of their children.

There are more details at "Too Many Humphreys": <http://skibgene.blogspot.com/2011/10/too-many-humphreys.html>

⁵ To date, I am unable to locate the death record in civil registration for Johanna or Hannah Driscoll or Cadogan.

⁶ One Humphrey Collins witnessed the marriage of James Collins and Catherine Driscoll March 4, 1862, Skibbereen & Rath. A Humphrey Collins was a baptism sponsor to their son Denis, May 14, 1879. See "Too Many Humphreys."

⁷ Catherine Driscoll Collins's age was listed as 55 in the 1901 census. There is a Catherine Driscoll baptized 4-Jul-1847 to a Jeremiah Driscoll and an Ellen Collins in Skibbereen (Creagh & Sullon). These are the names of the baptism sponsors of Jeremiah Cadogan Driscoll in September 1880. Further searching for children of Jeremiah Driscoll or Cadogan and Ellen Collins has not turned up a son Michael to date.