

Chapter 2 Early Scotland and Ireland

We begin our history with the family's likely origin in 14th-century Scotland and follow it through its two-century sojourn in Ireland to the departure of the two main families for Canada. The loss of records in the fire of 1922 leaves gaps in the history that cannot be entirely mended with speculation. The telling of the history is also complicated by the recurrence of names (Charles, George and Andrew in particular) that prompts a reach for the family finder. We start with a general introduction to Ireland and move on to the lives of the figures whose importance is measured by the records they left.

Many members of "Little" families alive today could no doubt prove their descent from Clan Little.¹ Clan Little is a bonafide Scottish clan, though one that never did achieve the numbers and politico-military power of clans Campbell and McGregor. One line is said to have originated in the 15th century in the border region between Scotland and England, one place being Wigtownshire, the ancestral home of William Stewart who plays an important role in our story.²

At the conclusion of the Anglo-Itish wars in the early 1600s many of Ireland's ruling elite fled the country leaving the peasantry to the mercy of the victorious English. The peasantry had lived in the same place for millennia, speaking Gaelic and following Holy Church. They strongly resisted transferring their allegiance to conquerers speaking a foreign tongue and practicing an heretical religion. In an effort to pacify the Irish and promote English culture Queen Elizabeth and King James pursued a policy of "planting" loyal Protestants in their midst. The task was delegated to "undertakers" who were granted tracts of land on condition they settle them with people of dependable loyalty from their estates in England. The tenants were expected to arm themselves and assemble at musters to display their strength and superiority, a strategy hardly conducive to winning hearts and minds.

Undertakers varied in wealth and status. Some were aristocrats and gentry, others military officers and government officials. There were even a few Irish. One of the soldiers was William Stewart, a mercenary who had fought in Europe. In 1610 he was granted a thousand acres of land in the counties of Donegal and Tyrone and in 1623 made a baronet and knighted.

These events can be followed to some extent in muster rolls. The rolls of County Tyrone have been transcribed and published.³ We find in them the names of six Littles: Christopher, Andrew, David, John, Edward and Clement. These men were no doubt enticed to leave Scotland for the low rents Stewart was offering on his lands in Ireland. The rolls in some cases are of sufficient detail to support the construction of family tree fragments (Figure 1).

We can safely eliminate the Edward and Nicholas of Figure 1 as forebears of our family as the names do not occur in later family documents. But as to the quintessential Scottish name "Andrew" we shall

1 Clan Little Society: <https://clanlittlesociety.org/>.

2 Hunter, R.J. ed., *Men and arms' The Ulster settlers, c. 1630'* (Ulster Historical Foundation, 2012). Hunter had access to leases, stating "Christopher Little shared a fifteen year lease on sixty acres on Sir William Stewart's estate with his brothers, Andrew (Sir William Stewart, number 44) and 'Clancy' [Clement (number 23)] Little, 1622 (ibid. p. 578). Edward and Nicholas (numbers 11 and 17) are probably the sons of Christopher and Clement Little." Hunter, *ibid*, 62.

3 Hunter describes the rolls in the preface to his book thusly: "The Muster Roll of the Province of Ulster is a large, leather-bound volume in the British Library, where it is shelved as Additional Manuscript 47780. The volume consists of 283 folio sheets, each slightly larger than a page of A4, on which are recorded the names of 13,147 adult males from the nine counties of Ulster. Each county forms a separate section of the volume and the men who mustered are listed under the names of their landlords; beside each man's name there is a description of the weapons he was carrying or a note that he was unarmed. The lists cover the first 276 folios and the remaining seven folios are a 'breviate' or summary of the whole book. Most of the men who mustered were English and Scottish settlers and, in the absence of comprehensive parish and estate records, the muster roll is the nearest one has to a census of the British population of early seventeenth-century Ulster."

encounter it and often. A gravestone in the cemetery of St. Matthew's Church in Ballygawley, County Tyrone, stands to the memory of an Andrew Little who was born in Cullenbrone townland in 1693. A century later we find an Andrew Little a tenant of Sir Hugh Stewart, a descendant of Sir William, and fifty years further on find a George Andrew Little (great-grandfather of the author) in Canadian records.

Of most interest to us are the lands held by the Stewart family in Clogher barony in southcentral County Tyrone. Clogher barony is bordered on the west and north by the barony of Omagh East, on the east by the barony of Dungannon Lower and on the south by the counties of Fermanagh and Monaghan. It contains within it the parishes of Errigal Keerogue, Clogher (same name), parts of Donacavey, Errigal Trough, and Aghalurcher. It is in Errigal Keerogue and Donacavey that most of the events of this chapter take place.

Figure 1. A sketch of a Little Family of the Plantation Period. All references are to Hunter.

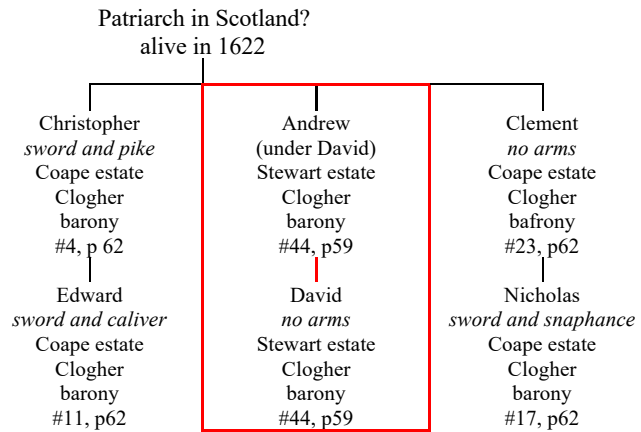
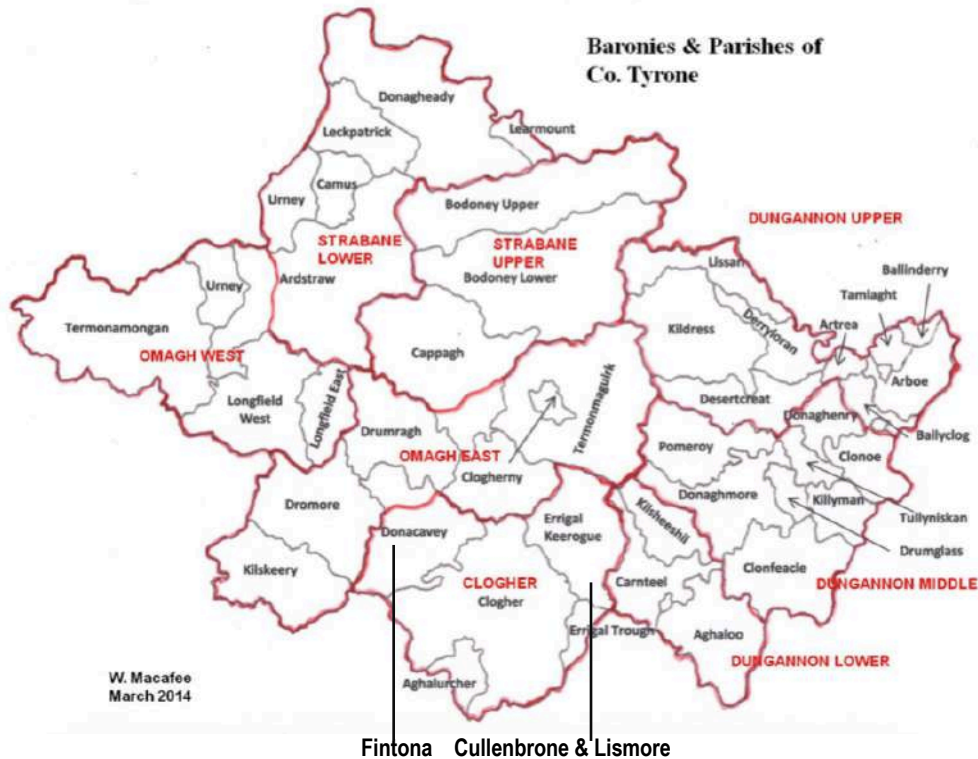


Figure 2. The Baronies and Parishes of County Tyrone.



The Irish historian, Gallachair, has an acid view of the Plantation:⁴

The impression is abroad in some quarters today that the Ulster Plantation was the result of the pioneer work of starry-eyed missionaries sent out from England and Scotland to bring the blessings of Christianity and civilization to rebellious Irish savages. To set the record straight, let us recall that the native Irish of the North were far from savages and were not rebels against any lawful authority. For almost thousand years, under their own Gaelic rulers, they had developed a distinctive Celtic Christian civilization, producing giants of the stature of Columba and Columbanus, who sailed out from Derry and Bangor to ‘relight the lamps of Europe’ (and of Britain too!), over a thousand years before the first crude colonists set their hungry eyes on the estates of independent Celtic Ulster. In brief, the Ulster Plantation was the result of naked aggression of a Teutonic race thirsting for empire, against a free, and foreign neighbour - the ancient Irish nation. After nine years of defensive war (1594-1603) against the Tudor aggressor, the old Irish leaders of Ulster were defeated, frustrated and insecure. They fled the country in 1607, leaving the last-conquered Gaelic province of Ireland to the mercy of foreign adventurers. The broad acres of O’Neill, O’Donnell, Maguire and the rest, were then confiscated by the Crown and granted to loyal, land-hungry settlers, to strengthen and support what then began, and has since been boasted of, as “England’s oldest colony”. And so began the divided Ulster community of today.

Protestant English and Catholic Irish lived side by side for generations in a civil, albeit tense relationship, Irish outnumbering English. Among the earliest sources of genealogical information to have survived the great fire are the Hearth Money Rolls of 1622. Heads of families are named who paid a tax of 2s on each hearth and fireplace in their homes.⁵ There are 28 Littles on the rolls, two from County Tyrone, an Archibald in Clogher parish and a James in Errigal Keerogue parish. Both could be members of our family though their connection is unprovable at present. The list is not complete in any case as many English and Irish conspired to evade the tax.

16	4/11	do	John	do	do	do	do
17	5953	do	Archibald	Tyrone	Clogher	Clogher	Ballynagurragh
18	6116	do	James	do	do	Errigal Keerogue	Annaghilla
19	5200	do	Gilbert	do	Donaghmore	Donaghmore	Clara

Table 1. Extracts from Macafee’s *Posting of Hearth Money Rolls, 1622*.

Moving a century and more onwards we encounter records of the Religious Census of 1766 (Table 2).⁶ The call went out to the vicars of the Church of Ireland to identify the families in their parishes by religion. Twenty Littles are on the list, four of potential interest to us: John (#7 in Table 2), William (#8), Elenor (#10) and a second William (#13). They are all of the parishes of Carnteel and Aghaloo (Aghaloo). Carnteel is not within the modern bounds of Errigal Keerogue but it does share a border with it. Aghaloo is the next parish east of Carnteel.

“Elenor” (#10 in Table 2) is an uncommon name in Ireland. Eleanor is therefore most likely to be the lady of the same name who in 1799 left a will in the Prerogative Court of Ireland (#7 in Table 3). The William who left a will in 1796 is probably the man of that name who appears in the Religious Census. The wills themselves cannot be read as they were lost in the great fire. Four of the wills dated 1698-1817 are of Cullenbrone: John (1719), William (1796), Archibald (1797) and Eleanor (1799). Cullenbrone townland is rather small, about 329 acres in extent, so we should expect these people to be members of our extended family. Furthermore, Eleanor and Archibald are surely the people whose names appear on the flax-growers

4 Gallachair, “The Parish of Donacavey”, *Clogher Record*, Vol. 7, No. 2, (1970), page 264.

5 Macafee has placed a copy of the rolls online. <http://www.billmacafee.com/1660shearthmoneyrolls/1660shearthmoneyrollsulstername.pdf>

6 The rolls are indexed on ancestry.com in a searchable database.

awards list. William could also be the man who appears in the Freemasons list under date of 1794 (Figure 9). The date of John’s will, 1719, implies members of our extended family had been living in Errigal Keerogue since the early 18th century and possibly the 17th. The William of Cullenbrone who died in 1796 is surely the William who is named in a 1768 lease as the father of James Little, then 22, to be described presently.

Table 2.
Extracts from the Religious Census of 1766.

#	Name	Rel	Parish	Diocese	County	Townland
6	Jn Little	P	Kildress	Armagh	Tyrone	Cashel
7	John Little	P	Aghalow & Carnteel	Armagh	Tyrone	--
8	Willm Little	P	Aghalow & Carnteel	Armagh	Tyrone	--
9	Adam Little	P	Derryvullan	Clogher	Fermanagh	Drummanaghan
10	Elenor Little	P	Aghalow & Carnteel	Armagh	Tyrone	--
11	James Little	P	Devenish	--	Tipperary	Clogher
12	Jn Little	P	Derryloran	Armagh	Tyrone	Doorless
13	Willm Little	P	Aghalow & Carnteel	Armagh	Tyrone	--
14	Widow Little	P	Devenish	--	Tipperary	Clogher

Table 3. *Wills in the name of “Little” submitted from Errigal Keerogue, 1719-1852.*

#	Name	Residence	Parish	Date
3	John Little	Cullenbawn	Errigal Keerogue	1719
4	William Little	Duffless	Artrea	1 Jun 1758
5	William Little	Cullanbrone	Errigal Keerogue	11 Sep 1796
6	Archibald Little	Cullinbrone	Errigal Keerogue	23 Jul 1797
7	Eleanor Little	Cullebrone	Errigal Keerogue	29 May 1799
8	James Little	Aghafad	Donacavey	24 Dec 1810
9	Archibald Little	Lismore	Errigal Keerogue	10 Nov 1817
10	John Little	Killicarnan		23 Jan 1820
11	Thomas Little	Aughnacloy	Carnteel	1824
12	Samuel Little	Stewartstown	Donaghery	1828
13	William Little	Breakley	Aghalurcher	1849
14	John Little	Tullylinton	Errigal Keerogue	1852

Table 4. *A Selection of Little Names from the Flax Growers Awards List, 1796.*

#	Name	Parish	County	# Looms or Wheels
63	Stewart Little	Arigle [Errigal Keerogue]	Tyrone	4
64	Archibald Little	Arigle [Errigal Keerogue]	Tyrone	4
65	John Little	Ardstraw	Tyrone	1
66	John Little	Ballyclog	Tyrone	2
67	John Little	Derilorn [Derryloran]	Tyrone	1
68	Andrew Little	Kilskerry [Kilskeery]	Tyrone	1
69	Eleanor Little	Arigle [Errigal Keerogue]	Tyrone	4
70	Charles Little	Arigle [Errigal Keerogue]	Tyrone	1
71	Mary Little	Derilorn [Derryloran]	Tyrone	1

Ireland at this time was largely an agricultural society with a structure consisting of four levels. At the fourth or top level lay the owners or proprietors of estates. At the third level lay sublessors, at the second level tenant-farmers, and at the bottom level cottiers. Proprietors lived on rental income. Sublessors, who in essence made their living managing land, leased large parcels of land from proprietors and also lived on rents. Tenant-farmers leased small holdings from sublessors and, along with cottiers, performed the actual

physical work. Owners were typically undertakers, their descendants, gentlemen or aristocrats. Sublessors might be entrepreneurs, men of the upper middle class or wealthy protestant clergymen. Tenant-farmers were often the descendants of Plantation settlers and cottiers their sons.

The men of the four levels depended on land for their existence. It should therefore not be surprising to find the land lease a major source of genealogical information. The land lease reveals much of the relationship that existed between proprietor and tenant-farmer. No man could farm a single acre of ground without a lease from the owner or sublessor. Conditions of leases were spelled out meticulously, from the annual rent to be paid the lessor to the services or “duties” to be accorded him. A duty might take the form of a gift of fat hens at Christmastime, hardly a burden to a tenant-farmer, but it was a symbol of subservience and triggering profound resentment.

The status of a tenant-farmer depended on the size of his holding. Fifty acres and more made him a farmer-manager. He found his workforce from his children or the cottiers who were allowed by custom to live on his holding. His house might be a rustic one, valued at less than £5 per year, but it was a decent affair, more comfortable—and healthier—than the hovel occupied by the cottier.

So tenant-farmers were few, cottiers many. A cottier might earn extra money by enlisting his wife and children in the spinning and selling of linen at market, but the returns were slim and hardly a pathway to advancement.

Tenant-Farmer



Cottier



Figure 3. *Typical Houses of the Period.*

Donacavey parish was subject to a survey in 1834. The report reveals much of the practices and lifestyle of the tenant-farmer:⁷

Most farms, large and small, are enclosed with boundary markers, commonly quickset hedges. The buildings are mostly of brick or stone or in the poorest of cases, mud. Principal crops are barley, potatoes, flax and oats. Barley is sown in March and April and reaped in September. Potatoes are set in May and dug in November. Flax is sown in April and pulled in August. Farmers often sow potatoes followed by two, three and even four crops of oats in succession. The land is then left fallow. Grass is only rarely sown. In the Irish climate wheat ripens poorly and in 1833 was uncommon. An average crop throughout the parish varies from 250 to 300 bushels of potatoes per acre, 40 bushels of oats per acre and 48 stone of flax per acre. (All measures Irish.)

Conditions changed slowly, 1834 being little different from the 1790s:

The cottages are small throughout the parish, generally consisting of 2 rooms, not very clean. There are mostly a few trees round each, thatched, 1-storey, windows broken, their only fuel turf. Their only amusement appears to be playing musical instruments. In the evening it is very common throughout the parish to hear some person playing the clarinet <clarionet>, flute, pipe or drum. The persons living in the country seem to think that when the crops are down they have performed all the requisite services for the season and few, if any, endeavour to improve the external appearance of their cottages. Gaps in hedges, instead of having gates, are commonly filled with a few bushes.

As the 18th century gave way to the 19th all classes became ever more dependent on a single foodstuff, the potato. In 1845, 55% of the population was dependent on the potato as the primary source of sustenance. Of these, 70% ate potatoes exclusively, though an enterprising housewife might supplement her family's diet with milk, buttermilk and the occasional fish poached by her husband in the darkness of night.

The climate was variable, mild and damp. Winds in the summertime blew in from the Atlantic carrying rain often heavy enough to retard the crops. The crops most affected were the cereals, wheat and barley, but to some extent also potatoes.

With this brief introduction to Ireland we now turn to people. We begin with Charles Little, who in the absence of earlier, harder evidence is the best candidate found for the family's patriarch as of the 18th century.

Figure 4. One Route from Belfast to Fintona. The farms of at least three generations of Littles lay within the area encircled.



7 Day, A. & McWilliams, P. Eds., *Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland*, 40 Vols. (Institute of Irish Studies, Belfast, 1993). Vol. 5, Part 1, North, West & South Tyrone, Vol. 20, Part II, Mid and East Tyrone. The comments selected are of Errigal Keerogue and Donacavey.

Figure 5. *St. Matthews Church of Ireland, Near Ballygawley. Several generations of Littles are buried here, though few stones display the Little name.*



Figure 6. *Cullenbrone is a Largely Agricultural Townland.*



Charles (ca. 1730 - ?)

We have seen from militia rolls of the Plantation era that an Andrew Little could be the first of our Irish ancestors. However, we must hold our judgement until we find irrefutable proof. A more solid, later, candidate is the Charles Little who is named in a land lease of 1768. The document hints he was born in Cullenbrone townland around 1730.

The name “Charles Little” is absent from the lists of the Religious census of 1766 (Table 2). They contain a John Little, two men named William Little and an Elenor Little who could, in principle, be Charles’ parents or uncles and aunts. Their locations are, however, given as Aghalow and Carnteel townlands not Cullenbrone. One would think Charles is some relation of the four Littles of Cullenbrone who left wills in the Irish Prerogative Court (Table 3), but the proof must await the collection of more evidence.

Land leases have the potential of revealing information about families like ours who were not members of the established church, the Church of Ireland. The lease involves three parties: 1) the owner of the land, 2) the primary tenant or lessor or man drawing up the lease and 3) the lessee or lessees. The land was the property of Acheson Moore Esq., of Ravella, a large landowner. Aside from being named in the lease Moore plays no role in the agreement.⁸ The lessor is Moore’s primary tenant, the gentleman, Joseph Neilson, a

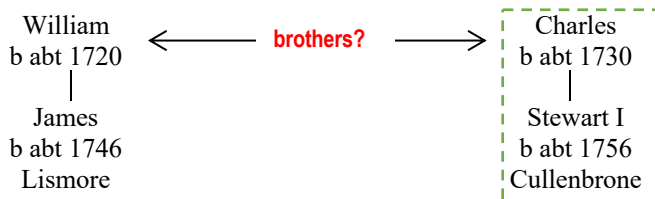
8 Acheson Moore (1691-1770), of Garvey, Ravella, County Tyrone, and Fassaroe, County Wicklow, was High Sheriff of County Tyrone in 1712 and MP for Bangor, County Down, 1716-60. He died without male issue in 1770. Adapted from numerous Wikipedia postings.

Presbyterian.⁹ The lessees are Charles and William Little, probably brothers. The land is described as “that part of the lands of Cavan O'Neill aforesaid now in his possession, joining with James Bells lands”. Rent is £10 per annum. Like many Irish leases of the time it was written to apply for a number of “lives”, in this case three, the first being Neilson, the second William and Charles, the third the survivor of William’s son James and Charles’ son Stewart. The death of Neilson during that time would void the lease. The lease would also terminate at the death of James or Stewart whoever lived the longer.¹⁰

Figure 7. Note in the Crossle Genealogical Abstracts of a Lease of 1768.¹¹

Reg. of deeds: 295(?): 220 - 195730. Regd 4 May 1773, by Joseph Neilson. Lease dates 20 May 1768, whereby Acheson Moore of Rovallo, Co. Tyrone, Esq to farm let to Joseph Neilson of Cavan O'Neill, manor of Ridgeway, Co. Tyrone that part of the lands of Cavan O'Neill aforesaid now in his possession, joining with James Bells lands, containing (?)a. 24.30 p J.P.M. to Hold for Lives of 3d Joseph Neilson. of James Little son of Wm. Little of Lismore aged 22 years, & of Stewart Little son of Charles Little of Collam broan, aged 12 years & of the survivor of them at £10 - 0(?) - 3 yearly rent
Witnesses: Anthony Griffith of Mooretown Co. Tyrone, gent J. Oliver Buckley of City of Dublin, Witnesses (to) Memorial: Anthony Griffith Henry Falls of Cavankillgreen, co. Tyrone attorney Anthony Griffith (?) [as above in no. 195727.].

Figure 8. Sketch of Connections Implied by the 1768 Lease.



We suppose, then, that in 1768 our branch of the extended family leased a piece of land in Lismore or Cullenbrone. It is a pity the exact location cannot yet be identified.

Our interest at the moment lies with Charles and Stewart, the latter we shall call Stewart Little I from now on. We have only the thinnest of evidence of them both. We have so few facts of Charles it is pointless to give his family a number. If born in 1730 he would, by 1796, be into his sixties and could be the man of that name who is down in the flax-growers awards list of Errigal Keerogue. Those with a quarter-acre in flax were awarded a spinning wheel, those with five acres a loom. Stewart, Archibald and Eleanor are each awarded 4 looms meaning, presumably, they are working 20 acres in flax. Charles was awarded just the one loom for working five acres. It is a pity the townlands are not named.

We continue with a profile of Stewart I, whose family for want of a better descriptor we shall call “Family 0”.

9 Joseph Neilson (1718-1771), a Presbyterian gentleman, was born in Urney, Strabane, Tyrone, to the Presbyterian minister, the Rev Robert Neilson. He married Eliza Johnstone and had 6 children. He passed away on 15 Feb 1771 in Urney. Courtesy Wikipedia.

10 Moore died in 1770, Neilson in 1771. It is unclear what effect these deaths had on the lease.

11 Crossle Genealogical Abstracts, National Archives of Ireland. Image courtesy findmypast.

Family 0: Stewart I of Cullenbrone (ca. 1756 - ca. 1833)

The evidence we have of Stewart I is contained in the text of the 1768 lease, which is thin. The lease names a certain young man named Stewart aged 12. This, we think, is Stewart I. A little calculation gives 1756 for his year of birth, 1781 for the year of his marriage and 1782 for the year of birth of his son Charles. At the risk of shocking the reader we shall be taking 1771 for Charles' birthyear as we explain in the following section.

1 On Charles' Birthyear

One would think that Stewart I can hardly be other than the 12 year-old Stewart Little who is named in the 1768 lease. If true he was born in Cullenbrone townland around 1756 ($1768-12=1756$). If married at the usual age of 25 the year of his marriage would be about 1781 ($1756+25=1781$). Stewart, being the son of a man named Charles, would also likely have named his first son Charles, and the earliest year of Charles' birth would be 1782, the year after Stewart's marriage.¹²

This calculation, if correct, rules out Charles being the Charles Little who received an award in the 1796 flax-grower's awards list. If born in 1782 he would have been only 14 in 1796, too young to receive an award. Our solution to this problem is judgemental and not entirely satisfactory. "Charles" is a relatively uncommon name in the Little family. Its rarity makes him likely to be *the only man with that name in the family*. This gives a greater weight to the supposition he is, in fact, the Charles Little of the 1796 flax-growers awards list and the wording of the lease is not entirely accurate. If we assume he was 25 when he received the award then it would make his year of birth 1771 ($1796-25=1771$). This underscores the danger accepting a fact on a hearsay document.

We may be uncertain of Charles' year of birth, but we are more confident of the names of his siblings and their dates of birth. We shall show in what follows that Charles' brother Stewart (Stewart II) was born around 1772, William around 1774, John 1779, James 1780, David 1782, Thomas 1792 and Andrew 1794. These dates too are approximate, not being based on church records, but rather on the mens' appearances in tithe and other records. As to Stewart I's daughters, which he surely had, we have no information of any kind. The best we can do is point out men in Stewart's orbit who might be sons-in-law.

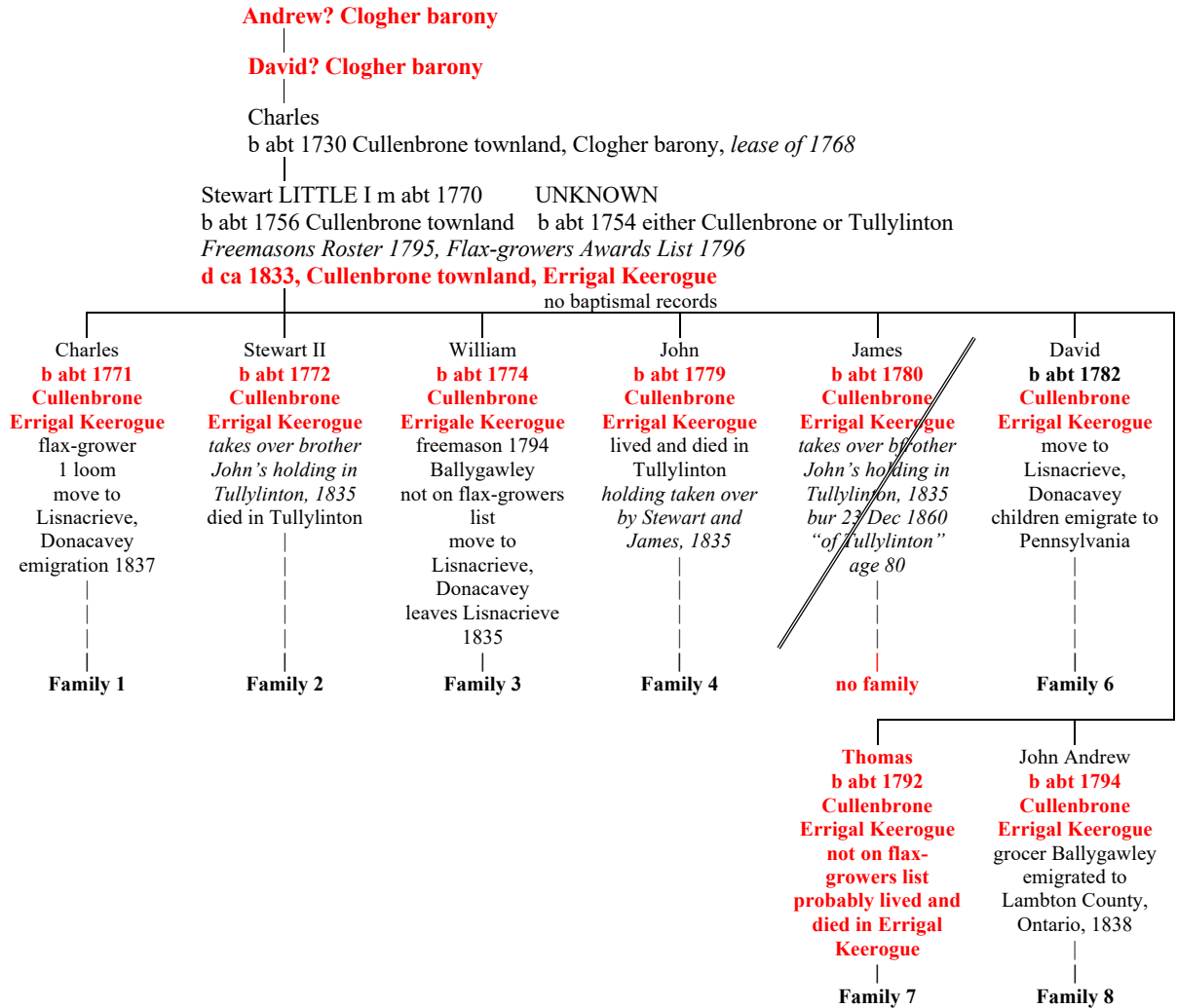
Stewart I was surely named "Stewart" out of homage to the Stewart family whose land the family lived upon for so long. The name Stewart, like Charles, is uncommon in Ireland, its rarity meaning he could hardly be other than the man of that name who in 1795 attended a meeting of Lodge #679 of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons in Ballygawley (Figure 9).¹³ Being a freemason he was likely an independent sort of man (consistent with his religious nonconformity). As a tenant-farmer of substance, he is probably the same Stewart Little who was awarded 4 looms for 20 acres planted in flax (Table 4). Charles, his son, was awarded the one loom for 5 acres.¹⁴

We have only the thinnest of evidence for his death. He was applopped in the 1832 Tithe Applotment but not valuated in the 1835 Townland Valuation, both of Cullenbrone (Tables 5). He therefore likely died in Cullenbrone sometime in the intervening three years. If our calculations are correct he was about 77.

12 He is surely related to the Littles who left wills in the Prerogative Court but just how we don't know, as the wills themselves burned in the fire of 1922. Index to Prerogative Court wills on the National Archives of Ireland website. <http://census.nationalarchives.ie/search/dw/home.jsp>.

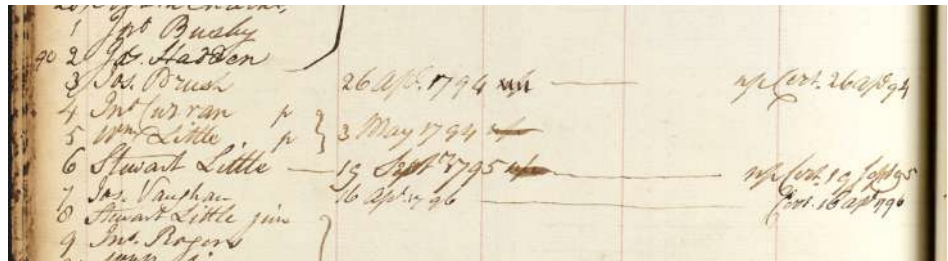
13 Ireland, Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland Membership Registers, 1733-1923. Image courtesy ancestry.com. <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/irelandfreemason/>

14 from the website "The Scots in Ulster", <http://www.ancestryireland.com/scotsinulster/index.php?db=1&searchterm=Little>.



Family 0. Stewart LITTLE I and UNKNOWN (ca. 1756 – ca 1833). The children were likely all born in Cullenbrone prior to the family's move north. The order and years of their births are all unproven and could be in error by as much as 5 years. **Bold red** denotes uncertainty. There is no Family 5.

Figure 9. Extract from the Freemasons Roster of Ballygawley. Shown are entries for William (1794), Stewart I (1795) and Stewart II (1797).¹⁵



15 The Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland; Dublin, Ireland; Collection: Freemasons of Ireland Membership Registers; Volume Number: Volume III, 1733-1808.

Table 5a.
Extracts from the 1832 Tithe Applotment of Cullenbrone. Stewart Little is present.

#	A. R. P.	Name	A. R. P.	Rate/Acre/ Yr	Amt of Tithe £ s d	Note
<i>CULEMBRAWN</i>						
5	10 3 36	Wm Little	2a 2r 0p 8a 1r 36p	19d 18 ¼	£16 8s	
6	11 0 12	Stewart Little	5a 0r 0p 6a 0r 12p	19 17 ¼	£16 7s	b abt 1756 Family 2
7	3 3 1	George Little	3a 3r 1p	16 ¼	£5 0s ½	b abt 1801 died young
8	14 2 17	Wid Thos. Little	10a 0r 0p 4a 2r 17p	16 ¾ 12 ½	£18 7s	unidentified
9	1 2 20	George Cochran	1a 2r 20p	14 ¼	£1 11s	
10	6 2 4	Guy Little	3a 0r 0p 3a 2r 4p	17 ¼ 13 ¼	£8 1s	b abt 1793 d 1854

Table 5b. *Extracts from the Original 1835 Townland Valuation of Cullenbrone. Stewart Little is absent.*

#	Property	Name	Amts £ s d	£ s d	Pg in book	Identification/Comments
<i>CULEMBRONE</i>						
4	Dwelling Offices	John Little	£1 19s 10d 7s 10d	£2 7s 8d	-	11 acres. Notation in red "Exempt".
5	Dwelling Office Sundries	Willm Little	£1 18s 1d 13s 9d 2s 0d	£2 13s 10d	136	Notation in red "Exempt".
8	Dwelling Office do	Thomas Little	£2 10s 2d 1s 4d 12s 1d	£2 2s 0d	137	16 acres. Notation in red 1/3 off.
<i>TULLYLINTON</i>						
1	Dwelling Barn etc. Byre etc.	John Little	£1 10s 10d 8s 1d 10s 5d	£2 9s 4d	62	Notation in red "Exempt".

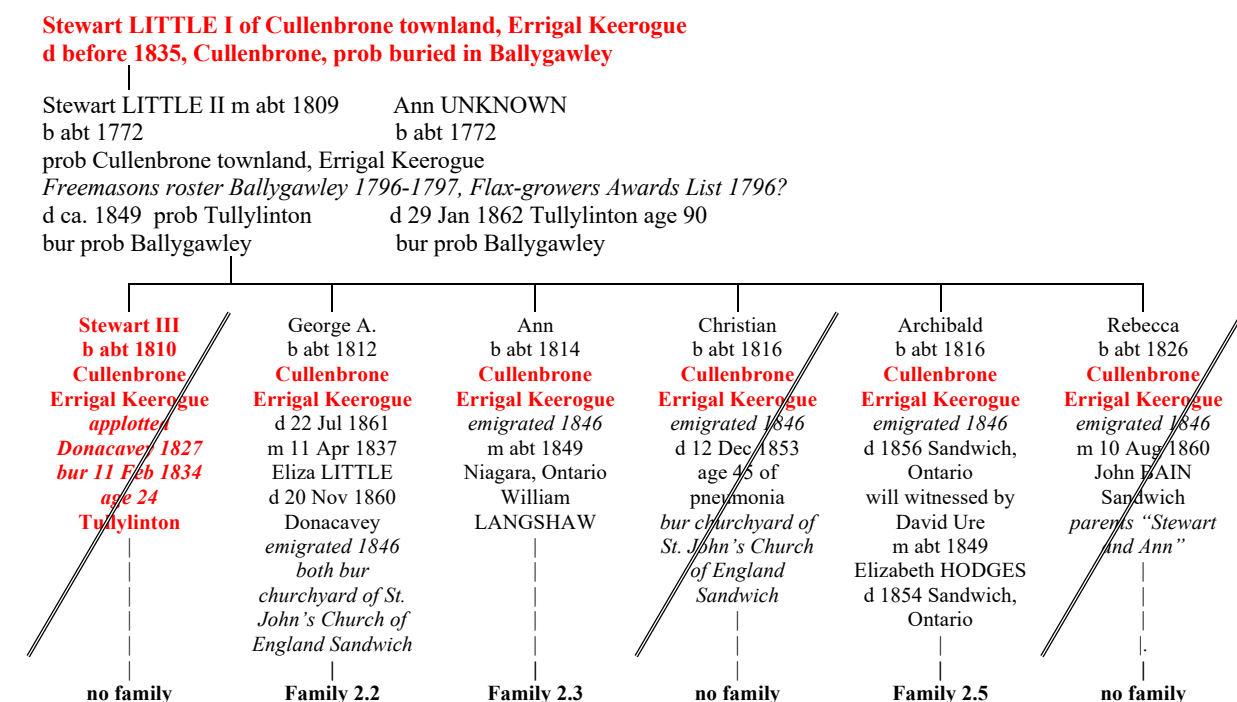
Stewart I and his wife are probably buried in the cemetery of St. Matthew's Church of Ireland in Ballygawley. There is no record of their burials or of stones placed on their graves. Upon his death Charles or his son Stewart II became the nominal head of the family. Stewart I's death in, say 1833, may have voided his land lease and set the family in motion.

We continue with Stewart II.

Family 2: Stewart II of Cullenbrone and Tullylinton (ca. 1772 - after 1848)

Stewart II was the second and namesake son of Stewart I born around 1772 in Cullenbrone townland. He could hardly be other than the “Stewart Little Jr” who in 1796 attended a meeting of Grand Lodge #679 of Irish Freemasons in Ballygawley (Figure 9). He was then a young man of about 24.

Around 1809 he married a lady named Ann whose surname remains to be discovered. The marriage likely took place in a Methodist ceremony in Ballygawley. He is surely the man Rebecca identified as her father at her 1860 wedding in Canada. Over the next twenty years he and Ann would have six children in Cullenbrone: Stewart III (1810), George A[ndrew]¹⁶ (1812), Ann (1814), Christian (1816), Archibald (1816) and Rebecca (1826). No birth or baptismal records have been found for any of them, so it is natural to suppose they were given Methodist baptisms.¹⁷ His name does not appear in applotment and valuation records, so he and family likely lived with his parents in Cullenbrone until his father’s death. The last five of his children are well represented historically, the first, Stewart III, being the exception as we shall explain.



Family 2. Stewart LITTLE II and Ann UNKNOWN (ca. 1772 - ca. 1849). **Bold red** denotes uncertainty. There are no families 2.1, 2.4 and 2.6.

His father, Stewart I, died around 1833. The wording of the 1768 lease described earlier implies his death brought an end to the family lease of the Cullenbrone holding. It should therefore not be surprising that a short two years later, in 1835, the name Stewart Little (Stewart II) first appears in the Townland

16 The reader is reminded that this man’s middle initial was “A”. It most likely stands for “Andrew” though no hard evidence has been found to prove it.

17 There are lists of confirmations for 1828 through 1863. Assuming they received confirmation in adolescence their names should appear in the lists after about 1826, but they do not. There are no confirmations for children born in Tullylinton at all. PRONI, Records of the Church of Ireland, Errigal Keerogue, MIC1/2/1. With the exception of Stewart III the only solid source for the childrens’ names is the passenger list.

Valuation of Tullylinton. Stewart II and brother James had taken over brother John's holding in Tullylinton. His children were now mostly grownup and gone from the family home. His first son, Stewart III, had died the previous year. George A. had left for Donacavey. In 1835 some of his children were still living at home. This included Ann 21, Christian 19, Archibald 19 and Rebecca 9. Tullylinton lies in the northern part of Errigal Keerogue within walking distance of Ballygawley.

Figure 10. Extract from the Revised 1835 Townland Valuation of Tullylinton.

Table 6. Extracts from the Revised 1835 Townland Valuation of Tullylinton. This shows the point John Little's holding is taken over by James and Stewart Little.

#	Property	Name	Amts £ s d	Total £ s d	Pg in book	Identification/Comments
CULEMBRONE						
4	Dwelling Office	John Little	£1 19s 20d 7s 10d	£2 7s 8d	40	Notation in red "Exempt".
5	Dwelling Office Sundries	Willm Little	£1 18s 1d 13s 9d 2s 0d	£2 13s 10d	40	Notation in red "Exempt".
8	Dwelling Office Office	Wm Little Thomas Little	£2 10s 2d 1s 4d 12s 1d	£2 2s 0d	41	Thomas Little's name is crossed out and Wm Little written in pencil above it. Notation in red 1/3 off.
TULLYLINTON						
1	Dwelling Office Office	John Little James Stewart Little	£1 10s 10d 8s 1d 10s 5d	£2 9s 4d	116	Deduct for close neighbourhood. In the hand of a later editor John's name is pencilled out and followed by the names James and Stewart Little (Figure 3 above). Notation in red "Exempt".

#	No. and Refs. to Map	Townlands and Occupiers	Immediate Lessors	Description of tenement	Area A R P	Rateable Land £ s d	Rateable B'dings £ s d	Total Ann Value £ s d
LISGONNELL (Ord. S. 52 & 53) [121 acres]								
1	2 a	Stewart Little	Sir John M. Stewart	O & L	25 3 10	25 15 0	1 5 0	27 0 0
	-- b	Alexander McLean	Stewart Little	H & O	---	---	0 15 0	0 15 0
SESSKILGREEN (Ord. S. 52) [61 acres]								
2	3	Stewart Little	same	L	7 0 5	5 0 0	---	5 0 0
	-- a	Thomas McGoff	Stewart Little	H	---	---	0 5 0	0 5 0
LETTERY (Ord. S. 52 & 59)								
	2 a	John Little	Anketell Moutray	H, O & L	4 2 30	4 0 0	0 10 0	4 10 0
	-- b	Margaret Bell	John Little	H	--	--	0 5 0	0 5 0
TULLYLINTON (Ord. S. 52.) [174 acres]								
	7 a	James Little	Anketell Moutray	H, O & L	19 0 30	6 10 0	0 15 0	7 5 0
3	b	Stewart Little		H, O & L		6 10 0	1 5 0	32 10 0
	9	John Little	same	H, O & L	13 1 4	11 0 0	1 10 0	12 10 0

Table 7. Extracts from the 1848 Griffith's Valuation of Errigal Keerogue.

Stewart II's holdings in the Tullylinton area made for an increase in income. He and brother James appear in the 1848 Griffith's Valuation of Tullylinton, his entry revealing properties in the adjacent townlands of Lisgonnell and Sesskilgreen. In the former he has 25 acres and in the latter 7 acres, making for a total of 32 acres. His name appears four times. The first three instances are for land and house, the first two houses being occupied by Alexander McLean and Thomas McGoff.¹⁸ The third instance in Tullylinton includes no land, just a house, presumably the one in which he lives. There is no sign of his sons who, if present, would be old enough to hold land and be valued, which is consistent with them having left the country.

Figure 11. *Sesskilgreen, Tullylinton, and Lisgonnell Near Ballygawley. In 1848 Stewart II was living in Tullylinton and working land in the townlands of Sesskilgreen and Lisgonnell that lay either side of him.*



Stewart II died soon after 1848 though we cannot say exactly when. He was then around 76. Ann would live on 14 years and die in Tullylinton in 1862 at the age of 90. The records of St. Matthew's Church of Ireland in Ballygawley show she was buried in the cemetery there, likely in the grave of her husband and son, Stewart III. There is no record of where she lay nor of a stone being placed on her grave. By then our family had been in America for all of 16 years.

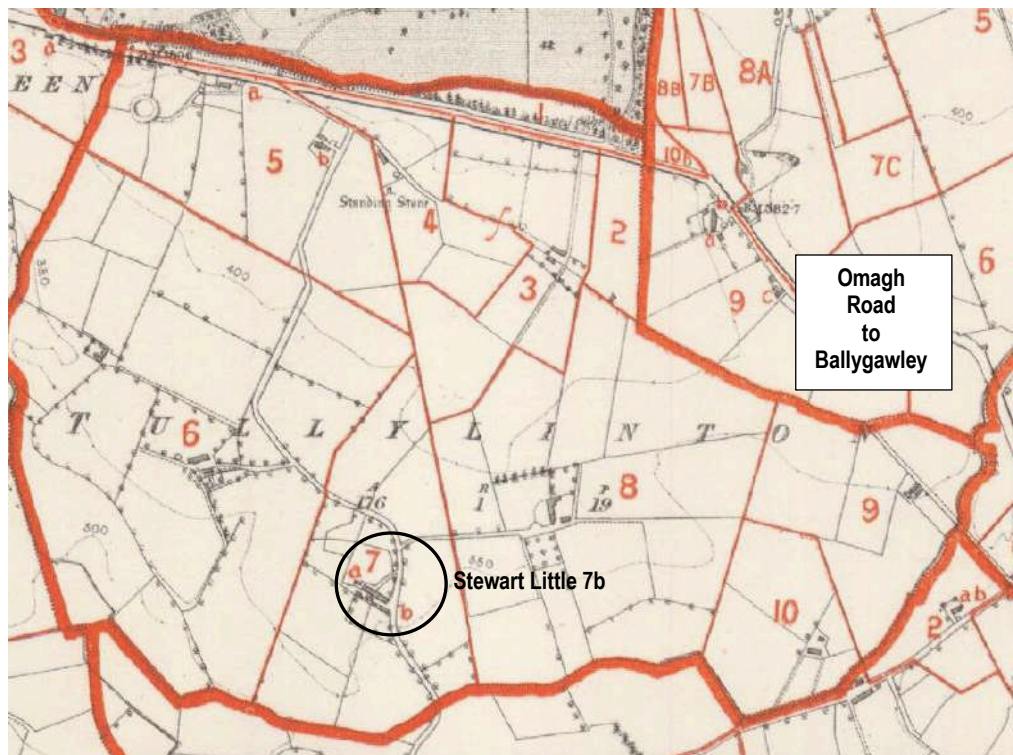
Table 8. *Selected burial records from St. Matthew's Church of Ireland, Ballygawley, 1856-1865. The burial record of Ann is highlighted*

Date	Record	Townland	age	Estimated birthyear
1 Jun 1856	Jane Little	Lettery	60	1796
19 Jan 1858	Eliza Little	Lismore	83	1775
15 Jul 1858	Isabella Little	Lisnawiry	28	1830
10 Nov 1858	Ellen Little	Lismore	66	1792
15 Nov 1859	Anne Little	Lisnawery	24	1835
16 Mar 1860	Dorcas Little	Tullylinton	72	1788
23 Dec 1860	James Little	Tullylinton	80	1780
26 Sep 1861	William Little	Lismore	68	1793
29 Jan 1862	Anne Little	Tullylinton	90	1772
29 Jun 1862	Margaret Little	Lismore	78	1784
28 Jan 1865	Richard Little	Richmond Par of Ballygawley	56	1809
31 May 1865	John Little	Cullebrone	70	1795
6 Jun 1865	Charles Little	Cullebrone	18	1847

¹⁸ These names hint of sons-in-law.

¹⁹ PRONI mfilm MIC1/2/1.

Figure 12.
Tullylinton,
1848.²⁰ Map
Reference 7b is
where Stewart
II lived and
raised his
children.



Stewart Little III of Cullenbrone and Tullylinton (ca. 1810 - 1834)

The facts in support of our identification of Stewart Little III are:

- The register of St. Matthew’s Church, Ballygawley, holds the burial record of a “Stewart Little, 24, Tullylinton” under date of 1834. Assuming the age is correct he was born around 1810, a year or two before George A. (1834-24=1810). The record fails to mention the location of his grave in the cemetery or a gravestone. This is who we think was Stewart Little III.
- The register of the same church holds the burial record of an “Ann Little, Tullylinton, age 90” under date of 29 January 1862. Ann was therefore born around 1772 (1862-90 =1772), making her a contemporary of Stewart Little II. The record does not specify the location of the grave in the cemetery or whether a stone was placed on the grave. This was, we think, the wife of Stewart Little II, the mother of Stewart Little III and the person Rebecca would identify as her mother at her 1860 wedding.

With this intelligence we can craft a credible story for Stewart Little III. When a lad of about 17, he moved to Donacavey with his uncles Charles, David, and William. He and Charles leased land in Donacavey, he in Agharonan townland, Charles in Lisnacrieve townland. Not all moved as a group. Rebecca, for example, born around 1826, was in 1827 a year old and living with her parents. He held a little over 10 acres, and was, in 1827, applopped £1 16s 3d. The references on the Ordnance Survey maps that accompany the Valuations (Figures 13 and 14) give the approximate locations of his and Charles’ homes.²¹ (The researcher equipped with a good modern map, Google Earth (and the time) should be able to establish

²⁰ Images in Figures 11 and 12 are courtesy askaboutireland.

²¹ PRONI, VAL/1/B/63A.

the GPS coordinates.)

Table 9. Selected Burial Records from the registers of St. Matthew's Church of Ireland, Ballygawley, 1829-1835.

Date	Record	Townland	age	Estimated birthyear
7 Aug 1829	Little	Fedden	15	1814
20 Nov 1829	Samuel Little	Cullembrawn	60	1769
8 Apr 1831	Margery Little	Lismore	66	1765
22 May 1831	William Little	Lismore	43	1788
11 Feb 1834	Stewart Little	Tullylinton	24	1810
30 Apr 1834	John Little	Rough Hill	45	1789
20 May 1834	Guy Little	Cullenbrone	61	1773
15 Dec 1835	Elizabeth Little	Rough Hill	74	1761

Before we go further it is instructive to pause for a description of the parish in which Charles and Stewart lived. “Donacavey” is an ancient name that is generally recognised to have evolved from the Gaelic “Donagh”, meaning church and “Cavey” the name of a patron saint. “Fintona”, the name of the market town, comes from the Gaelic “Fionntonach” (*Fintonagh*, or “the white mount or rapier”). Fintona is often written in documents as two names separated by *or*, i.e., “Findonagh or Donacavey”. Locals call it Donacavey or just Fintona. The town sits in the centre of Donacavey parish on a low hill on the banks of an ancient stream called the Carnalea.

In 1827 Fintona was a small place, about a third of a mile long with a single main street and several streets branching off at right angles. The houses were mostly of a single story built of brick with roofs of slate. There was no bank in the village. All but the simplest financial transactions were conducted in the nearby town of Omagh.

Fintona was where our family did much of their shopping. Being farmers they were well-known to the merchants, one of which was a James Buchanan, a clothdealer about whom we shall have more to say later. On the infrequent occasions when the family did attend services at the Church of Ireland, it was in Fintona. An anonymous author had the following to say of the area:

Fintona lies about halfway between two natural landmarks, the Sperrins to the north and Lough Erne to the south. By road, Omagh, the county town of Tyrone, lies 8 miles (13 km) north. Enniskillen is 19 miles (30 km) southwest, Belfast 66 miles (106 km) east and Dublin 108 miles (174 km) southeast.

The village lies across several hills, including Main Street whose summit lies at its centre with both ends at the foot. There are small pockets of flat ground, mostly in the Ecclesville Demesne. Halfway between Fintona and Fivemiletown (nine miles southeast) the land rises towards Murley Mountain. This mountain marks the western edge of the Clogher Valley, and rises to a peak of 312 metres (1,024 feet) above sea level.

Farming plays a key role in the economy of Fintona. Much of it is cattle-based involved meat and milk production, with some sheep rearing, particularly on higher ground. There are also some pig farms in the area. The land and climate are not conducive to arable farming, but some maize is grown. This does not ripen and is not meant for human consumption, but is used to boost the protein of cattle feed. On higher ground near the summit of Murley Mountain, there are also peat bogs.

A small river named the "Quiggery Water" flows through Fintona, with bridges crossing it at Kiln Street and Mill Street. This river then joins with the Ballynahatty Water to form the Drumragh River, which in turn joins the Camowen River at Omagh to form the River Strule.²²

22 Adapted from an article in Wikipedia.



Figure 13. *Agharonan Townland, Donacavey Parish, 1848. Prior to his death in 1834 Stewart Little III and his siblings occupied a farm at reference 16.*²³

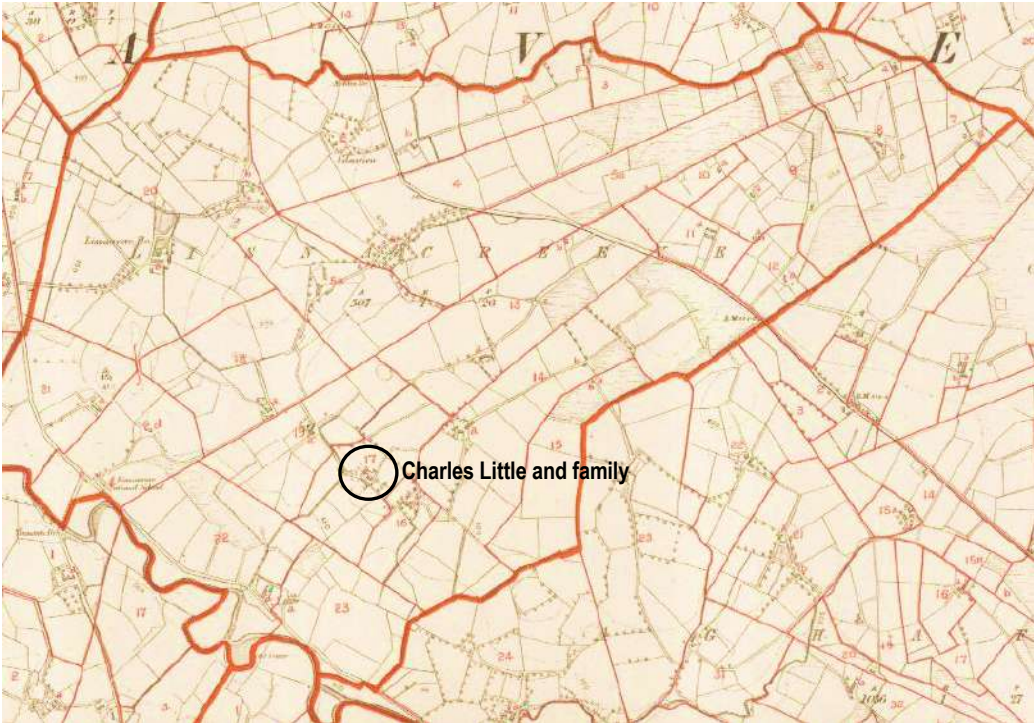
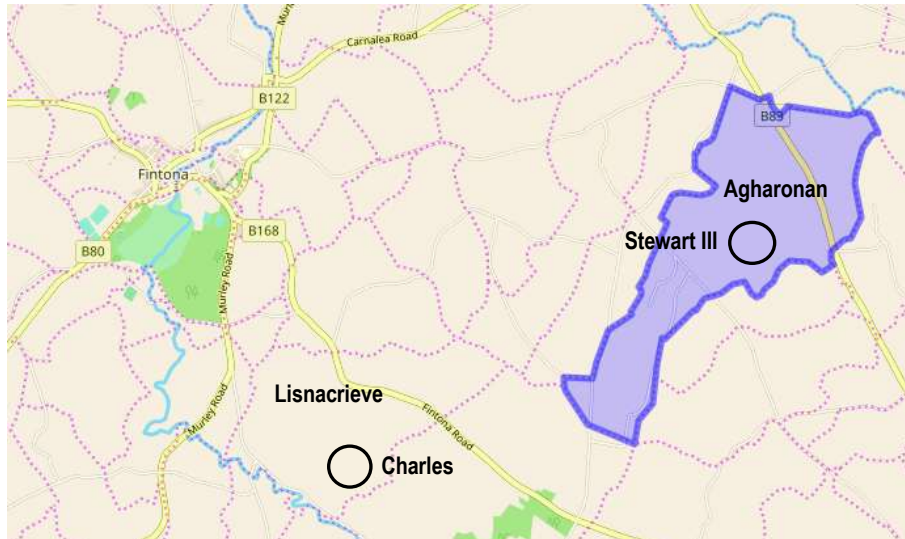


Figure 14. *Lisnacrieve Townland, Donacavey Parish, 1848. Charles Little and his family occupied a farm at reference 17.*

²³ Images for figures 13 and 14 are courtesy askaboutireland.

Figure 16. *Agharonan and Lisnacrieve East of Fintona. The approximate locations of Charles and Stewart Little III's holdings are shown.*



The surveyors of 1834 described Donacavey in these words:

A number of fairs and markets are held in Fintona, though they are mostly of benefit to the larger farmers. All of 15 fairs are held annually, principally for the sale of livestock: cows, black cattle and pigs. Each sale requires a “custom” be paid to Charles Eccles, the lord of the manor. The custom for a cow is 4d, for a 2 year-old cow 3d, 1 year-old cow 2d, sheep 2d, pig 2d, goat 2d, lamb 1d, butter per cask 2d, hides 2d. Shoemakers pay 4d, hatters 4d.

The town has several churches. There are two Churches of Ireland, Barr and Donacavey, a Gospel Hall for Christian Evangelicals, two Methodist Churches, a Presbyterian Church and a Roman Catholic Church, St. Lawrence.

The Church of Ireland sits at the northeast end of Fintona. It is a small rectangular building with a square steeple but no spire. The rector in 1833 is the popular Rev. Athill, his curate the Rev. William Tomes. There is also a Presbyterian and a Wesleyan Methodist meeting house.²⁵ Presbyterians meet every other Sunday. There are 700 Roman Catholics in the parish and 500 Protestants inclusive of the three Protestant denominations.

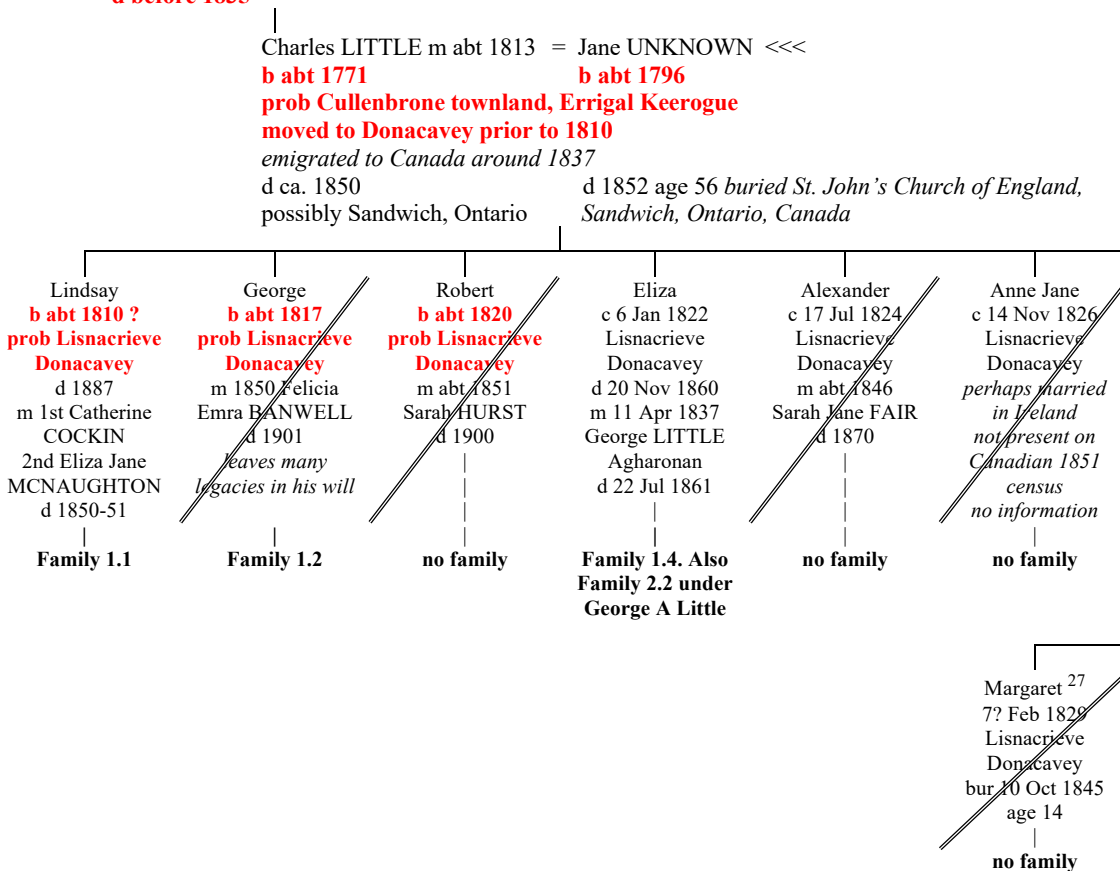
Nearly the whole of the parish was the property of two gentlemen, Charles Eccles and Samuel Vesey. Eccles owned 48 townlands, Vesey 4 townlands. Both lived in the better houses and both sat as magistrates.

25 A Methodist church did exist in Fintona which the members of our family probably attended. It is to be regretted that no records of this church survive from this time. See also footnote 25.

Family 1 Charles & his wife Jane (Surname Unknown)

We have found few records of Charles and Jane in Ireland. There is so much we don't know about them. We do not know exactly when they were born, baptized and married. We do not know Jane's maiden name. We are not even certain of the year Charles was born; the year 1771 we have taken is a best guess and could be wrong. We have argued earlier that Charles was likely born to Stewart Little I in Cullenbrone and baptized by a minister of the Methodist church.²⁶ We shall see in Chapter 3 that Jane died in Canada in 1852 at the purported age of 56, which would give her a birthyear of 1796 (1852-56=1796). If the dates are correct they would make Charles 20 years older than Jane. If their first child, Lindsay, was born in 1810 as we think, then Jane would have been only 14 at the time (1810-1796=14). This could still be more or less correct if the numbers are in error by a year or two. And Jane could have been Charles' second wife.

Stewart LITTLE I of Cullenbrone townland, Errigal Keerogue d before 1835



Family 1. Charles LITTLE and Jane UNKNOWN (ca. 1771 - ca. 1850). There are no families 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, and 1.7.

26 John Grenham has posted sources of Methodist Church records that survive and are available for examination at PRONI. Most are too late to be relevant to this study. https://www.johngrenham.com/records/county_church_full.php?county=Tyrone&search_type=full&denomination=Methodist

27 Margaret was born in Lisnacrieve and baptized in the Church of Ireland Feb 1829. The parents' names are given as Charles and Mary Little. There can be little doubt she is the same Margaret Little who was buried at 14 in St. John's churchyard, Sandwich, in 1845. Jane may have been baptized under the name Mary.

Charles and Jane had seven children in the period 1810-1829, all born we think, in Lisnacrieve. Church records prior to 1822 were lost in the great fire, so birth/baptismal records exist for only the children born after 1822. This makes it impossible to fix with any precision the date when Charles entered Donacavey, though it was certainly prior to 1822, and possibly earlier than 1810.

In 1827 Charles was applotted on 5 acres of land in Lisnacrieve, making for a tax of £1 6s 3d. He is, we think, the man whose name appears in the 1835 Valuation of Donacavey holding 16 acres of land in Agharonan townland. The 16 acres consists of 6 acres of bog and boggy pasture with 9 acres (more or less) of “Poor moory arable”. He, like his brother William, did not hold sufficient land to provide a buffer against truly hard times. He was very much a cottier.

Table 11. *Extracts from the Original 1835 Townland Valuation of Donacavey.*

OS Map Ref	Pg	Name	Townland	Pg of Desc	Description	Valuation
7	102	William Little	Lisnacrieve	34	Moory and Shallow gravelly arable on a gravelly subsoil. Also holny and gravelly bitter arable. [area not given]	£2 8 0 exempted
1	106	Charles Little	Agharonan	43	Bog and boggy pasture. Also poor moory arable. 16 acres.	£2 18 0 exempted
62	141	John Lyttle	Fintona		£4 yearly. House B+ 12:6 length, 23:0 breadth, 13:6 height, 29 measures,.	amount £1 11 3

We don’t even know if Charles and Jane were literate. They may have been able to read as they did see to schooling for their sons.²⁸ We have numerous examples of the boys’ signatures from Canadian documents (Chapter 3). It is a pity the family left no narrative telling us their reasons for leaving Ireland, when, and with whom. This was years before the first appearance of the potato blight. Broadsheets posted by the agent of the Canada Company in Omagh may have had some influence in their decision to make for Canada. The postings explained how land there could be acquired:²⁹

The Company’s Agents at the Outports are furnished with maps of the Province, and diagrams of every separate township in which any of the Company’s Lands are situated, so that persons purposing to emigrate may have the opportunity of selecting a location suitable to their views, or in the vicinity of their friends already settled in Canada; but as, unless in particular cases; absolute contracts of sale will not be entered into in England, parties on their arrival in Canada will be perfectly free to choose between the terms offered by the Company and any other course may be recommended to them.

We can imagine many farmers and their sons gathering in a street to read these notices with interest. Those of robust health, high energy and the confidence to take a chance on survival in a land of forest and swamp, would have thought long and hard of the possibilities. The notion of building a house from the trees around them on land they would own once they satisfied the requirements of government must have been seductive if not irresistible, something their ancestors of the previous centuries could only have dreamt of.

There must have been a good deal of mutual encouragement among Charles, his sons and brothers William (Family 3, page 36) and John Andrew (Family 8, page 39). They all knew the step was irreversible. Once embarked, there was no going back.

28 This point is open to argument. The fact once in Canada that Charles left son George in charge of the business of petitioning of land is arguably evidence he may have been poorly educated.

29 PRONI, D562/9316. Printed Advertisement by the Canada Company for lands in Canada, 6 July 1827.

Family 1.1 Lindsay & his wife Catherine Cockin

Lindsay, Charles' oldest son, was born around 1810. We do not have a birth or a baptismal record for him but we do have one for his wife Catherine. The reason for the difference is probably religion, he being a Methodist and she Church of Ireland. Their first child, Charles, was born in Lisnacrieve and baptized 30 March 1836 in the Church of Ireland in Fintona. The record has the appearance of being rushed, having his father's name but not his own or his mother's. Lindsay and Catherine were likely married in Fintona in 1835. We have not found their marriage record.

We are fairly certain Catherine's maiden name was "Cockin". Son Charles gives a clue in his story in the CBRE in which he names his mother Catherine "Cocayne". Cocayne is not an Irish name, at least not with this spelling. It is probably how they pronounced "Cockin". Cockin is not a common Irish name but it does appear in the records of Fintona church. She is surely the Catherine Cockin who was born to Edward and Mary Cockin and baptized in Fintona 7 March 1810. Lindsay's name does not occur in Tithe Applotments or Valuations, so he must have been a cottier on a farm, likely his father's.

Table 12. *Extracts from the Records of the Church of Ireland, Donacavey.*³⁰

#	Date	Name	Parents and Townland
44	26 Aug 1832	John	s John Little of Lurganboy & Mary
45	30 Mar 1836	unnamed	s Lindsay Little of Lisnacrieve &
46	9 Jul? 1840	Ann Jane	d George Little & Eliza Angharonen

No Littles beyond 1840. Stopped examination at 1851.

Table 13. *Extracts from the baptismal records of the Church of Ireland, Fintona.*

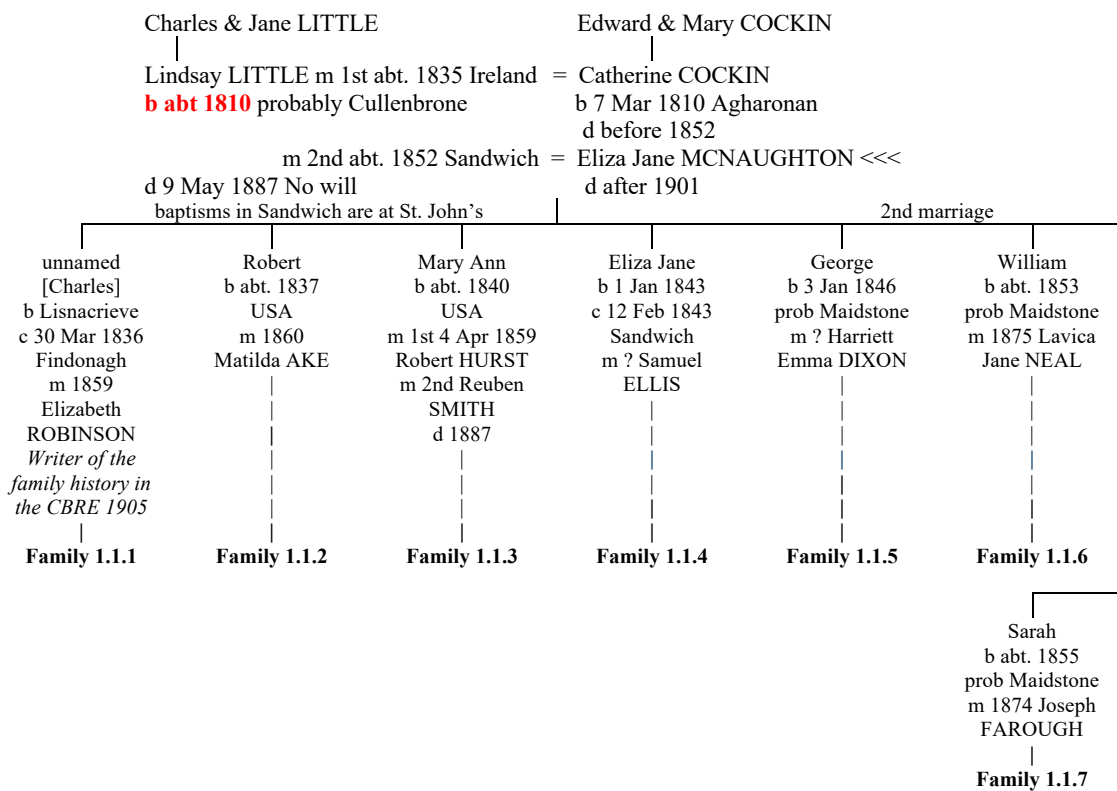
#	Date	Name	Parents and Townland
11	12 Aug 1808	Jane	d of David Little of Lisnacrieve & Jane
12	6 Mar 1809	Anne	d of William Little of Fintona & Anne
13	25 Apr 1809	Roseanna	d of Thomas Little of Hanish? & Anne
14	12 Aug 1809	William	s Thomas Little of "Edentoody" & Anne
15	20 Aug 1809	Henry	s of Henry Paul of Fintona & Allison
16	7 Mar 1810	Catherine	d of Edward Cockin of Agharonan & Mary
17	16 May 1810	Jane	d of William Little of Lisnacrieve & Jane
18	5 Sep 1810	John	s of Thomas Paul of Fintona & Jane
19	28 Feb 1811	Anne	d of David Little of Lisnacrieve & Sarah
20	1 Aug 1811	Joanna	d of Henry Paul of Fintona & Allison
21	30 Jul 1812	Ann	d of William Little of Lisnacrieve & Jane
22	10 Jan 1813	Jane	d of Thomas Paul of Fintona & Jane
23	26 Feb 1813	Robert	s of Edward Cockins of [illeg] & Mary

Examined baptisms well beyond 1920 via MIC1/45/2. There are no more Littles or other family names.

Having broached the issue of Charles' literacy it is instructive to dwell a few moments on schooling. Lindsay and his brothers were given an elementary education probably in a school in Donacavey. Every child, even of the poorest farmers, were taught to read and write. One school was maintained by the Kildare Street Society, which was accepting of children of all faiths and sexes. The building was described as oblong in shape fitted with desks and supported with funds from the proprietor Charles Eccles and the Rev. Joseph McCormick. The fee was a penny a week. In 1835 the teacher was Robert McCauley, an Episcopalian. He was charged with providing an elementary education for 25 Protestants and 5 Catholics, 20 boys and 10 girls. This did not include instruction in religion, there being no mandate for it at the time.

This concludes what we know of the children of Family 1. Of Charles and Jane's other children: George, Robert, Alexander, Anne Jane and Margaret, we have found no Irish records of them at all. We shall be telling Eliza's story under the profile for George A.

30 Records of the Church of Ireland, Donacavey parish, PRONI mfilm MIC1/45/1.



Family 1.1. Lindsay LITTLE and his two wives (1810-1887).



Figure 17. Signatures of the Three Brothers.

Let us continue with the children of Family 2.

Family 2.2 George A. & his wife Eliza Little

George A. was born around 1812 to Stewart Little II and Ann (surname unknown) in Cullenbrone. The date we derive from the assumption he was 25 years old in 1837 at his marriage to his wife Eliza (1837-25=1812). No birth or baptismal record has been found for him, which is consistent with the supposition his parents were Methodists. No evidence has ever been found for the “A” in his name, but it can hardly stand for anything other than “Andrew”. In 1853 in Canada he would pass on this name to his son George Andrew Little.³¹ This is pretty strong evidence, albeit circumstantial, the original Plantation ancestor was Andrew.

Sometime prior to 1837 he moved to Donacavey and settled in Agharonan townland. At his marriage by licence 11 April 1837 in the Church of Ireland, he describes himself as of “Agharonan” and Eliza of “Lisnacrieve”. Eliza was his 15 year-old first cousin, the daughter of Charles and Jane Little of Lisnacrieve. She was born in 1822 and baptized in the Church of Ireland. Their marriage took place the very year her parents and family left for Canada, so perhaps the marriage was moved ahead on that account.

Their first child, Anne Jane, was born in Agharonan in 1840 and baptized in Fintona Church. A second child, Rebecca, was born around 1844, the record of which has not been found. Perhaps the ceremony was performed by a Methodist minister and the record lost in the fire of 1922.

Figure 18.
Marriage
record of
George A.
Little and
Eliza Little.³²

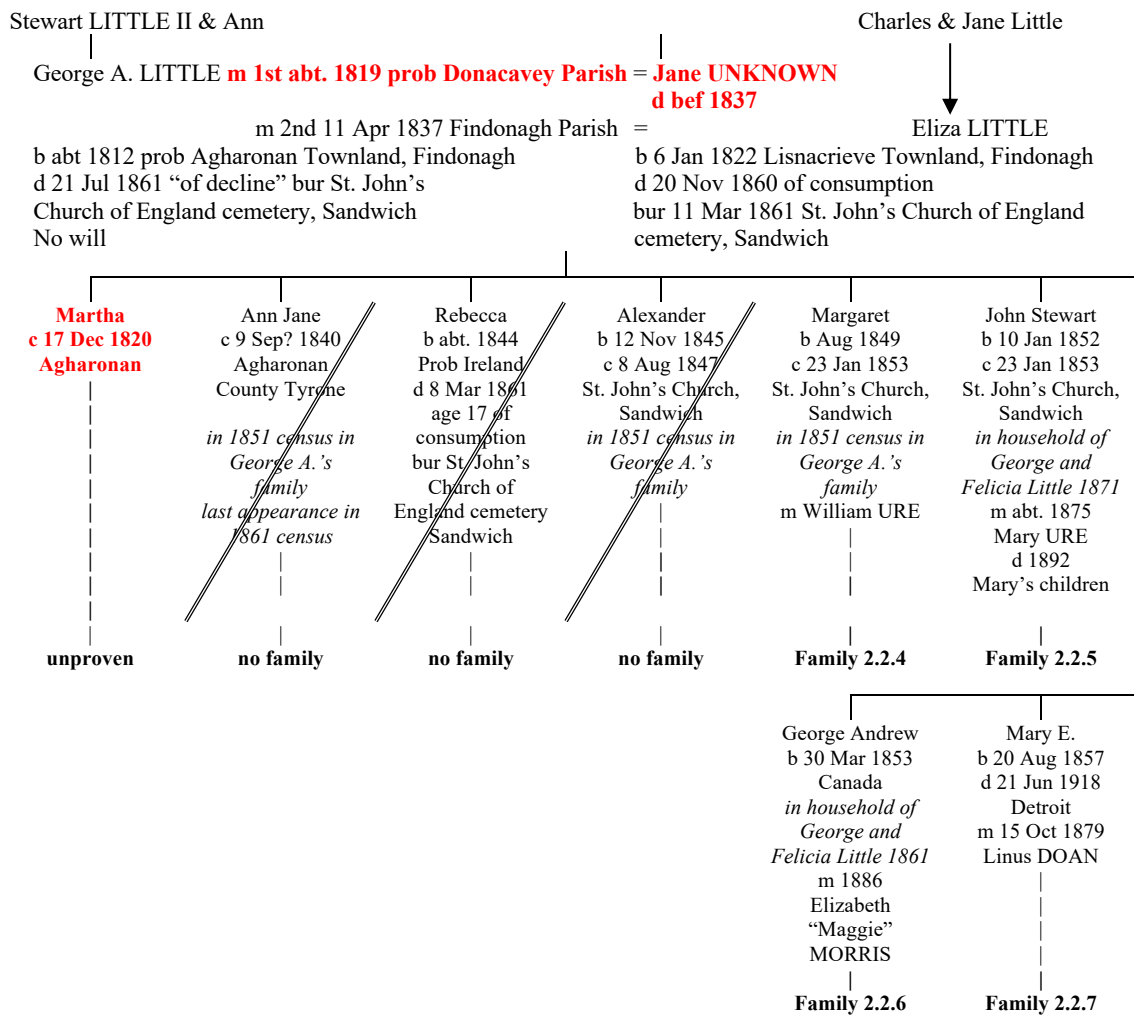


Table 14. A
selection of
Baptismal
Records from
the Church of
Ireland,
Donacavey. The
baptism of Eliza
is highlighted, 6
January 1822.

#	Date	Name	Parents and Townland
30	31 Jan 1819	Eliza	d of George Little of Killalips? [Killyliss] & Jane
31	17 Dec 1820	Martha	d of George Little of Aghadronan? & Jane
32	29 Mar 1821	Mary Ann	d of Robert Little of Skareen? [Skreen] & Jane
33	6 Jan 1822	Eliza	d of Charles Little of Lisnacrieve & Jane
34	27 Jan 1822	Jane	d of Robert Little of Larsens? & Jane
35	19 Oct 1822	Wm & John	sons of Geo Little of Skilgagh [Skelgagh] & Jane
36	18 Jun 1823	Thomas	s of Susan Patton & Thos Little of the Parish of Aghronan?
37	25 Feb 1824	John	s of Robt Little of Glennan? [Clennan]& Jane
38	17 Jul 1824	Alexander	s of Charles Little of Lisnacrieve & Jane
39	14 Nov 1826	Anne Jane	d of Chas Little of Lisnacrieve & Jane
40	23 Jan 1827	William	s of Elizabeth Little & Wm Elliott illeg.
41	11 Apr 1828	John	s of Jane Elliott and Thos Little of Fogish P Agharonan illeg
42	?? Feb 1829	Margaret	d Charles Little of Lisnacrieve & Mary
43	7 Feb 1829	Elizabeth	d Sarah Little & John Dunlop of Lisnacrieve illeg
44	26 Aug 1832	John	s John Little of Lurganboy & Mary
45	30 Mar 1836	unnamed	s Linday Little of Lisnacrieve &
46	9 Jul? 1840	Ann Jane	d George Little & Eliza Angharonen

31 He may have had a previous marriage to a Jane Little around 1819 but this is thought to apply to another man of the same name (See “2 An Uncertainty with Family 2.2”).

32 PRONI, Records of Marriages 1826-1850, Findonagh (or Donacavey), County Tyrone, Clogher Diocese, micro-film MIC1/45. The record is at the top of page 97 of the register. This image was obtained on a visit to PRONI, April 2019. This was the best copy that could be made on the outdated equipment at PRONI.



Family 2.2 George A. LITTLE and Eliza LITTLE (1812-1861). There are no families 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.3.

2 An Uncertainty with Family 2.2

Records show that a certain George Little and his wife Jane had a daughter Martha born in Agharonan and baptised in Fintona Church in 1820. There is only the one such record. The identity of this George Little remains a mystery. He could in principle be George A.. For this to be the case George A. would have to have been married to Jane around 1819 and born around 1794 (1819-25=1794). This could be George A. if Jane and Martha died sometime after 1820. This record should be kept in mind until such time it is proven to apply to some other man of the same name.

Other than the church records to which we have already made reference, George A. and Eliza left no trace of themselves through this period. No lease has ever been found in his name though of course one could yet be found. There is no reason to think that as cottiers they lived in other than the kind of conditions that shocked outsiders. McEvoy wrote in 1801-2 of the cottier living in "habitations, in general, very

bad...". His "cabin is built, commonly of stone and clay mortar and sometimes of sods only".³³ A government commission reported in 1836 that "The cabins of the cottiers [in Omagh barony] are mere mud hovels, unfit for the residence of human beings, built on the worst parts of the farms and consisting mostly of but one smokey apartment, without window or chimney."³⁴ Assuming George A. and Eliza were typical cottiers, they heated their cabin and cooked their food over a turf fire.

By September of 1845, eight years had elapsed since the departure of the senior Littles for Canada. Rumours were drifting in from the west of a disease affecting potatoes. It was spread, some said, by wind and wet. Though the oat crop had been abundant, lulling farmers into a sense of optimism, the digging of the late crop of potatoes in the second and third weeks of October yielded black, foul-smelling tubers that could not be eaten.³⁵ George A. no doubt kept his brother-in-law in Canada informed of the news.

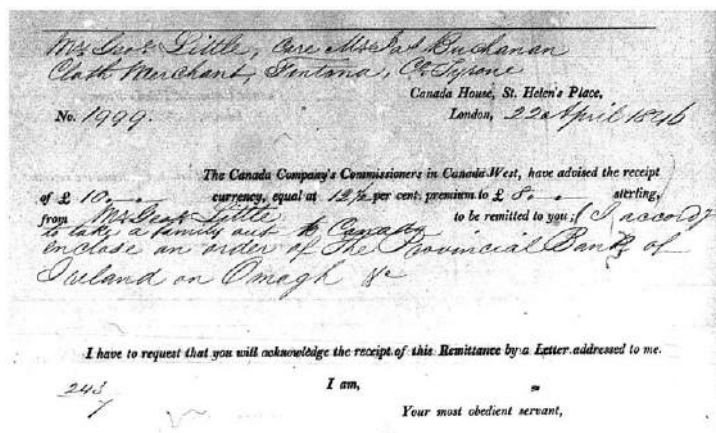
As the blight spread east in the months of 1845-6, George A. and his siblings began to experience the blight if only indirectly. Prices were rising. It is a pity no records of applotments or valuations survive from this period. Lacking leases we do not know if George held the land vacated by Charles, whether he subsisted on labouring on a neighbour's farm or found work with the roadgangs now being organized by government to give employment to the landless.

We wonder, then, about the activities going on in the Little home in the days and weeks leading up to the departure. Who would go, how they would travel, from where, and the cost, must have been subjects of much discussion. Some, bound by the presence of children or commitments, would not be going: Stewart and Ann, now in their 70s, would stay in Ireland, as would their sons John and Thomas and their families. George A. benefitted from the advice of cousin George and the Canada Company agent in Omagh. The arrival of a remittance from George in the spring of 1846 must have served as a prompt to get on with it. Addressed to Mr. George Little, care of Mr. Jas Buchanan, cloth merchant of Fintona, County Tyrone, the description read:

The Canada Company's Commissioners in Canada West, have advised the receipt of £10 currency, equal at 12 ½ percent premium to £8 sterling, from Mr. Geo Little to be remitted to you (Accordingly to take a family to Canada) enclose an order of the Provincial Bank of Ireland on Omagh. I have to request that you will acknowledge the receipt of this Remittance by a letter addressed to me.

So they packed their bags, bade their goodbyes, made their way to Belfast, crossed the Irish sea to Liverpool and found their ship. Even this short journey must have been an adventure.

Figure 19. *The Canada Company Remittance Letter. This was sent by George Little, 22 April 1846, to "Mr Geo Little, Care Mr Jas Buchanan Cloth Merchant, Fintona, Co Tyrone."*³⁶



33 J. McEvoy, *A Statistical Survey of the County of Tyrone with Observation on the Means of Improvement, Drawn up in the years 1801 and 1802* (The Dublin Society), as quoted by Gallachair, "Fintona (1797-1837)", page 486.

34 *First Report of the Commissioners Inquiring into the Conditions of the Poorer Classes* (1836), vol. xi, Appendix E, p. 67, as quoted by Gallachair, *ibid*, p. 486.

35 J. S. Donnelly, *The Great Irish Potato Famine* (Sutton, 2001), page 45.

36 Archives of Ontario, Canada Company Papers, Series C-7, Remittances, Vol. 1, Advice Book, 1843-1852, Vol.

To a people from a small dirt farm who had never travelled further from home than Omagh, the sight of the Waterloo Docks in Liverpool, crowded with ships of all kinds and buzzing with activity, must have been a wonder. For various reasons the “Cornelia” stood out to them from the rest. Packet and mail carrier, she was relatively new on her seventh voyage. Of 2,114 tons burden, she was captained by F. M. French. An ad in the *Liverpool Mercury* described her as having “beautiful accommodation for passengers” and carried an “experienced surgeon on board”. This was a cut above the overcrowded, disease-ridden emigrant vessels that would soon become infamous.

The “Cornelia” left port on 25 May 1846. After seven weeks at sea she arrived in New York City 6 July. To our greatest good fortune the manifest survives. Down on the list are George and Eliza Little, aged 34 and 20, their children Ann Jane, now 3, and Rebecca 2. Also present are George’s siblings, Archibald 30, Ann 32, Christian 30 and Rebecca 20.



Figure 20. *Waterloo Dock, Liverpool.*

Figure 21. *Liverpool Mercury, 22 May 1846,*

ONE OF THE BLACK STAR LINE OF PACKETS
LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK.
Will sail punctually on the 25th instant.
 The magnificent first-class American Ship
CORNELIA,
 Captain F. M. FRENCH;
 2114 tons register, is coppered and copper-fastened, New York built, and now on her seventh voyage only; she sails very fast, and is well known as one of the finest ships ever built in America. —For terms of freight or passage (she has most beautiful accommodation for passengers) apply to Captain French, on board, Waterloo Dock, or
C. GRIMSHAW and Co.
 This ship has an experienced Surgeon on board.

Figure 22. *Evening Post, New York City, 13 July 1846.*³⁷

FIRE BRICKS AFLOAT—10,000 Rufford's best Stourbridge Fire Brick, just received per ship **Cornelia**, from Liverpool, and for sale by
SAMUEL THOMPSON & NEPHEW,
 176
 105 Water st. cor. Fulton.

2, Letterbook, 1843-1845, Vol. 3; Letterbook No. 2, 1845-1846, Vol. 4, Letterbook No. 3, 1846-1847. Remittance 1999, 22 Apr 1846.

37 Images are courtesy Newspapers.com.

Figure 23. Extracts from the Passenger Manifest of the "Cornelia", 6 July 1846.³⁸

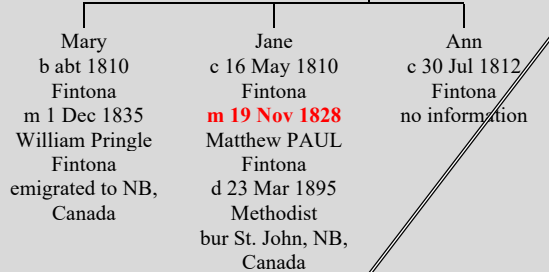
George Little	34	Male	Harman
John do	20	Male	do
Ann Jane do	5		
Abigail do	2		
Archibald do	30	Male	do
Agnes do	32	Female	
Christina do	30		
Rebecca do	20		
William do	18		

Our story continues in Chapter 3. To conclude this chapter we present a few brief sketches of the rest of the family of Stewart I. It would seem that William and family sailed to New Brunswick around the same time as Charles and Jane. If only a passenger list were available to put the matter to rest.

3 Family 3

William, Stewart I's 3rd child, was born in either Cullenbrone or Errigal Keerogue around 1774. He married his wife Jane (surname unknown) around 1809 in Donacavey. Between 1810 and 1812 they had three daughters born in Lisnacrieve: Mary, Jane and Ann.

William LITTLE m abt 1809 probably Donacavey = Jane UNKNOWN <<<
 b abt 1774 probably Errigal Keerogue b abt 1777
 appears in the 1827 Tithe Applotment Book of Donacavey and the 1835 Townland Valuation
 d abt 1835 possibly Lisnacrieve d 11 Jun 1865 St. John, NB, age 88³⁹



Family 3. William LITTLE and Jane UNKNOWN (ca. 1774 - ca. 1835).

Assuming William was 25 years of age at the time of his marriage he would have been born around 1784 at the latest. The 1827 Tithe Applotment shows he had 5 acres of land and was liable for a tithe of £1 5s 4½ d. Of the 5 acres only one was of the first quality. He was very much a cottier.⁴⁰ He must have left Lisnacrieve or died around the time of Stewart III's death judging by the fact his name appears in the valuation of 27 November 1835, but is crossed out with the name Robert Dunlop written above it.⁴¹ His daughter Mary married William Pringle 1 December 1835. Daughter Jane married Matthew Paul 19 November 1828. Both records are in the register of the Church of Ireland in Fintona. His children, his wife Jane and daughters Mary and Jane sailed to New Brunswick, Canada, around this time, but there is no evidence he did too. Jane is purported to have died in St. John in 1865 at

38 Year: 1846; Arrival: New York, New York; Microfilm Serial: M237, 1820-1897; Microfilm Roll: Roll 062; Line: 1; List Number: 582. Ship or Roll Number: Roll 062. Image courtesy ancestry.com.

39 PANB. <https://archives.gnb.ca/ResearchTools/GuideToFamilyHistories/?culture=en-CA>. *St. John Morning News*, "d. 11th inst., age 88, Jane relict of William LITTLE, County Tyrone, Ireland. Funeral Tuesday 3 o'clock from residence of her son-in-law, Matthew PAUL, 62 Orange St. (St. John)"

40 PRONI, *Your Family Tree: 4 Valuation Records*. PRONI, VAL/1/B/63A.

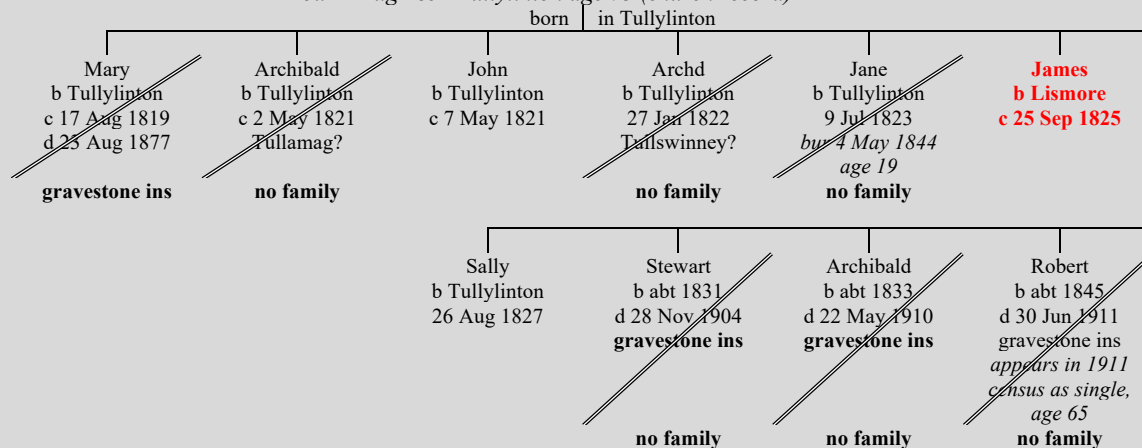
41 PRONI, *Your Family Tree: 20 How to Use Griffith's Valuation*.

the age of 88.⁴² This family is actively being studied by members of ancestry.com.

4 Family 4

John, Stewart I's 4th child, was born in Cullenbrone or Errigal Keerogue around 1779. He lived in Tullylinton and died there in 1852 at the purported age of 73 (1852-73=1779). This we know from the inscription on his gravestone in the cemetery of St. Matthews Church of Ireland in Ballygawley. He was married to Jane Turner around 1818 and had 10 children. He was a prosperous farmer whose sons Stewart, Archibald and Robert enjoyed some affluence. Robert appears in the 1911 census but died soon afterwards. Fully 7 of his 10 children died without issue. The tourist should find this grave well worth visiting, it being the only grave of the extended family in Ireland that is known to have survived.

John LITTLE m abt 1818 = Jane TURNER <<<
 b abt 1779 Errigal Keerogue b abt 1793
 d 30 Aug 1852 d 29 May 1856
 (These dates are from gravestone inscriptions.)
 appears in Rate Books of Ballygawley Electoral Division 1843 and Griffith's valuation of 1848
 bur 1 Aug 1852 Tullylinton age 73 (church record)



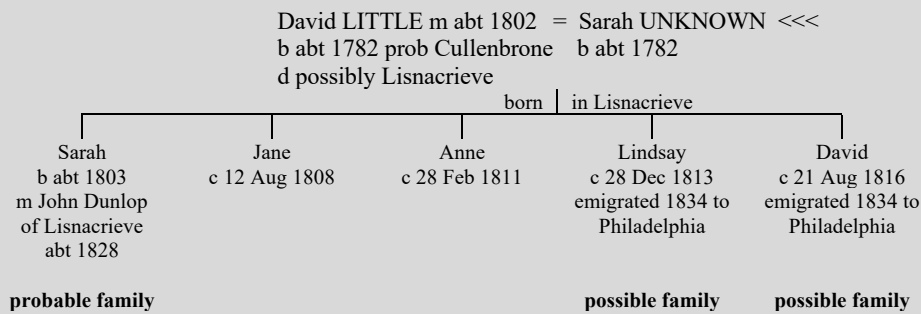
Family 4. John LITTLE and Jane TURNER (ca. 1779 - 1852).

5 Family 6

David, Stewart I's 6th child, was born around 1782. He may have moved to Donacavey with brothers Charles, William and Thomas. Around 1802 he married a lady named Sarah (surname unknown). He was certainly in Donacavey by 1808 as he and Sarah had a child baptized in the Church of Ireland in Fintona in that year.

He does not appear in Tithe Applotment books or Valuations so if he were in Lisnacrieve in 1827 or 1835 he was a labourer on someone's farm, possibly his brother's. He and Sarah had two boys who may have left Ireland in 1834. They could be the men who arrived in Philadelphia aboard the "Macedonia" out of Londonderry. (The two are listed on the manifest as being of ages 20 and 16, respectively, which would give them years of birth of 1814 and 1818.) Nothing more is known of David and Sarah or of their children. Interested researchers should be able to follow this family on ancestry.com.

42 Information shared by Ken Paul, bud91543. Thank you Ken.



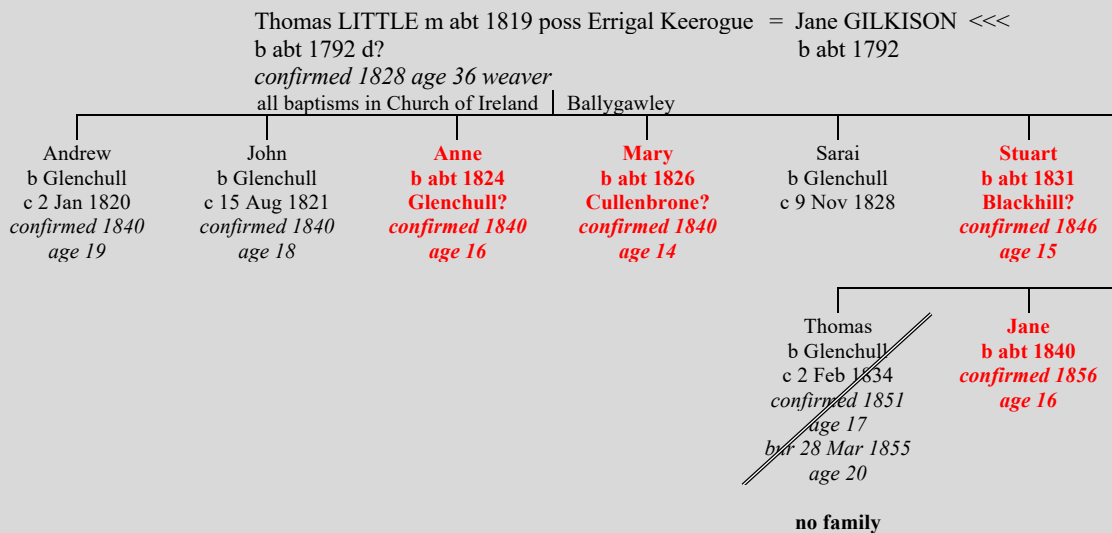
Family 6. David LITTLE and Sarah UNKNOWN (ca. 1782 - ?).



Figure 24. Extracts from the Passenger Manifest of the “Macedonia”, 1834.⁴³

6 Family 7

Thomas, Stewart I’s 7th child, was born around 1792. He may be the man who appears in the 1832 Tithe Applotment of Glenchuil townland. Judging by the 1820 baptismal record of his first child, he and Jane were likely married around 1819. They had 7 children in Glenchuil between 1820 and 1840. We have no record of his marriage though we do have baptismal records of four of his children. It appears he underwent confirmation in the Church of Ireland in Errigal Keerogue in 1828 at the age of 36 (1828-36=1792). Nothing more is known of this family.



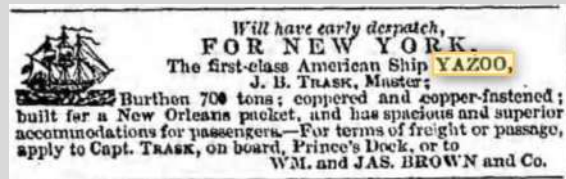
Family 7. Thomas LITTLE and Jane GILKISON (ca. 1792 - ?).

43 Mic 333/1/49: Microfilmed by Courtesy of Nat. Arch., Wash. D.C. #TYPE SHP Microcopy No 425: Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Phila. 1800-1882: Roll 49: Jan 14 - Dec 29 1834 (Lists 1-200).; The Public Record Office, N. Ireland: 333/1/49. Image courtesy ancestry.com.

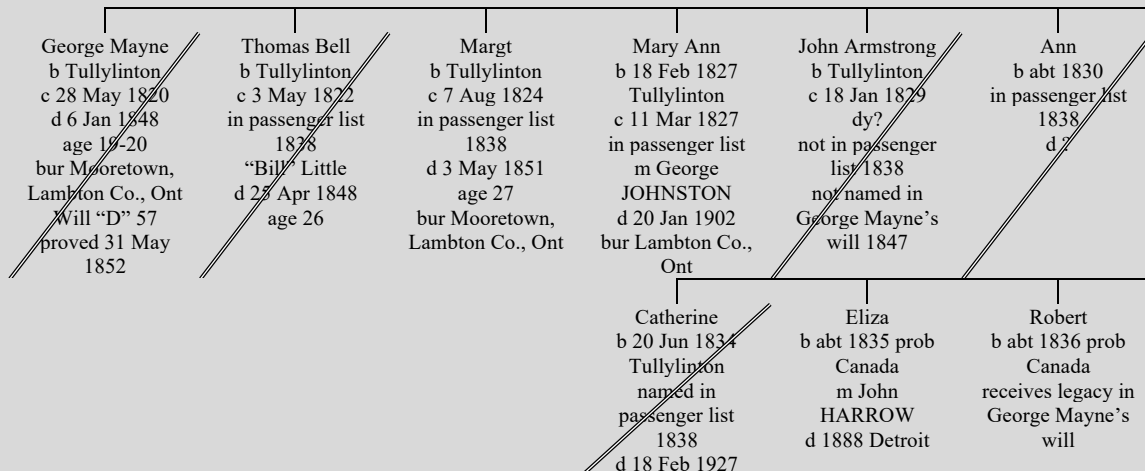
7 Family 8

John Andrew was born around 1781 in Cullenbrone and taken to Tullylinton by his parents. He kept a grocery in Ballygawley. Around 1819 he married Hannah Bell most likely in Ballygawley and had 9 children five of whom were baptized at St. Matthew's Church. In June 1838, a year after Charles and Jane left for Canada, he sailed out of Liverpool with his family to New York City aboard the "Yazoo". They settled in Mooretown in Lambton County, Ontario. They died there and were buried in the Sutherland Cemetery in Mooretown. We have found no record that would indicate he and Hannah ever made contact with his brother's family in Essex County.

Figure 25. Advertisement, Liverpool Mercury, 1 Jun 1838.



John Andrew LITTLE m abt 1819 = Hannah BELL <<<<
b abt 1781 Errigal Keerogue b abt 1802
appears in 1832 Tithe Applotment Book for Lisgonnell and Ballygawley
d 10 Sep 1843 bur Mooretown, Ont. d 1 Dec 1872 bur Mooretown, Ont.



Family 8. John Andrew LITTLE and Hannah BELL (ca. 1781 - 1843).



Figure 26. Extracts from the Passenger Manifest of the "Yazoo", 1838.⁴⁴

44 Ancestry.com. New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957 [database on-line]. Year: 1838; Arrival: New York, New York; Microfilm Serial: M237, 1820-1897; Microfilm Roll: Roll 037; Line: 1; List Number: 431.

Recapitulation

A member of the extended family wishing to visit Ballygawley to sample the air of his ancestors, if only ceremoniously, can do so by inhaling deeply while gazing on St. Matthew's Church or the green hills around him. But his musings will soon be interrupted by the sight and sound of modern Ireland. He will no doubt approve of the farming being practiced on a rocky soil better suited for the raising of livestock than the growing of cereals. With his archaeologist's eyes he may be able to discern the faint signs on the landscape marking the hedges that once bordered the holdings of tenant-farmers, the rills in which the peasantry grew their potatoes and the foundations of the hovels in which they lived out their lives.

But the days of the famine are long gone. In the post-famine decades and the subsequent depopulation, houses were pulled down and fields run together. The people who now cultivate the soil are optimistic, of good health and vigour and work land to which they have title. The gentry and aristocracy who by accident of birth once enjoyed undeservedly the luxury of grand mansions are history, their homes and gardens maintained by the National Trust for the admiration of weekend and foreign tourists.

One feature of the Irish experience that is unchanged is the climate, or more precisely, the rain. When you go to Ireland—and you will—for sightseeing or research at PRONI be sure to pack an umbrella. On the shortest of walks you will almost certainly be rained upon, however softly.

Let us now join our family in Canada.