



Ask your British Research Question 26 May 2016

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Research Question:

Where else can I look for the Irish town of origin? I have the county (Roscommon); I have checked church, naturalization, and vital records, as well as newspapers, and most of them don't exist for these people (coal miners in PA). John McGann, wife Mary, sons Thomas, Matthew, & Peter arrived in the US in 1847. John disappears after the 1860 census. I have also looked at the witnesses on the naturalization papers.

Research Suggestions:

- Locate a burial record
- Might show up in a coal mining accident would there records or company records, newspaper article. Would it state specifically where he was from, but worth checking
- Coal Miner organizations, union or other group.
- Check for head stone markings - Cemetery records
- More than one person would have died in a mining accident a monument.
- What about the 1850 census.
- Try 1821, 1831, 1841 census fragments for Ireland
- Why did the McGanns or McCanns (interchangeable) end up in this part of PA? People from the same community may have emigrated to the same community. Irish can travel together.
- They came in 1847 and this is part of the Famine years in Ireland.
- Is there an area in Roscommon where there were mines?
- Are there other McGanns's in this area of PA
- Section on Coal Mining Records PA Historical Museum Commission
- Norwegian township, Schuylkill Co. PA in 1850 census and no headstones as they are too poor.
- Church records most helpful may mention where he is from. Diocese for Roman Catholic.
- Have you checked for a county history for the county in Pennsylvania where they lived? The biographies they wrote often included quite a bit on their towns of origin?
- Very few coal mines in Ireland
- see this article on GenGuide
http://www.blackcoalminerheritage.net/pdfs/NGS_coalminer_article.pdf

Research Question

I am trying to find information about Mary Whiting in London, England about 1795. I have a christening record for her son in St Andrew, Holborn, Middlesex, England that says, "Christenings March 1796. William, son of William Bryceson by Mary Whiting, Leather Lane...20th" Family tradition says they had other children, Thomas (1800), Ann (1801). I have found a christening record for Thomas, but no parents' names were given. I have also looked for a marriage record for William Bryceson and Mary Whiting without success. William Bryceson was born in Scotland in 1771 and became a goldsmith in London. He married Margaret Peacock, from Edinburgh, in Dec 1806 and I have the christening dates for several of their children.

Research Suggestions:

- If from Scotland there are Scottish churches in Westminster and London. FamilySearch Catalog Key Word Search for Scots Presbyterian.
- Looks at maps.familysearch.org for London or Westminster.
- Prior to 1 July 1837 had to marry in Church of England unless a Quaker or Jew. Marriage for Whiting surname may indicate where the family resided and may provide for a baptism/christening for her.
- Pallot's Marriage Index on Ancestry.
- If Mary Whiting was married it would be unusual to have the mother's maiden name in the record. Could this mean that the child is base born or spurious, illegitimate?
- Survey any Whiting's in the area around St Andrew, Holborn. Why is she in this parish? Ancestry.com and findmypast are the best websites for marriage and Baptism record indexes and images of the parish registers.
- Marriage in Scotland could be in a Church of England record that is not published and succeeding congregations that are not published.
- Church of Scotland all indexed at Scotlandspeople.gov.uk.

Research Question

Hannah Coffey, chr. 1778 in Manchester, Lancashire, England. How do I find her parents' marriage, when not found in Manchester Cathedral? There are no more children found.

Research Suggestions:

- Manchester Cathedral and had 160 chapels connected.
- <http://wiki.familysearch.org> lists all Manchester chapels with links
- Lancashire Online Parish Clerks many indexed records of 9 million
- FamilySearch has 18 million plus for Lancashire
- Ancestry under Manchester and has about 8 million. Try a separate field under Lancashire as well.
- Boyd's Marriage Index
- Manchester is also close to Cheshire County. See marriage indexes for Cheshire.
- Surname of Coffey could mean they are Irish and may have married in a Catholic church. Try looking at Catholic Church records. Online databases.
- Google catholic records for Manchester

Research Question

David Kelf born about 1817 in Aldgate, London, England died June 1871 London, England wife Leah Perez/Pares/Paris born about 1827 Canterbury died 6 April 1913 In London, England. Trying to find parents of both. Were Jewish.

Research Suggestions:

- Jewish individual marriages try Civil Registration 1 July 1837- may have a variant spelling.
- United Synagogue of London the archival site for records
- Webpage you should try checking on FamilySearch which is called the Knowles Collection. <http://wiki.familysearch.org>
- Try www.freebmd.org.uk using different ways to spell the surnames and also phonetic.
- Check probate records on www.gov.uk post -1858- and www.ancestry.com 1858-
- Pre-1858 try both ancestry and the genealogist.co.uk for Prerogative Court of Canterbury.
- Leah as a given name search only.
- Jewishgen UK database
- Trade Directories for London.
- Cigar Maker and Tobacconist
- Deed Registry at London Metropolitan Archives for Middlesex

Research Question

I have burial records from Devon parish records for two people who died in Massachusetts. If their bodies or cremains were taken to England from the US, what paperwork might have been generated in England? The deaths are 1902 and 1909 and the burials are from 1902 and 1911.

Research Suggestions:

- One class attendee had two Aunts had to have a burial papers to allow them to be transferred. Ask The TNA National Archives at Kew of England.
- Contact the funeral home or crematorium at the local town or parish. The Devon record Office or Historical/genealogical Family History Society. Massachusetts Records. Consulate records. Death Certificates of British Citizens abroad under Great Britain Civil Registration. findmypast as well.

Research Question

I'm looking for death in Edinburgh Scotland. I have the supposed date, 9 Sep 1895, that I received from another relative however they didn't have a citation. She did die in Edinburgh proper. I have looked at various death record years and places, not even someone who might be her. I tried to find the hospital and records however no luck. Any suggestions as to where else I can look. Even if it's not online? I think she died a year after giving birth.

Research Suggestions:

- www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk. Look at births and death period of time under Edinburgh or Midlothian. Search various spellings.
- May be registered under her maiden surname and possibly if she died prior to her husband.
- New transcriptions at Oldscottish.com for records of Scotland.
- Supplemental records on ScotlandsPeople of the register of Corrected entries, but should link from and indexed record on ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk.
- The British Newspaper Archive indexed and imaged records for an obituary or death entry.
- 1891 census with address and what church they resided in may have a burial or tombstone record.
- Where they resided is important for a specific burial record. With this being a large city, they will have cemetery records that are indexed. Lair Records. Try Church of Scotland and also Monumental Inscription listings.
- If they already have the name of the husband try and search under his name. Could she be buried under a different name, especially if she remarried?
- Surname is Sutherland. Search broader for areas in and outside Edinburgh. Could try Sutherland County in Scotland or where other family may have resided.
- Highland Archive Centre is an excellent place for helpful help!