

The Pilgrimage

I went there. In the spring and summer of 2023, I travelled with my partner Catherine across the length and breadth of the British Isles, to meet the newfound family. In twelve separate meetings in England, Scotland and Ireland, I met lots of relatives on both sides of my father's family. They were my first cousins once removed (i.e. first cousins of my father) second cousins, third cousins and some possibly more distant than that.

This is not a normal thing to do. Actually, up until recently you couldn't have done this. I've literally discovered dozens of relatives in the last couple of years via this DNA thing. These are people whom I could not have possibly located thirty years ago.

It was a compulsion. I felt that I'd be forever regretful if I hadn't made the effort to meet them. I wanted a holiday, but I chose to leave the continent out of the schedule, so that I could meet all the relatives. And I have no regrets about that. We had a great trip.

No one expressly said it, but I'm sure that several relatives wondered why I am so into this family thing. Yes it has become an obsession. I admit it.

Ireland Gormleys

All of the Gormleys that I met in Ireland are descendants of Paul Joseph Gormley.

The members of our branch of the Gormley diaspora are known as Lacky Gormleys within county Sligo. The name probably comes from my great great grandfather Malachy, or maybe a Malachy in some previous generation, Lacky being an abbreviation of his name. It was explained that they do this to distinguish us from the many other Gormleys of various spellings in Sligo. And there are quite a lot.

It was also explained that each family branch in Ireland chose from a small selection of Christian names. For example, Paul, Thomas and Honora are names that appear almost in every generation. There is a Dennis Gormally who lives very near the Lackys, but you can tell he isn't one of us because his name is Dennis.

The Lacky Gormleys came from around Knocknashee, which translates to hill of the fairies. It's an unusual-looking rounded hill. I climbed it and there is something a bit magical about it. Some of the Lackys still live in that area. Around the year 1900 they were living in the townland Carnyara (or Carniara). Knocknashee is a few kilometres south of Coolaney, which is where several other Lackys live currently.

England Gormleys

All the Gormleys that I met in England are descendants of my great-grandfather Thomas Gormley.

The English Gormleys told me that Brian Gormley actually visited my grandfather James in Australia. Brian was my grandfather's nephew. My father had told me that James had a nephew called Brian. One of the Battles also had a son called Brian, and up until now I had always thought that my father had just got this wrong.

The English Gormleys also provided some more photos, including a photo of Tim Gormley who was my grandfather's brother. He's the only one of the four brothers whose photo I did not have. Tim bears a strong resemblance to my grandfather. The English Gormleys told me that Tim would turn up from time to time, and then would just disappear.



The mysterious Timothy Gormley

The Gormley tree

Despite this knowledge that I've gathered, I haven't made much progress on the Gormley family tree of my great grandfather Thomas and great great grandfather Malachy. This is at the heart of what I'd like to achieve, and I'm hopeful that we can still make some progress by looking more closely at the census data and Griffiths Valuation.

I'd really like to know:

- some confirmation that my great-grandfather Thomas Gormley (1862-1942) was the brother of Paul Joseph Gormley (1865-1948) and the son of Malachy Gormley. I'm very sure now that this is the case, but I don't have any written record.
- whether Thomas and Paul had any siblings.
- who Malachy Gormley's wife was. I have a pretty strong hypothesis that it is Anne Henry (1836-1908), but I'm not sure.
- where William Gormley (1846-1917) who emigrated to England prior to 1876 fits in. We know from DNA that he's a blood-relative. Also there is a descendant in England of a Patrick Gormley born in Sligo (1833-), son of Michael Gormley.

Barkers and Kents

I met several relatives in England and Scotland who are on my dad's mother's side. Some of these are first cousins of my father.

Amongst other things I found out that the Kents were involved in a travelling show.

Family History - Summary

The following pages contain lots of detail, including photos and letters, and rabbit holes full of red herrings. It has been updated piecemeal over time as new information has come to light. Here's the short version of it.

I've been a bit obsessed with my ancestry, particularly on my father's side. My mum's family has been very thoroughly researched and documented. My interest was piqued after the results of an ancestry.com saliva swab allowed me to reconnect with first cousins on my father's side after 46 years. The potential of DNA analysis is very exciting. I've spent many hours on the computer over the last few years, and several hundred dollars on website subscriptions.



James Matthew Gormley

b. 11 May 1892 Westoe, South Shields, England - d. 23 June 1974 Sydney, Australia

James Matthew Gormley was an impressive man. Tall and good-looking, he really could have been a movie star. He was also a man of mystery, even after all this investigation.

In a nutshell, as a result of all this research, I've been able to correct the following information about my grandfather:

- *James' death certificate says that he was born in Sligo Ireland. I now know that he was born and raised in South Shields in the north of England.*
- *James' death certificate says that his parents were Paul Martin Gormley and Mary Ryan. I now know that his parents were Thomas Gormley and Annie Battle. They were born in Sligo, Ireland, but migrated to South Shields, England before they were married.*

My late father had some stories about his father James (let's call him Jim), which I believe to varying degrees. One is that he had worked in Queensland in the sugar cane fields each season, like Roo and Barney did in the play *The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*. Another is that Jim had been a boxer, and that he had fought a bloke who had fought the actor Victor McLaglen. Another story is that he had been a merchant seaman and had travelled all around the world. My late mum said that this was correct. She had spoken to James quite a lot when she was a stay-at-home mum and my grandfather lived with us when I was a kid.

Jim died when I was seven, and I only vaguely recall him. There may not be anyone left who had a direct connection with him.

There is contradictory information about his parents. His death certificate states that his parents were Paul Gormley and Mary Ryan of Sligo, Ireland. There is a Paul Gormally in a family tree of a DNA match. Paul Gormally would be the right age and location to be my great grandfather, and the spelling back then was very inconsistent. He however married a different woman at a later date. There is no record of him marrying Mary Ryan, although a Mary Ryan in 1892 in Sligo was arrested for concealing a birth, and the 1901 census says that a James Gormley from America was living with a family of Henrys in Sligo, while Paul Gormley was living with another family of Henrys. Enticing but not conclusive. Mary Ryan is a common name in Ireland.

On the other hand, Jim regularly referred to his cousins Matt and Pat Battle. A Thomas Gormley married Anne Battle, and if Jim were their son, he would be a first cousin of Matt and Pat Battle. Also, a Battle is one of my DNA matches. So my conclusion is that Thomas Gormley and Anne Battle are Jim's parents and my great grandparents. But why then, are the wrong names of his parents on the death certificate? And how does Paul Gormally fit in? From the DNA, if Paul isn't Jim's father, he must be Thomas's brother, but there is no record of this.

It took me a long while to work out that a bunch of Battles and Gormleys moved from Sligo to South Shields at the mouth of the river Tyne in the north of England in the 1880s and 1890s. Annie and Thomas married in South Shields in 1891. If Jim is their son, although we think of him as very Irish, he may not have spent his childhood in Ireland at all. Maybe he never went there. And yet my father says that he spoke Gaelic fluently. And Jim's death certificate says he was born in Sligo.

Jim definitely came to Australia in 1913, landing in Rockhampton and working around Queensland for a few years. He was living in North Sydney and fathering children with Theresa Barker in 1929. However we have no record of their marriage, and my father's birth certificate says that they were married in London in 1925. This was news to my father, who thought they were married in Australia. There is no record of Jim at all between 1921 and 1929. My cousins and I recall stories that brothers and uncles of Jim were involved in the IRA, but it's all very vague.

As for my grandmother, Theresa Frances Gormley nee Barker, we have good knowledge of her mother's family thanks to the excellent work of an Ancestry DNA match and third cousin Dave A. She came from Dorking just outside of London, and may have lived some of her life in Hull. She probably sailed to Australia in 1926. I've found out from relatives that Theresa, known as Sissy, had a difficult upbringing and did not get on with her father. I also know from my father that she lived with a cruel Belgian grandmother, whose family may have owned a chocolate factory in Belgium and may have been quite wealthy.

Note that the stuff that has been crossed out, I have discovered is either not correct, or is not a direct relation and is therefore not relevant to this thing.



James Matthew (Jim) Gormley



Jim Gormley with note to his wife Tess

Update following contact with newfound relatives in England / Ireland / America

Via Ancestry I found and contacted relatives in England and Ireland on both my paternal grandfather and grandmother's side.

One lot of relatives with the surname Gormley are descendants of the Gormleys in South Shields, although some of them now live in Kent and London.

We've exchanged photos, birth and death certificates and other information. I'm now confident that my grandfather is the older brother of Paul, Timothy and Thomas Gormley (see family tree). The DNA supports this theory. Among the few photos that we have that belonged to my grandfather Jim, is a photo of Paul Gormley as a young man (see photos below and you be the judge), and photos of Paul's sons Paul, Martin and Michael as boys, taken around the 1950s. The English Gormleys have an old postcard sent from Sydney. My conclusion is Jim and Paul were posting to each other.



Probably Paul Gormley young Definitely Paul Gormley old



Jim



Paul



Timothy



Thomas

These are the four brothers from eldest to youngest

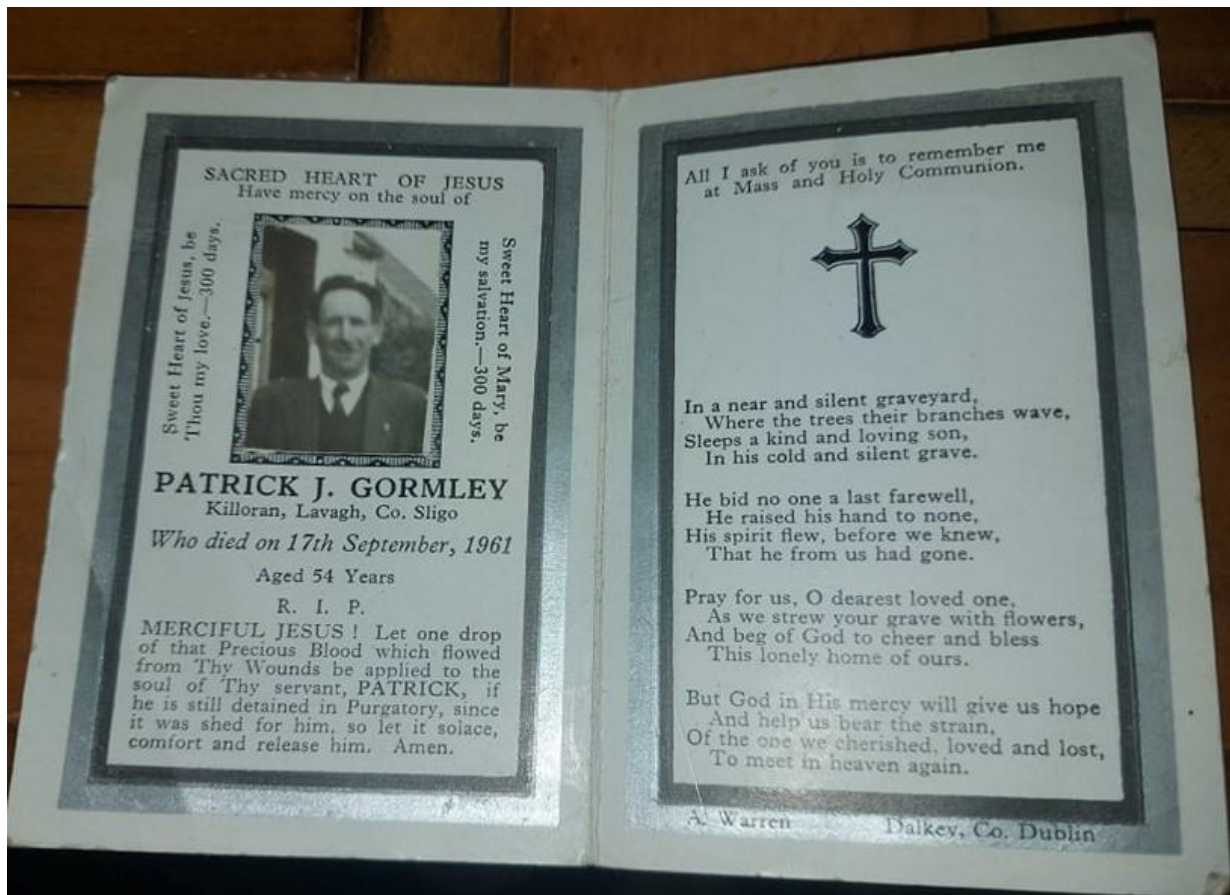
The English Gormleys also told me that they knew of a relative, James Gormley, who was brought up in South Shields by someone else. I think this is my grandfather who was living with his grandmother Bridget Battle nee Colligan at the time of the 1901 census.

So, why does it say on my grandfather's death certificate that his parents were Paul Martin Gormley and Mary Ryan? Either:

- My father, who probably supplied this information, didn't know and made up these names, or
- My father was told this information by his father.

The obvious reason for the deception would be if he were illegitimate. But Thomas Gormley and Annie Battle were married on the 17th of October 1891, and Jim was born on the 11th of May 1892. He was not born out of wedlock, although he was probably conceived before they were married.

And yet, there was a Paul Gormley/ Gormaley. We know from Ancestry DNA that we are related to him. He is the right age to be our great grandfather, and he was living in Sligo in 1901. He had children in the early 1900s, some of whom emigrated to America. I think he must be the brother of Thomas Gormley. Also, the names Paul and Martin are common in subsequent generations in England.



This memorial for a Patrick Gormley from Sligo was sent by my English cousins. He died 1961 aged 54, so he was born in 1907. This makes him around the same generation of my grandfather and his brothers. A relative in Ireland has now confirmed that this Patrick Gormley is the son of Paul Gormley. This is the smoking gun, a clear link between my relatives in South Shields and Paul Gormley of Sligo.

This all raises the question, why did Jim say he came from Ireland? I can understand him wanting to identify as Irish, and I suppose that when you go to the other side of the world you can make up your own story. However, my father certainly thought that his father was raised in Sligo. My father did not know that he had first cousins in England. He even had in his possession photographs of his uncle and his first cousins, but he didn't know who they were. My first cousin, the daughter of my dad's sister Josie, said that her father reckoned that Jim made out that he was Irish, but really he was a Pom.

The questions that the English Gormleys might be able to answer:

- Were they told that my grandfather Jim was the older brother of Paul, Timothy and Thomas? *The answer is yes they were.*
- Why wasn't Jim living with his actual parents in 1901? *Don't know but it isn't that important.*
- Had they heard of Paul Gormley in the family, born somewhere around 1860-1871, possibly brother of Thomas? *We know from the Sligo Gormleys there was contact at some point. Possibly last contact was in the 1950s or 1960s.*
- How was Patrick Gormley, born Sligo 1907 and died 1961, related to the rest of us? *I now know that he is the son of Paul Gormley.*
- Do they know which town or area in Sligo Thomas Gormley came from? *I know it was around Carnyara where Malachy owned land.*
- Who are the other people in the photos (see page 73, 74) from South Shields? *I've identified some of them now.*

A second and more thorough search through Trove (<https://trove.nla.gov.au>) revealed this notice in The Truth newspaper in Sydney on Sunday the 22nd of April 1934 under Missing Friends.

James Gormley, native of South Shields, England, last heard of at South Johnstone, Queensland, believed to be in Sydney.

This confirms, if there was any doubt, that Jim was an Englishman and was known as such in Australia. South Johnstone is in far north Queensland near Innisfail, and it was a sugar town. We have no record of him living that far north, although in the family there are stories that he cut sugar cane, which is probably what he was doing in that area. There is no information about who placed the ad.

Recently, a newly found relative on my grandmother Theresa Barker's side said that she thought that Jim and Theresa had met on the boat when she sailed to Australia. This could well be correct. In this case they probably married in Australia, if they did marry.

What did we already know?

Before getting into this obsessive search, there were a few things that I had been told by my father about my grandfather:

- Jim had worked in the sugar cane fields in Queensland. This fits in with the message about Jim from South Johnstone.
- He had been a boxer in his younger years.
- He came to Australia to avoid fighting for England in the First World War. He actually arrived in 1913, but maybe at that stage people could see that a conflict was brewing.
- He was a merchant seaman and had travelled around the world. I think he might have done this from 1921 to 1929.
- He could speak Gaelic.
- He had cousins Matt and Pat Battle in Queensland.
- Jim had a nephew Brian Gormley.
- Additionally, when I was growing up, we had in the family home the book *The Ragged Trousers Philanthropists* by Robert Tressell. On the inside cover which said something like "Jim, I'm sure you will agree with the sentiments in this book". Here's a description of it:

Clearly frustrated at the refusal of his contemporaries to recognise the inequity and iniquity of society, Tressell's cast of hypocritical Christians, exploitative capitalists and corrupt councillors provide a backdrop for his main target: the workers who think that a better life is "not for the likes of them". Hence the title of the book; Tressell paints the workers as "philanthropists" who throw themselves into back-breaking work for poverty wages to generate profit for their masters.

One of the characters, Frank Owen, is a socialist who tries to convince his fellow workers that capitalism is the real source of the poverty he sees all around him, but their education has trained them to distrust their own thoughts and to rely on those of their "betters". Much of the book consists of conversations between Owen and the others, or more often of lectures by Owen in the face of their jeering; this was presumably based on Tressell's own experiences.

So my grandfather clearly had socialist leanings. The photo at the Jack Lang rally backs this up.

Reflection on Irish History

When I started on this, I had a very naïve concept that life in the west of Ireland in the 19th century was poor but somewhat idyllic. I found online a short book about the history of Killoran, which is the parish where my ancestors lived. In non-emotive language it described the death, disease and massive emigration that continued over decades. After reading this, it's blindingly obvious that these were desperate times in Ireland, and that everyone who was there must have been profoundly affected by the experience. It also explains why the Irish records from the 19th century are very incomplete.

When you consider that the landholders, who were largely English, earned a thousand times the salary of the Irish locals, life seems to be not far removed from a feudal system from the middle ages. In this light, I can understand why the Irish organised resistance against their rulers. I would question their self-respect if they had not. It also makes clear to me why my grandfather identified as Irish although he was English. And it explains why he did not want to fight for England in the war, although he was born and raised there.

James Matthew Gormley

Birth

~~My cousins the Dowlings believed Jim was from Mayo. The area where I thought he was raised is not far from the Mayo border, and the Sligo-Mayo borders have shifted around the 1890s.~~

~~Frank and Josie's birth certificates indicate Jim was born in 1894. Jim's death certificate indicates he was born in 1892. Tracey Baker in her school assignment says his birthday was in May. Frank also thinks his birthday was in May.~~


I now know that he was born b. 11 May 1892 Westoe, South Shields, England.

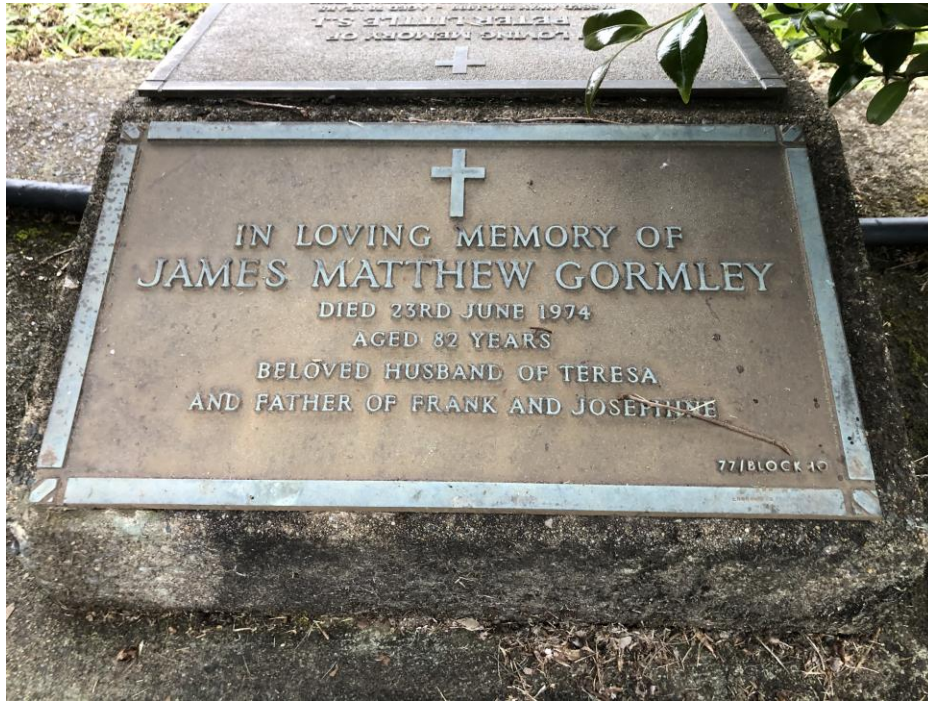
Death

Jim died in our family home in 1974.

James Matthew Gormley's death certificate (below) has errors:

- It says that Jim was born to Mary Ryan and Paul Gormley. They were Thomas Gormley and Annie Battle.
- It says he was born in Sligo. He was born in South Shields.

NEW SOUTH WALES	
REGISTER OF DEATHS	
Surname of deceased	GORMLEY
Other names	James Matthew
Occupation	-
Sex and Age	Male 82 years
Marital status	Widower
Date of death	23rd June, 1974
Place of death	Concord West (11 Currawang St.)
Usual residence	11 Currawang Street, Concord West
Place of birth	Sligo, County, Ireland (68 years in Australia)
Father - Surname	GORMLEY
Other names	Paul Martin
Mother - Maiden surname	RYAN
Other names	Mary
Place of marriage	Sydney, N.S.W.
Age at marriage	38 years
To whom married	Teresa Barker
Children of marriage	James deceased, Francis 41 years, Josephine 40
Informant	F.P. Gormley, son 11 Curranang Street, Concord West
Cause of death	I(a) Haematemesis hours (b) Hiatus hernia months (c) Duodenal ulcer months II Carcinoma caecum years Diverticulosis years
By whom certified	J.A. McCarthy, Medical Practitioner
Particulars of burial or cremation	26th June, 1974 Catholic Lawn Cemetery, Northern Suburbs
Particulars of registration	 Registrar General
	Date 2nd July, 1974 Number 6835



Jim's grave at the Northern Suburbs Cemetery in Sydney

Rabbit Hole 1 – Jim's father

Jim's death certificate says that his father is Paul Martin Gormley.

~~The only record of a James Gormley in the 1901 Irish census that matches and is roughly the correct age, is of a visitor from America with the Henry family in Carnyara, about 10km north of Tobercurry, Sligo. Predictably, he was not living with the same family in 1911. Why it would say Jim was from America is a mystery. It seems that a child visiting poor Ireland from prosperous America is rather odd. The travel is mostly the other way. This could be a story constructed to hide an illegitimate child.~~

~~Note that Paul Gormley, who I thought was Jim's father, was also living with a Henry family in Cartron, Carrowmore. There are also people with Henry as their surname in the related DNA family trees.~~

~~Paul Gormley senior, who is Paul Gormley's father according to a family tree on Ancestry, lived in Carrowntawa which is very close to Carnyara. However, Paul Gormley's marriage certificate says that Paul Gormley jr's father is Malachy Gormley. A Malachy Gormley lived in Achonry, which also is only a couple of miles from Carnyara.~~

~~A James Gormley sailed from Liverpool to Boston in March 1907. It says his age was 17. This may or may not be him.~~

~~I had thought he was raised at Doobeg as there was a James Gormley about the right age. This led me down a huge rabbit hole until I realised that this James married a woman in England in 1936.~~

~~Jim death certificate says his father is Paul Martin Gormley. Paul Gormley is a relatively unusual name in Ireland (compared to James, Patrick, Matthew and Michael), and there is only one who is the right age to match (I've since discovered that records in Ireland prior to 1901 are very incomplete).~~

~~Paul wasn't living with a son James in 1901 nor in 1911.~~

~~There is a Paul Gormley who is the right age, but I now believe that Paul Gormley / Gormally is not my grandfather's father, but is my grandfather's uncle.~~

I now know that Paul Martin Gormley is not my grandfather's father. I suspect that he was entirely made up by my father or my grandfather.

Rabbit-hole 2 – Jim’s mother

James death certificate says his mother is Mary Ryan.

~~A Mary Ryan was born to Michael Ryan and Catherine Ryan nee Scanlon in 1873 in Kilturra, Sligo. There are Scanlons from Sligo in family trees in DNA matches.~~



Church Baptism Record

Name:	Mary Ryan	Date of Birth:	
		Date of Baptism:	27-Jul-1873
Address:	Kilshalvey	Parish/District:	KILSHALVEY KILTURRA
Gender:	Female	County:	Co. Sligo
		Denomination:	Roman Catholic
Father:	Michael	Mother:	Catherine Scanlon
Occupation:			
Sponsor 1 / Informant 1:	Pat Taaffe	Sponsor 2 / Informant 2:	Beesy Meehan
Notes:			

© 2020 Copyright Co. Sligo Heritage and Genealogy Society

www.rootsireland.ie

~~A Mary Ryan was imprisoned in 1892 for concealing a birth. She spent four months in jail.~~

~~There is no record of Paul Gormley and Mary Ryan getting married. I've found no other record of Mary Ryan at all. There are many unanswered questions. Did she bring up Jim? Maybe she wasn't counted in the censuses because she was an unmarried mother? Was Jim removed from his biological mother because she was unmarried or maybe because she couldn't look after him, and he was brought up by relatives? Did Jim's father Paul leave the family, and Mary the mother moved elsewhere with Jim? We just don't know.~~

I now know that Mary Ryan is not my grandfather's mother. I suspect that she was entirely made up by my father or my grandfather.



My father Frank has said that Jim was a supporter of Jack Lang. Jim is here at a rally, much taller than anyone else. Lang was sacked in 1932 so I think this might have been taken that year. I think the little boy in front of Jim is James (Sonny) Gormley. In 1932 Sonny would have been 3 years old. Sonny died in 1933.



Jim in Australia

James Matthew Gormley migrated in 1913 on the ship Roscommon. He disembarked in Rockhampton. When he arrived he initially lived in Mount Morgan which is where the Battles also lived.

Name: James M Gormley

Age: 19

Birth Year: abt 1894

Arrival Date: 1913

Arrival Place: Queensland, Australia

Source Card Name: James Matthew Gormley

Ship: Roscommon

Title: Card Index to Nominated Immigrants 1908 to 1922

Item ID:868956

Ref: IMM/329

Microfilm: Z7750

Original URL: <https://data.qld.gov.au/datase...>

The Battles

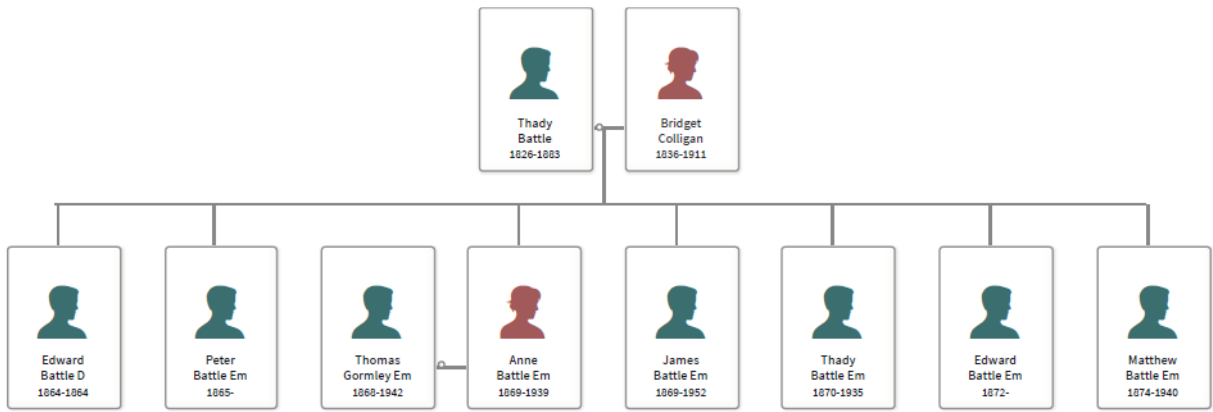
Jim Gormley had relatives whom he called uncles and cousins with the surname Battle who lived in Queensland. We have records that Jim kept in touch with and visited several of these Battles throughout his life.

There is still a presence of Battles in Queensland and Paul Battle is a DNA match. Paul Battle was a descendent of James (Jim) Battle, who was sibling of Jim's mother Annie Battle and who arrived in Queensland prior to 1900.

Jim was close with his cousins Matt and Pat Battle. They were twins and were born in 1905, so they were more than 10 years his junior.

In hindsight, he was probably close the whole family. By the early 60s, the rest of the Battle family had died.

There are references to other Gormleys in Mount Morgan from the late 1800s onwards. I've not found anything to indicate that they are related to Jim.



A large family of Battles moved from Sligo to South Shields to Durham in the late 1800s.

Annie Battle, my great grandmother, was born in Clonacool in Sligo in 1869 (the dates are a bit variable).

Page 12											
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											
Civil Parish [or Township] of		City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town or Village or Hamlet of		Urban Sanitary District of	
Laudon		Laudon		Laudon		Laudon		Laudon		Laudon	
No. of Schedule	ROAD STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (1) (2) (3) (4)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or idiot (4) Lame		
48	48 New Cottages		James Mc Hugh	Son		6	Scholar	Laudon Laudon			
			William Do	Step Son		8		Do Binsgate			
49	49 Do		Mary Kofaldsen	Head	47	60		Wexham Beach			
			John Do	Son	Widow	38	Gen Lab	Do			
			Edward Do	Son	Widow	30	Do Do	Do			
			John Do	Widow's Son		18	Do Do	Wexham Wexham			
50	50 Do		Heaven Brubaker	Head	Widow	54	Mariner	Northumberland Newcastle			
			Abella Do	Wife	Man	38		Do North Shields			
51	51 Do		William Henderson	Head	Widow	29	Railway Engine Driver	Laudon Laudon			
			Mary Do	Wife	Widow	25		Do Laudon			
			Margaret Do	Son		8	Scholar	Do Do			
			Heaven Do	Son		5	Do	Do Do			
52	52 Do		Lygath Battle	Head	Widow	55	Gen Lab	Do Ireland			
			Bridget Do	Wife	Widow	46		Do			
			James Do	Son	Widow	21	Gen Lab	Do			
			Victoria Do	Son	Widow	16	Do Do	Do			
			Ann Do	Son		13	Scholar	Do			
			Emily Do	Son		11	Do	Do			
			Edward Do	Son		5	Do	Do			
			Matthew Do	Son		4	Do	Do			
53	Do		William Chapter	Head	Widow	23	Coal Miner	Laudon Laudon			
			Barbara Do	Wife		19		Do Do			
54	Do		Ann Hunter	Head	Widow	66	Widow	Northumberland Laudon			
			Elizabeth Do	Son	Widow	21		Laudon Northumberland			
			Thomas Do	Widow's Son		1		Do Laudon			
6	Total of Houses...	6	Total of Males and Females...			16	9				

Note.—Draw the pen through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

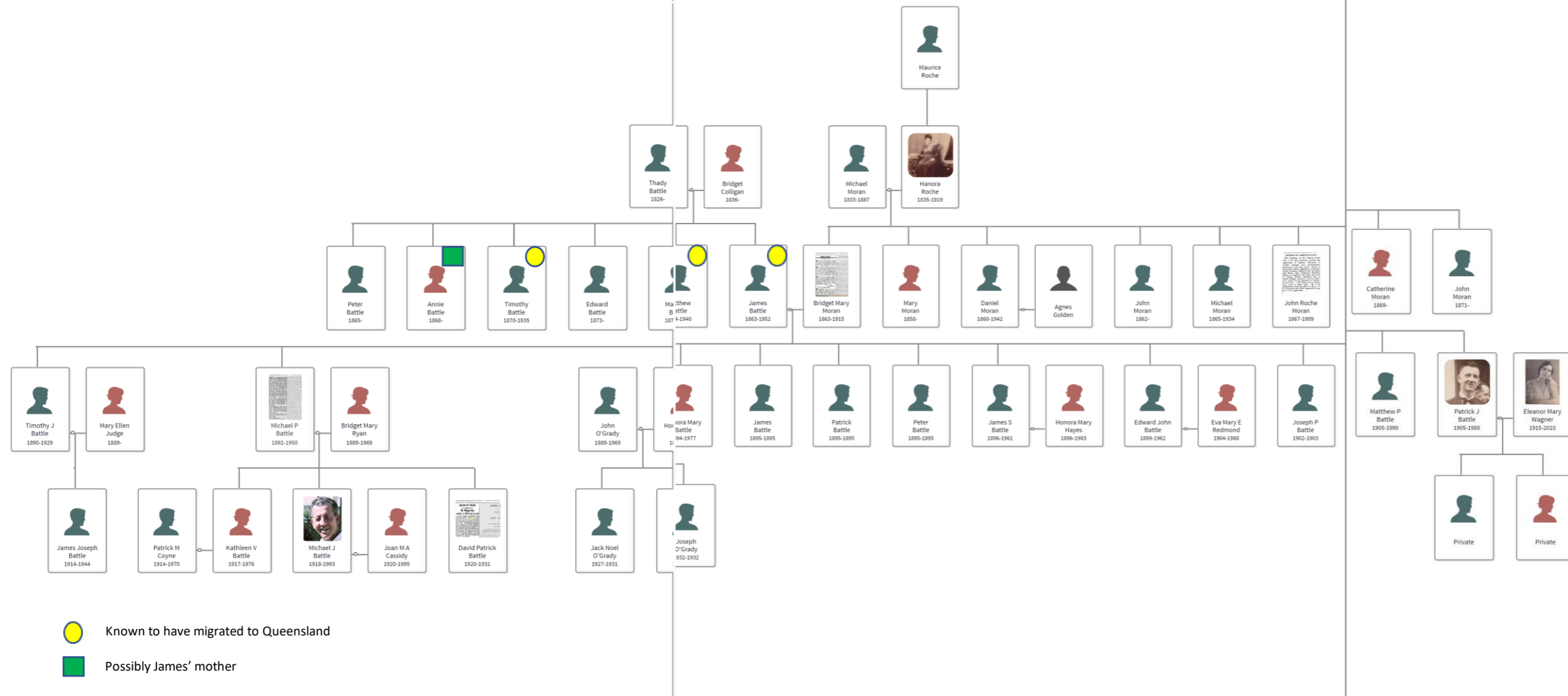
By 1881 Annie's parents and siblings had moved to Durham.

Administrative County		The undermentioned House are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 8							
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Parish-District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet							
ROAD, STREET &c. and No. of NAME of HOUSE		ROUSES		Name and Surname of each Person		RELATION to Head of Family		Age last Birthday		PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION		Employer, Worker, or Own account		17 Working at Home		18 WHERE BORN		19 (1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic (4) Lame, Paralytic, etc.	
43	226 St	1		James Anderson	Son	1	1	1						Barham	South Shields				
				Ellen J. Brady	Wife	21	1	50						do	Jarrow				
				Thomas P. H.	Son	1	1	1						do	South Shields				
44	204 St			Thomas P. H.	Head	21	24	24		Industrial Works Laborer	Worker			North	North Shields				
				Elizabeth H.	Wife	21	3	52						Barham	South Shields				
				Thomas P. H.	Son	1	1	1						do	do				
				James P. H.	Son	1	1	1						do	do				
45	204 St			Thomas P. H.	Head	21	24	24		Industrial Works Laborer	Worker			North	North Shields				
				Elizabeth H.	Wife	21	3	52						Barham	South Shields				
				Charles P. H.	Son	1	1	1						do	do				
				Anna H.	Wife	21	3	52						do	do				
46				Thomas Gormley	Head	21	26	26		Industrial Works Laborer	Worker			Ireland					
				Annie	Wife	21	30	30						do					
				Paul	Son	21	3	3						Barham	South Shields				
				Timothy	Son	21	3	3						do	do				
47				John McQuinn	Head	21	23	23		Industrial Works Laborer	Worker			Ireland					
				John	Son	21	3	3						do	do				
				Michael	Son	21	3	3						do	do				
				Catherine	Wife	21	3	3						do	do				
48				William Harvey	Head	21	23	23		Industrial Works Laborer	Worker			do	do				
				Elizabeth	Wife	21	3	3						do	do				
				John Brown	Head	21	24	24		Industrial Works Laborer	Worker			do	do				
49	202 St			James	Son	21	13	13						do	do				
				George	Son	21	11	11						do	do				
				John	Son	21	11	11						do	do				
				James	Son	21	11	11						do	do				
50				John Graham	Head	21	24	24		Keelwright	Worker			do	do				
				Henrietta	Wife	21	30	30						do	do				
				William	Son	21	13	13						do	do				
				Isabella	Wife	21	11	11						do	do				

There is a marriage between Thomas Gormley and Anne Battle in South Shields. They would be around the right age to be Jim's parents, but the 1901 census says they have children Paul and Timothy. If we assume that Jim is the son of Thomas Gormley and Anne Battle, then Paul and Timothy are his siblings.

45	do	do	140	2	HARVE Charlotte	F	10 Jun 1876	M	Wife	Wife									
				1	SMITH Robert	M	24 Jun 1876	M	Husband	Husband									
				2	do	do	19 Feb 1876	M	X	do									
				3	QUIGLEY Rose Ann	F	27 Jun 1873	F	X	do									
47	do	do	141	1	VANS John W	M	9 Oct 1878	M	X	MINER (Coal Filer)	Worker								
				2	do Sarah E	F	20 Nov 1876	F	X	Wife	Wife								
				3	do John M	M	12 July 1876	M	X	do	do								
47	do	do	142	1	VANS Thomas	M	7 Aug 1873	M	X	BUILDERS Laborer	Worker								
				2	do Elizabeth	F	17 Jul 1870	F	X	Wife	Wife								
49	do	do	143																
51	do	do	144	1	GORMLEY Thomas	M	11 Nov 1865	M	X	O.A. Revisions									
				2	do Annie	F	10 Jun 1864	F	X	do									
				3	do Thomas	M	18 Dec 1866	M	X	Builder Laborer	Worker								
53	do	do	145	1	PANELL Georgia	F	30 Apr 1873	F	X	Wife	Wife								
53	do	do	146	1	JUDGE Francis	M	21 May 1876	M	X	MINER (unemployed)									

The census in 1939 indicates that Annie and Thomas have a son Thomas born 1904.



- Known to have migrated to Queensland
- Possibly James' mother

This family tree has been drawn up by a descendant in ancestry.com.

Thady Battle with his wife Bridget and children, including his son James, moved from Tubbercurry in Sligo to Durham in England around 1874. James Battle arrived in Rockhampton Queensland around 1885 and married Bridget Mary Moran in 1889. James Battle's brothers Tim and Matthew also came to Queensland, probably around the same time. Relatives of these Battles, including Anne (or Annie), remained in South Shields in County Durham in the north of England.

Ancestry matches show that there is a possible relation to Thomas Colligan of Sligo born possibly around 1860-1890. This reinforces the relation to the offspring of Thady Battle and Bridget Colligan.

In the 1901 census there is a G Matthew Gormley, grandson of Bridget Battle, 8 years old, living with a family of Battles in South Shields. He's about the right age to be Jim. If we ignore the wrong first initial, it brings up the possibility that Jim may have been brought up in the north of England. He would very likely be the son of Thomas and Anne. If Thomas and Anne were his parents, he wasn't living with them but he was living with Thady and Bridget Battle, and he is listed as their grandson, which would be correct. However, this doesn't fit with the Paul Gormally father theory. Perhaps Paul and Thomas are brothers. He refers to Jim Battle his uncle, which would be correct if he regarded Thomas Gormley as his father.

The odd thing is the DNA match on Ancestry. Paul Battle is listed as a 2nd or 3rd cousin of me, Clark Gormley. If Paul Gormley and Mary Ryan are Clark's great grandparents, there is no genetic link to the Battle family. There could have been intermarrying with the Battles in Paul Gormley's parents or grandparents. ~~It's possible this occurred in Sligo between Bridget Battle and Patrick Gorman in 1840. However, we're pretty sure from the Battle family tree that Thady Battle (1826-1883) is Paul Battle's great great grandfather. Thady Battle is the same generation as Bridget Battle and Patrick Gorman. The Gormley Battle link would have to be another generation or more before that. So we would be 4th cousins or more.~~ The DNA says we're second or third cousins.

However, if Thomas Gormley and Anne Battle are Jim Gormley's parents, then Thady Battle and Bridget Colligan are our common great great grandparents, which makes Paul Battle and Clark Gormley 3rd cousins. This seems more likely. But then why would Jim have the wrong parents listed on his birth certificate? We don't know. *I now think it's most likely that my father wrote the wrong names on the death certificate, maybe because he just didn't know.*

We have two options who may be Jim in the 1901 census. ~~One is living with the Henrys in Sligo,~~ and the other is living with the Battles in South Shields. He can't be both, because the census occurred on the same day.

I think Jim's South Shields option is actually the most likely. You would think that if he were Thomas and Anne's son he would be living with them at the age of 8. But the census below indicates that he was living with the grandmother instead.

The other complication is that Paul Gormaley via KD is also a DNA match. Ancestry says that they are a 2nd or 3rd cousin of Clark. From KD's tree it is not conclusive whether Paul Gormaley or his father is the common ancestor.

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the													Page- 11		
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish			County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District			Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District			Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet		
of South Shields (part of)		of Michael and All Saints of South Shields (part of)			of South Shields (part of)			of Hilda (part of)			of		of South Shields (part of)		of		
Date	ROAD, STREET, No. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	Uninhabited	Partly Inhabited	Fullly Inhabited	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	Profession or Occupation	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lame	(4) Lunatic, feeble-minded
76	9a-11 Somerset St					Edgar Kyle	Head	M	48	Mechanical Engineer & B.	carter		Burham Gateshead				
						Annie do	wife	M	65				Northumberland Newbiggin				
						Annie Ann McKeith	grandmother	S	81	Widow	own account	alone	Durham South Shields				
77	100 Percy St					Bridget Battle	Head	Wid	59				Ireland				
						Edward do	son	S	27	Gas works labourer	worker		do				
						Matthew do	son	S	24	Gas works labourer	worker		Burham Seaburn Hartburn				
						G. Matthew Gormley	grandson	S	8				do South Shields				
						James Brinton	boarder	S	40	Gas works labourer	worker		Ireland				
						Patrick Killade	boarder	S	46	Gas works labourer	worker		do				

Jim refers to an uncle Tim Battle, who was living in Australia. There is no Tim who is brother to Jim in the above family tree. However Thady was often called Tim.

South Shields

A number of Gormleys lived in South Shields at the turn of the century, including Thomas and Annie nee Battle.

From census data:

1881 Timothy and Bridget nee Colligan with Annie Battle 13yo, 52 New Cottage

1891 Annie Battle with Thomas Gormelly lodger, 23 Dock St

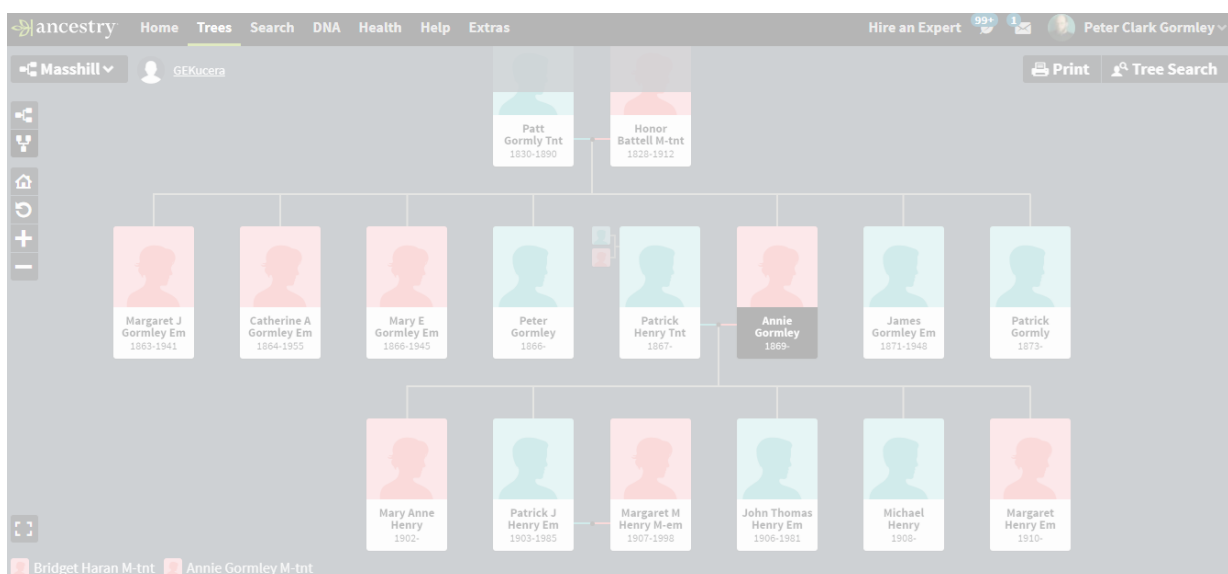
1901 Thomas Gormley and Annie nee Battle, with children Paul and Timothy, 204 Maxwell St

1901 Bridget Battle with grandson G Matthew Gormley, 100 Percy St

There is nothing to link any of these households in terms of common addresses. It seems that people moved about quite a bit, and that housing was temporary and possibly poor quality.

Other Gormley - Battle family links

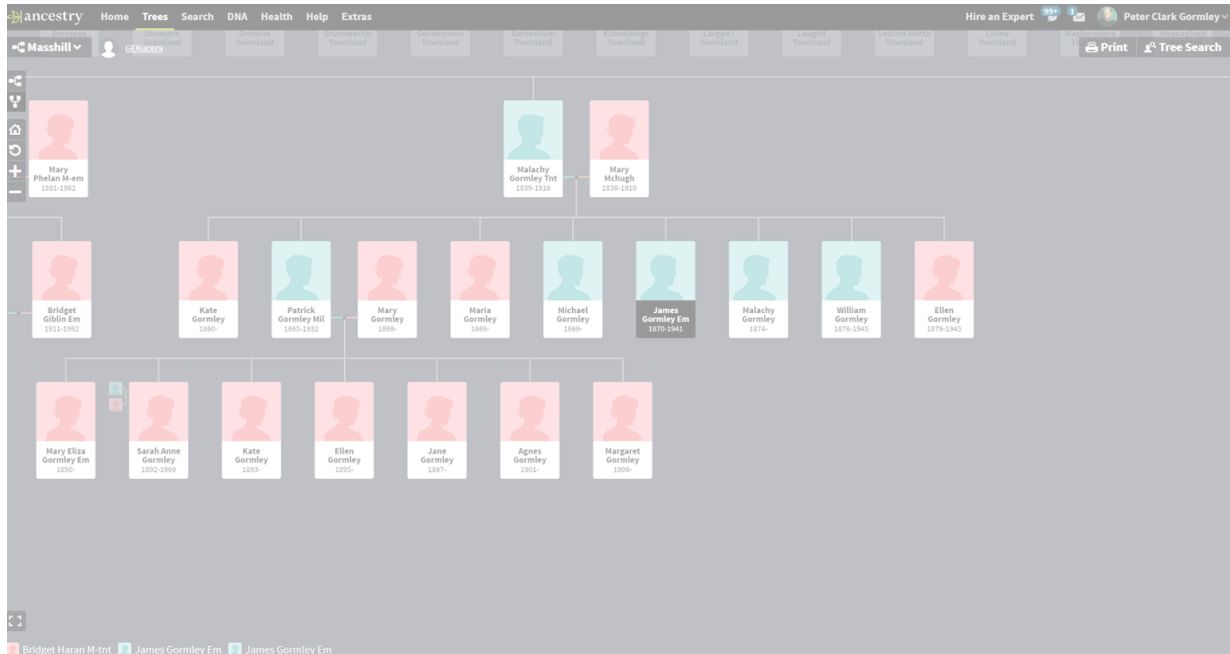
There is a record of a Bridget Battle marrying a Patrick Gorman in Sligo in 1840. There is another marriage between a Battel and a Gormly shown below. If we were to assume that Thomas Gormley and Annie Battle are not the parents of James Gormley, these could explain how I could share genes with a Battle. However there's nothing to link either of these marriages to my family. It could also indicate some marrying of relatives, reducing the gene pool.



I'm convinced this is no relation to us, although it includes Gormleys, Battles and Henrys, and they're from Carrowntawa, which is not far from Coolaney and Carnyara.

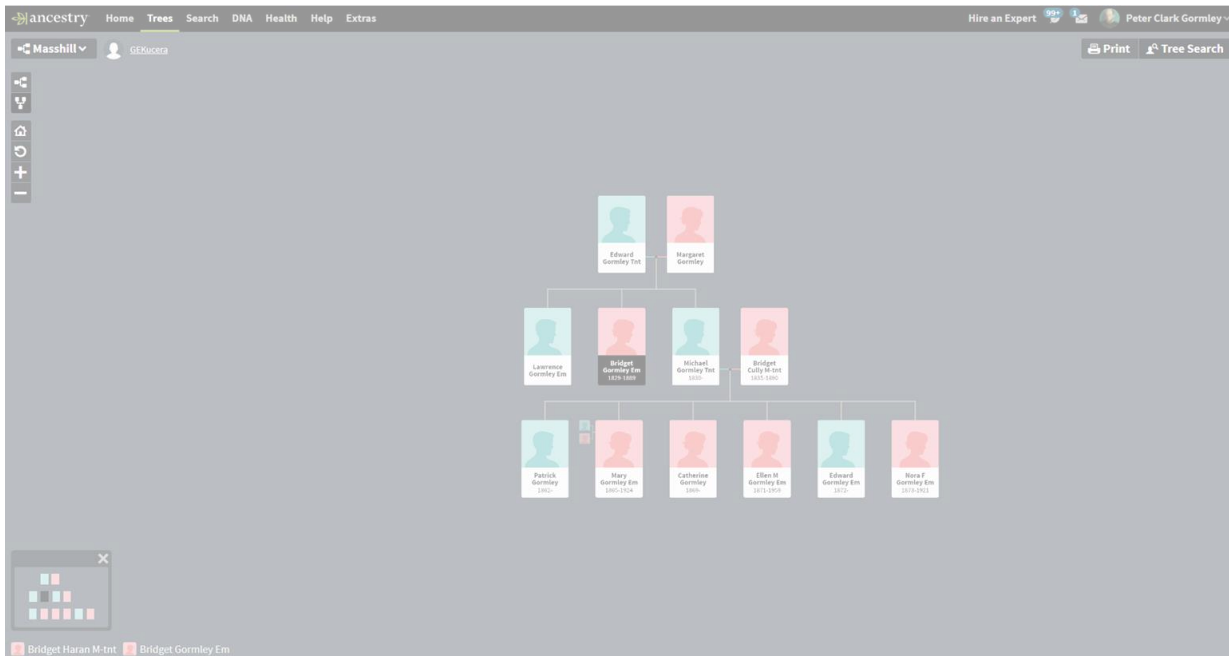
Rabbit-hole 3 - Potential Gormley ancestors in Sligo

In this tree above there is no Thomas Gormley nor Paul Gormley in the generation of James Matthew Gormley's father (unless someone has changed their name). It does indicate a marriage with a Henry which might explain the connection with the Henrys. This lot came from Carrowntawa, Streamstown, Sligo. Several of them ended up in Boston, Massachusetts. There is no mention of any going to Australia.



Here is another Gormley tree, this time from Achonry, Leitrim, Sligo. It shows Malachy Gormley as the patriarch. Malachy was listed as the name of Paul Gormley's (born 1871) father in one source. Again if there was a name change he could be from this family.

These trees on Ancestry have been made up for towns in Sligo under the name Masshill. They are huge and list families in each Sligo township. They may have been taken from the census records, but in a few of them there is more detail, such as photos. One has been made up for each of the Sligo townlands.



~~Here's another family from Tobercurry and Kilshalvey. No mention of Thomas, Paul or James Gormleys that match.~~

Here is another rookie error that I kept making. People did not move far in Ireland the 19th century. I've been told that they tended to marry someone within a 10-mile radius. I'm now confident that my family came from Carnyara / Coolaney.

There were quite a few Gormley families in Sligo, they tended to name their kids from a small pool of first names, and they had large families.

The Rebel - Jim Battle (1863-1952)

I got in touch with a second cousin of my father. She is a descendant of the Battles in Australia.

She has a lot of information. She is the daughter of Pat Battle, who was good friends with his first cousin, my grandfather Jim Gormley. She actually met my grandfather when she visited Sydney from Townsville sometime around 1950 when she was a girl. She also met my father and his sister.

I asked her about a relative who was in the IRA. She certainly knows about that. Her grandfather was Jim Battle (1863-1952). He was born in Sligo in 1863 and migrated with his family to South Shields in 1874. He was the brother of my great grandmother Annie Battle. Three of her brothers emigrated from South Shields to Australia. Jim Battle was the eldest of these brothers and the first to emigrate. The IRA didn't exist back then, but he was a supporter of the Irish cause. She has Ancient Order of Hibernians stuff which he owned. In the 1885 it seems he may have got into trouble of some sort and it was associated with being an Irish advocate, with the while he working for the Jarrow Chemical Company who produced chalk and limestone at South Shields. He would have been very unpopular around there with those views at that time. Whether he was forced to leave, or he just got sick of the working conditions is not clear, but he left the country very quickly. Within a couple of days he had boarded a ship in Glasgow and ended up in Australia. When he got on the ship he thought he was going to America. Two of his brothers also emigrated to Australia at a later date. My grandfather emigrated also in 1913, and stayed with Jim Battle and his family in Mount Morgan when he first arrived in Australia. I imagine that my grandfather absorbed some of Jim Battle's ideas, and I'm guessing that he was left-leaning as well as pro-Irish.

That explains the IRA relative that my father had told me about.

So, the reason my family is in Australia is due to Jim Battle and his random choice when he needed to take flight at short notice.



Jim Battle is the father in the centre of this photo. This would have been taken around 1910, just before my grandfather arrived at Mount Morgan.

A search through the Shields Daily Gazette of that week revealed this article. It has no link to Irish rebels, but indicates there was unrest amongst the coal miners at that time. We don't know whether Jim Battle was working at Seaham Colliery at the time.

It seems as if Jim spent most of his years after 1885 in Mount Morgan, where he brought up his family. But the electoral roll indicates that he was living with his daughter Nora and her husband Jack O'Grady in Kangaroo point from 1934 until his death in 1952.

Jim was the first of three brothers to emigrate from South Shields to Australia. They were all uncles of my grandfather. As far as I know, Jim's other two siblings, Timothy and Matthew, did not have children. That means that all of my Battle relatives in Australia are descended from this Jim Battle.

This Tim Battle was living in Barcaldine near Longreach in 1893 and 1895.

100

THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF BARCOO.									
No.	Christian Name and Surname.	Qualification.	Situation of Residence or Property in respect of which qualification arises.	Age.	Place of Abode.	Occupation.	Particulars of Qualification.	Date when Claim Received by Electoral Registrar.	Polling District.
28	O'Neill, James	residence	318-Miles, Q.C. Railway						
29	Peirce, Henry	...	...	28	302½-Mile, Q.C. Railway	lengthsman	residence	11 Jan., 1893	
30	Pender, Michael	residence	Jericho						
31	Plum, Joseph	residence	Jericho						
32	Riley, John	residence	McCulloch's Tank, Jericho road						
33	Roper, William	residence	Jericho						
34	Scrivner, Walter	residence	Jericho						
35	Skuthorpe, Charles	leaseholder	Mexico Station						
36	Spelman, Michael	residence	Jericho						
37	Wase, Edward B.	residence	Jericho						
BARCALDINE DIVISION.									
38	Adam, Godfrey John	...	...	24	Oak street, Barcaldine	printer	residence	29 June, 1894	
39	Ahern, John	freehold	Oak street, Barcaldine						
40	Ahern, Patrick	...	...	28	West End Hotel, Barcaldine	groom	residence	1 Oct., 1894	
41	Ahern, Robert John	residence	Delta Station						
42	Allen, Joseph	...	...	41	Reserve, Barcaldine	carter	residence	2 July, 1894	
43	Allen, William	...	...	70	Ash street, Barcaldine	labourer	residence	20 Sept., 1893	
44	Antonio, Joseph	residence	Reserve, Barcaldine						
45	Appleton, William Frederick	...	...	21	Barcaldine Reserve	watchmaker	residence	1 Oct., 1894	
46	Arthur, James	residence	Oak street, Barcaldine						
47	Atthews, Alfred	residence	Alice River Co-operative Farm						
48	Austin, Arthur	residence	Alice River Co-operative Farm						
49	Bailey, John Thomas	leasehold	Alice River						
50	Bancke, Oscar	freehold	Oak street, Barcaldine						
51	Barry, Edward Blackburne	...	...	38	Ash street, Barcaldine	labourer	residence	27 Aug., 1894	
52	Battle, Timothy	residence	Alice River Co-operative Farm						
53	Bennett, Henry	residence	Elm street, Barcaldine						
54	Benny, Richard	freehold	Barcaldine						
55	Bishop, John	residence	Alice River Co-operative Farm						
56	Blakey, Harry	residence	Barcaldine						
57	Boyd, Charles	residence	Barcaldine						
58	Boutwell, Richard	residence	Racecourse Gate, Barcaldine						
59	Bowyer, George	residence	Reserve, Barcaldine						
60	Bradford, William George	residence	Barcaldine Station						
61	Brauer, Henry Julius	residence	Railway Reserve, Barcaldine						
62	Breen, Martin	...	...	31	Barcaldine Reserve	carrier	residence	1 Oct., 1894	
63	Brown, John	...	...	28	Oak street, Barcaldine	well-borer	residence	3 July, 1894	
64	Brown, William	residence	Q.C.R. Station, Barcaldine						
65	Browne, James	residence	71 Gang, 346-Miles, Q.C.R.						
66	Browning, William	residence	Barcaldine						
67	Bunt, Henry	residence	Barcaldine Reserve						

In 1900 and 1901 he was labouring at Woothakata.

THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF WOOTHAKATA.

BI-MONTHLY (April) ELECTORAL ROLL of PERSONS qualified to Vote for the Election of Members of the Legislative Assembly, in the Year 1900, for the Electoral District of WOOTHAKATA, for which I am Returning Officer.

Dated this 12th day of April, 1900.

R. C. RINGROSE,

Returning Officer for Woothakata.

No.	Surname and Christian Name.	Age.	Place of Abode.	Occupation.	Particulars of Qualification.	Date when Claim Received by Electoral Registrar.
CAIRNS DIVISION.						
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
DOUGLAS DIVISION.						
1196	Johnston, Samuel	24	Mosman	sugar-planter	residence	13 Dec., 1899
1197	Morris, Charles	46	Wharf street	contractor	residence	13 Dec., 1899
1198	Morris, Hugh	30	Wharf street	timber-getter	residence	13 Dec., 1899
1199	Pringle, James	64	Fairymount, Mosman River	cane planter	residence	18 Dec., 1899
1200	Pringle, James	38	Mosman	farmer	residence	21 Dec., 1899
1201	Smith, Thomas	66	Mosman River	farmer	residence	8 Dec., 1899
HERBERTON DIVISION.						
1202	Alexander, Daniel	51	Spring Gully, Gibbs's Creek, Irvinebank	miner	residence	12 Dec., 1899
1203	Battle, Timothy	28	Coolgarra	labourer	residence	3 Feb., 1900
1204	Beck, Christopher Benjamin	59	Montalbion Hotel, Montalbion	miner	residence	4 Jan., 1900
1205	Carroll, Thomas	34	Oakey Creek	licensed victualler	residence	15 Dec., 1899
1206	Chalmers, James McWhan	32	Girofla	engine-driver	residence	29 Dec., 1899
1207	Coleman, John	39	Butcher's Creek	mine manager	residence	1 Feb., 1900
1208	Cooper, George	79	Federal Hotel, Grace street	painter	residence	20 Jan., 1900
1209	Cremer, Robert	45	Grace street	photographer	residence	17 Jan., 1900

1903

Lerida Station, Queensland, Australia

James Summary 10

34

Occupation Station Hand

1905

State: Queensland, Australia

Division: Herberton

1906

Mossman, Queensland, Australia

Occupation Labourer

1909

State: Queensland, Australia

Division: Woothakata

Sub-division: Herberton

Elector #: 865

1909 (possibly Timothy John Battle?)

State: Queensland, Australia

Division: Bowen

Sub-division: Ayr

Elector #: 39

1912

State: Queensland, Australia

Division: Kennedy

Sub-division: Cape River

Elector #: 24

1913

Britannia Station, Queensland, Australia

Occupation Labourer

Election

Year: 1913

State: Queensland

Division: Kennedy

Sub-division: Pentland

Elector #: 22

There was a Britannia Station south of Charters Towers.

1914 and 1915

State: Queensland, Australia

Division: Burnett

Sub-division: Eidsvold

Elector #: 3973

When you look at these places on a map, you realise there these places range from Longreach to the Atherton tablelands.

Timothy Battle then went to the war in 1916.

A 59759

HAS HAD HOME LEAVE.

G 11057

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPÉRIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 6521 Name TIMOTHY BATTLE
 Unit 19th Battalion
 Joined on 18th. Sept. 1916.

R5378

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What is your Name! | 1. <u>TIMOTHY BATTLE.</u> |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born! | 2. In the Parish of <u>SLIGO</u> in or near the Town of <u>SLIGO</u> in the County of <u>IRELAND.</u> |
| 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) | 3. <u>BRITISH BORN.</u> |
| 4. What is your Age! | 4. <u>43 yrs. 4 mths.</u> |
| 5. What is your Trade or Calling! | 5. <u>Laborer.</u> |
| 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice! If so, where, to whom, and for what period! | 6. <u>No.</u> |
| 7. Are you married! | 7. <u>No.</u> |
| 8. Who is your next of kin! (Address to be stated)
"The answer to this question shall not be construed as in the nature of a Will." | 8. <u>(SISTER) MRS. ANNIE GORLSEY SOUTH SHIELDS DURHAM ENGLAND.</u> |
| 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power! | 9. <u>No.</u> |
| 10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy! | 10. <u>No.</u> |
| 11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces! If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge | 11. <u>No.</u> |
| 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service! | 12. <u>Yes.</u> |
| 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service! If so, on what grounds! | 13. <u>Yes. HAEMORRHOIDS.</u> |
| 14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day! | 14. <u>---</u> |
| 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever! | 15. <u>Yes.</u> |

I, TIMOTHY BATTLE. do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife.* † and children.

Date 18th. Sept. 1916.

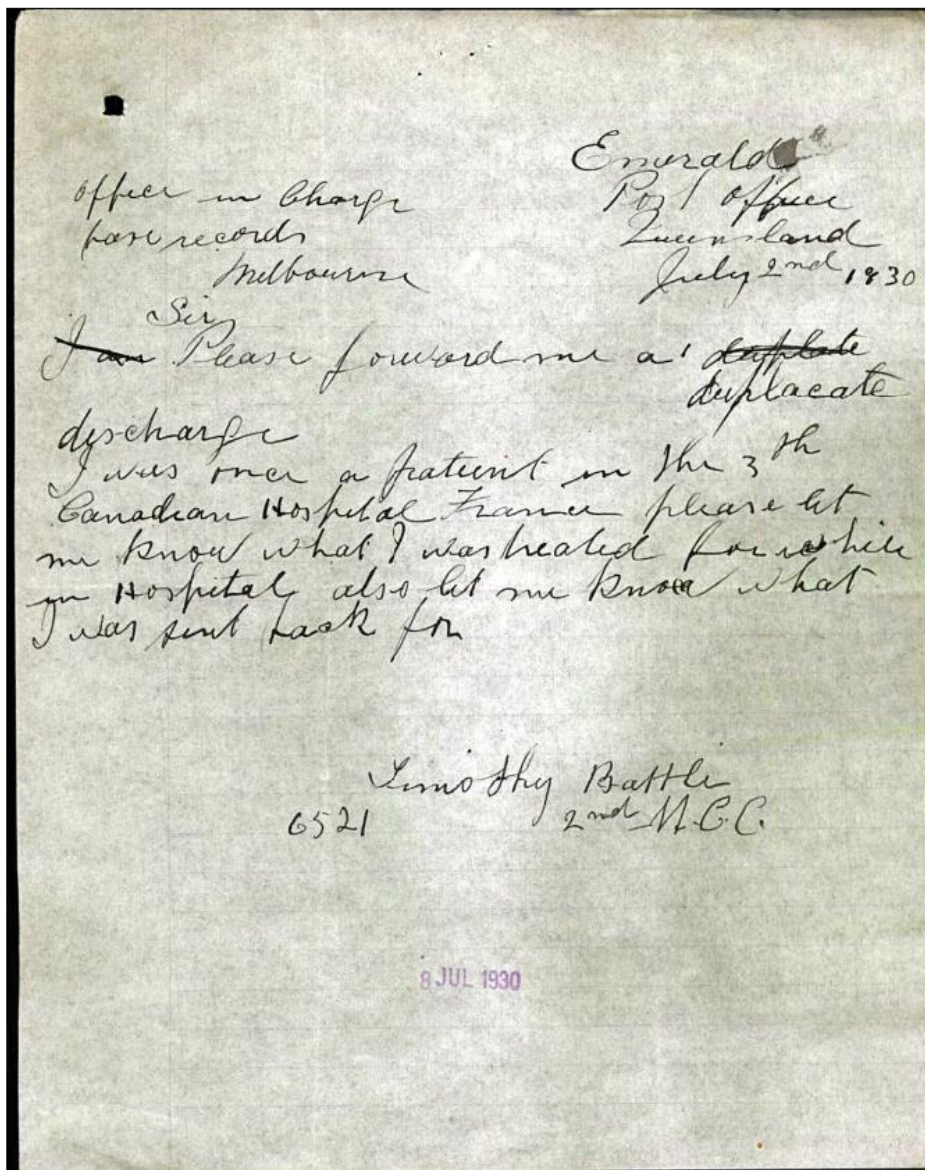
X Timothy Battle
Signature of person enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.
 † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

This record is comprehensive and fascinating. I haven't included all of since there are too many pages. Tim went to England. He went AWOL three times in England, for several days at a time. He was docked pay and went on trial. My cousin speculates that he was probably visiting his family in the north of England, who he wouldn't have seen for about 28 years. I agree.

Tim then went to France. It's not clear how much active service he saw, but he was put in hospital in France as a result of "debility". He was discharged from the army in June 1918 with "premature senility". I understand this is what we would call PTSD.

Included in the record is a sad note which Timothy wrote in 1930, asking about his treatment when he was in hospital, and "what I was sent back for".



My impression is that war was not good for Tim.

Regardless, Tim still managed to keep working after the war in remote places in Queensland.

1922

Mungallala, Queensland, Australia

Occupation Labourer

Election

Year: 1922

State: Queensland

Division: Maranoa

Sub-division: Mitchell

Elector #: 40

1934

Pegg St., Rocklea, Queensland, Australia

Election

Year: 1934

State: Queensland

Division: Moreton

Sub-division: Sherwood

Elector #: 326

Rocklea is in Brisbane, so he finally stopped travelling and spent his last years in the city.

I've found no record of Timothy Battle getting married.

Also, it seems that he did not spend a lot of time with his rebel brother Jim Battle in Mount Morgan.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 14741490-1

1912. Marriage solemnized at *S. Peter's Roman Catholic Church* in the District of *South Shields* in the Counties of *Durham and South Shields* *Weston Lane*

Column No.	When Married.	Name and surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
1	25 February 1912	Matthew Battle	33 years	Bachelor	Coal Miner	79 Back Percy Street South Shields	Timothy Battle (deceased)	General Labourer
2		Sarah Welsh	33 years	Widow	—	24 Somerset Street South Shields	John Battle (deceased)	General Labourer

Married in the *S. Peter's Roman Catholic Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Roman Catholic* by Certificate by me, *M. Battle* in the Presence of us, *Thomas Gormley* *Joseph T. Byrne* *Robert Clark* Registrar.

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of South Shields Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 14th day of February 2024

MXJ 857770

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. © CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

2340156 04/23 APS/AISP



There are some interesting things about this:

- They were married in England 1912.
- His age is listed as 33, the same as Sarah's. If he was born in 1874, he was 38.
- His address was 79 Back Percy St South Shields.
- Sarah's father was John Battle, meaning that Matthew and Sarah were probably related, although I don't know where John fits into the family.
- Sarah was a widow. Welsh was probably her married surname, and her maiden name was Battle.
- There is no record of Sarah migrating with her husband Matthew.
- My grandfather was living in the same house as Matthew, 100 Percy St in 1901. My grandfather was living in Somerset St in 1911, which is just around the corner. He emigrated in 1913, a year before Matthew. I don't have any record of Matthew and my grandfather meeting or corresponding.
- My great grandfather Thomas Gormley was witness at the wedding. Thomas would have been Matthew's brother-in-law.

Now here's the really sad bit.

Registration District SOUTH SHIELDS.									
1913. DEATHS in the Sub-District of SOUTH SHIELDS in the Counties of DURHAM, &c.									
Columns :-	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
270	Fourth February 1913 28 Somerset Street South Shields	Sarah Battle	Female	34 years	Wife of Matthew Battle a Coal Miner (Hewer)	(1) Syncope due to Endocarditis (2) Child Birth. Certified by G. Burgess Shepherd and	M. Battle Widower of deceased present at the death. 28 Somerset Street South Shields	Fifth February 1913	James Sedcole Registrar.

Sarah Battle died in childbirth in 1913. That's why she didn't go to Australia with her husband in 1914. They'd been married a year. He must have been distraught. I can understand him going overseas to try to get away from the memories.

Matthew Battle emigrated in 1914, the year the war started. We don't have any detail about the dates of the Suffolk journey to Australia. He may also have been trying to get away from army service.

My grandfather was living in that same house in Somerset St South Shields. He departed for Australia on the 13th of January 1913. He'd just got away before Sarah died.

Matthew was in his late 30s when he arrived here, which is much older than his brothers, and older than my grandfather. It also means that he migrated just after my grandfather.

The Weird Two Matthew Battles

Our Matthew Battle migrated in 1914 on the Suffolk.

There is a record of a Matthew Battle migrating in 1911. They were about the same age. There is no actual ship log book copy so I can't get any more information.

These two Matthew Battles from South Shields were married around Newcastle on Tyne.

- Our Matthew Battle married Sarah Welsh in South Shields in 1912.
- The other married a Mary Fox or Mary McCann in 1891 in Gateshead. I found a record of a Matthew Battle born 1868 who died in 1940 in Brisbane, married to a Mary Jane Fox.













I think a strange coincidence occurred. I think that two men, both named Matthew Battle, who lived in South Shields in England (18 Milner St South Shields and 100 Percy St South Shields), born at a similar time (1874 and 1868) and who died in the same year (1940), both emigrated to Australia at around the same time (1911 and 1914), and lived in Brisbane. It's a big call, I know.

However, I don't think they were closely related. The names of Matthew Battle's (1868-1940) family members are not familiar. They may have been cousins. You have to wonder if they knew each other.

Name Matthew Battle
Birth Circa 1868
📍 Durham, England



Family members

Parents	 John Battle 1840 - ?	 Mary Battle (born Rooneen) 1846 - ?
Siblings	 Ellen Battle 1864 - ?	 William Battle 1868 - 1923
	 Bridget J Battles 1869 - 1946	 Annie J Callery (born Battle) 1869 - 1956
	 James Battle 1870 - ?	 Catherine Battle 1872 - ?
	 Mary Collins (born Battle) 1874 - ?	 Sarah Battle 1877 - ?
	 Mary Maye (born Battle Maye) 1880 - ?	 Margaret Battle 1882 - ?

I think maybe they did know each other. It is possible that the Sarah Battle above is Sarah Welsh nee Battle, sister of Matthew Battle who emigrated to Australia in 1911. She's about the right age, and her father's name is John, which matches the marriage certificate. That would mean that she had a brother who went to Australia, and a husband that went to Australia. That's really weird. Just think about that for a minute.

There's only one entry of a Matthew Battle in the electoral roll. He is in Kurilpa in 1939. It doesn't help much. Neither Matthew Battle has left much of a footprint in Australia.

SUBDIVISION OF KURILPA, 1939.

- 341 Barstow, Ethel Mary, Abergeldie, Hampstead rd., home duties, F
 342 Barstow, Frank Arnold, 91 Hampstead rd., architect's assistant, M
 343 Barter, George, Weerona, Dornoch terrace, merchant, M
 344 Barter, Margaret Annie, Weerona, Dornoch terrace, home duties, F
 345 Barth, Frederick Charles, 31 Brighton rd., M
 346 Barth, Olga Wmifred, 31 Brighton rd., home duties, F
 347 Bartley, Coulsen Squire, Bristol st., shop assistant, M
 348 Bartley, Elizabeth Emily, Bristol st., home duties, F
 349 Bartley, George Edward, 330 Montague rd., carter, M
 350 Bartley, Gladys Ruby, 330 Montague rd., home duties, F
 351 Bartley, Percy Walter, 107 Vulture st., piano tuner, M
 352 Barton, Eileen, Hardgrave rd., home duties, F
 353 Barton, John, 236 Boundary st., printer, M
 354 Barton, Lily, 236 Boundary st., home duties, F
 355 Barton, Nellie, Hardgrave rd., home duties, F
 356 Basic, Arthur, 40 Thomas st., health specialist, M
 357 Basile, Angelina, Montague rd., home duties, F
 358 Basile, Felix, Montague rd., hairdresser, M
 359 Bassingthwaighte, Ess, 226 Boundary st., station hand, M
 360 Bassingthwaighte, Wood, 226 Boundary st., home duties, F
 361 Batch, Elva, 200 Montague rd., waitress, F
 362 Batch, Kevin Patrick, 200 Montague rd., shipwright, M
 363 Batch, Maud Beatrice, 200 Montague rd., home duties, F
 364 Batch, William Henry, 200 Montague rd., storeman packer, M
 365 Batch, William Samuel, 200 Montague rd., millet broom maker, M
 366 Batchelor, Colin Edward, 24 Cambridge st., hairdresser, M
 367 Batchelor, Elsie May, 24 Cambridge st., home duties, F
 368 Bateman, Emma Jane, Sneddon's, Daventry st., F
 369 Bateman, Arthur Churchill, 43 Hampstead rd., commercial artist, M
 370 Bateman, Kenneth David, 43 Hampstead rd., photographer, M
 371 Bateman, Phyllis Louise, 43 Hampstead rd., home duties, F
 372 Bath, Alfred Henry, Spring st., dealer, M
 373 Bath, Marjorie, Spring st., home duties, F
 374 Bathe, Eber Ezra, Colville st., labourer, M
 375 Batha, Vera Beatrix, Colville st., home duties, F
 376 Battle, Matthew, 24 Franklin st., F
 377 Battyc, George Kenneth, 23 Chermiside st., ply mill foreman, M
 378 Baxter, Alice Ruth, 3 Brereton st., home duties, F
 379 Baxter, Gordon Stanley, 2 Brereton st., carpenter, M
 380 Baxter, Norman Aubrey, 3 Brereton st., South Brisbane, fireman, M
 381 Bayles, Ileen, 10 Brereton st., home duties, F
 382 Bayles, Joseph, 10 Brereton st., labourer, M
 383 Bayley, John Thomas, 36 Bank st., concrete moulder, M
 384 Bayley, Tenca Eileen, 36 Bank st., home duties, F
 385 Bayliss, John Arthur, 47 Upper Melbourne st., labourer, M
 386 Bayliss, Zilphia Divinia, 47 Upper Melbourne st., home duties, F
 387 Baynes, Frank Ernest, Hillcrest, Wood st., public servant, M
 388 Baynes, Mary Ellen, Hillcrest, Wood st., home duties, F
 389 Beacon, George, 216 Boundary st., West End, M
 390 Beake, Charles George William, 162 Montague rd., motor driver, M
 391 Beal, Florence, "Trevenen," Westbourne st., home duties, F
 392 Beames, Margaret Graham, 100 Dornoch tee., F
 393 Beanland, Elsie Priscilla, 215 Boundary st., home duties, F
 394 Beare, George Gerald, 8 Colville st., M
 395 Beasley, Desmond Ashlin, "Lewilda," 29 Stephens st., millhand, M
 396 Beasley, Lillian Mary, 29 Stephens st., home duties, F
 397 Beattie, Frederick Edwin, Ryan st., ferryman, M
 398 Beattie, Grace Evelyn, 107 Vulture st., home duties, F
 399 Beattie, James Loudon, 107 Vulture st., carter, M
 400 Beattie, Kathleen, Ryan st., home duties, F

Again to confuse things, there is another Matthew Battle in Queensland in the next generation. Fortunately though he calls himself Matthew Peter Battle.

Timothy John Battle (1890 – 1929)

This gets complicated, because there was another Timothy Battle who had arrived in Australia and was living in Queensland from the 1890s onwards (see above).

Timothy John Battle (1890-1929) was the eldest of Jim Battle's sons, and cousin of my grandfather Jim Gormley. In the family photo, he is one of the two elder boys on the right, I think.

We have an advertisement in the Brisbane Worker on Thursday the 24th of December 1914 from James Gormley and Matt Battle, seeking Matt's brother Tim who apparently had gone missing.

Missing Friends

of whom information is earnestly desired, advertised for ONCE free of charge, more insertions 1s. each. Anybody knowing anything of those advertised for should write. Abbreviations: l.h.o., "last heard of"; ad., "address information to."

TIMOTHY BATTLE, l.h.o. at the tin mines, Irvinebank, about four years ago. His brother **Mat.** and nephew **James Gormley**, of Rockhampton-road, Mount Morgan, wish to hear from him at once.

So Tim was missing from 1910 to 1914. In the family photo the family is together, so it must have been taken either before 1911 or after 1913.

This notice is a bit odd because he's on the electoral roll by 1912 as living in Rockhampton Road with his parents and working as a relieving officer.

1912 to 1914

Rockhampton Rd., Queensland, Australia

Occupation Relieving Night Officer

Election

Year: 1913

State: Queensland

Division: Capricornia

Sub-division: Mount Morgan

Elector #: 274

THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT MORGAN.

5

No., Surname and Christian Name, Residence, Occupation, Freehold or Leasehold (Sec. 6), Date of Claim, Sex.

148	Bartle, Nicholas James, East st. Extended, miner, 24 May, 1906, M
149	Bartlem, Arthur, Morgan st., canvasser, 27 Nov., 1912, M
150	Bartlem, John Fredrick, Mrs. Gregg's Boarding-house, Campion st., baker, 4 Oct., 1913, M
151	Bartlem, Thomas Manly, North st., labourer, 6 May, 1909, M
152	Bartlett, Albert John, Rockhampton rd., labourer, 29 May, 1906, M
153	Bartlett, Mary Jane, Rockhampton rd., domestic duties, 29 May, 1906, F
154	Bartley, Annie, Red Hill, domestic duties, 3 Nov., 1905, F
155	Bartley, Annie Malvena, Red Hill, dressmaker, 23 Aug., 1909, F
156	Bartley, August, Red Hill, labourer, 3 Nov., 1905, M
157	Bartley, Louis, Red Hill, labourer, 12 Feb., 1912, M
158	Batchelor, Janet, Tipperary Flat, domestic duties, 14 July, 1905, F
159	Batchelor, Uglow, Red Hill, miner, 14 Aug., 1913, M
160	Bates, John Hugh, Central st., miner, 8 Jan., 1912, M
161	Bath, Isabella, Upper Dee River, housewife, 25 July, 1908, F
162	Bath, Thomas James, Upper Dee River, miner, 25 July, 1908, M
163	Battle, Bridget, Rockhampton rd., domestic duties, 3 Nov., 1905, F
164	Battle, James, Rockhampton rd., labourer, 29 April, 1902, M
165	Battle, Timothy John, Rockhampton rd., relieving officer, 14 Mar., 1912, M
166	Baurdet, Adolphe, Railway Boarding-house, labourer, 30 Jan., 1912, M
167	Baxter, Annie McKenzie, East st. Extended, housewife, 23 Oct., 1911, F
168	Baxter, George John Giles, East st. Extended, labourer, 11 Aug., 1909, M
169	Bean, Charles, Horse Creek, labourer, 6 Nov., 1902, M
170	Bean, Ellen Jane, Horse Creek, domestic duties, 23 July, 1913, F
171	Bean, Lillian Ada, Horse Creek, domestic duties, 30 Jan., 1913, F
172	Bean, Maria Jane, Horse Creek, housewife, 28 July, 1908, F
173	Bean, Sarah Ann, Horse Creek, housewife, 3 April, 1906, F
174	Bean, William, Horse Creek, miner, 2 April, 1906, M
175	Beare, Eliza, Gowdie st., housewife, 17 July, 1908, F
176	Beare, George, Rockhampton rd., labourer, 7 Jan., 1896, M
177	Beaven, Arthur Charles, Jeannie st., hairdresser, 4 June, 1912, M
178	Beaven, Edith Sarah, Jeannie st., household duties, 4 June, 1912, F
179	Beckett, Elizabeth, Possum Vale, housewife, 9 Oct., 1911, F
180	Beckett, Thomas, Possum Vale, labourer, 9 Oct., 1911, M
181	Belfield, Ethel Isabel, The Range, household duties, 14 Sep., 1909, F
182	Belfield, Margaret, The Range, household duties, 15 Sep., 1909, F
183	Belfield, Robert William, The Range, accountant, 2 Dec., 1907, M
184	Belfield, Winifred Mabel, The Range, domestic duties, 23 Oct., 1911, F
185	Bell, Jeanettie Boyd, Jeannie st., domestic duties, 2 April, 1912, F
186	Bell, John, Jeannie st., carpenter, 6 Nov., 1901, M

M signifies male; F signifies female.

Grand Hotel, Clermont, Queensland, Australia

Occupation Station Hand

Election

Year: 1922

State: Queensland

Division: Kennedy

Sub-division: Clermont

Elector #: 2037

Fortunately he is listed in the electoral roll as Timothy John Battle, as opposed to Timothy Battle, so I'm pretty sure this him.

From the following, it seems that Tim, like his father, was also a bit of a rebel, who tried his hand at a few different professions.

From July 1917:

A ROCKHAMPTON CASE.

The Full Court, consisting of the Chief Justice (Sir Pope A. Cooper), Mr. Justice Reul, Mr. Justice Chuoh, Mr. Justice Shand, and Mr. Justice Lukin, heard to-day the case of the King versus the licensing justices of Mount Morgan and another, *ex parte Battle*. It was an appeal by way of prohibitions from a decision of the P.M. at Rockhampton (Mr. Hishon) in which the appellant, *Timothy J. Battle*, was convicted under the Licensing Act and fined £30, with £6 17s 4d costs. *Battle* is the licensee of the Shamrock Hotel, at Mount Morgan, and on March 31 was proceeded against for having sold a bottle of rum to Joseph Daly, at the ballast pit, near Rannes, a place outside the licensing district of Rockhampton. As the P.M. expressed doubt whether he had jurisdiction to hear the case in Rockhampton, the police withdrew the information. A fresh complaint was laid on May 22, and heard at Mount Morgan, when objection was again raised to the jurisdiction of the Court, the ballast

pit being situated at least 28 miles outside the licensing district of Mount Morgan. The P.M., considering that he had jurisdiction, dealt with the case.

The ground of appeal was that the magistrate did not have jurisdiction. The Crown did not appear to support the conviction.

Mr. Lacombe (instructed by Messrs. J. F. Fitzgerald and Walsh, as town agents for Messrs. J. F. Fitzgerald, Walsh, and M'Laughlin), for the appellants. There was no appearance for the Crown.

The rule was made absolute, with costs.

From October 1915:

POLICE COURT.

At the Police Court this morning, before Mr. R. Power, Acting Police Magistrate, Constable Hogan proceeded against Timothy Battle, licensee of the Mountain View Hotel, for having supplied liquor to a personal guest at the bar of his premises at a time prohibited by the Act. He pleaded guilty. A fine of £2, with 3s. 6d. costs in Court, was imposed. No endorsement on the license was ordered.

From Dec 1917:

QUINLAN v. BATTLE.—EX PARTE BATTLE.

Mr. Larcombe appeared for the appellant, Timothy J. Battle, in the matter of Quinlan v. Battle, and moved for an order calling upon Quinlan (police constable, of Wowan) and Arthur Henry O'Kelly (acting police-magistrate, Rockhampton), to show cause at the next sittings of the Full Court why a conviction made by the said acting police-magistrate on 19th October, 1917, should not be quashed, and why Quinlan should not be called upon to pay the costs, on the ground that the said conviction was not according to law.

Mr. Justice Lukin said he did not intend to take any part at all in this matter.

Mr. Larcombe said an application for an order was refused by Mr. Justice Lukin in this matter at Rockhampton. The case was one in which defendant had been charged with selling liquor at a place other than his licensed premises.

After argument the court refused the order.

WATERBURY WORKERS v. BIRT

I found records that Tim was in gaol from 1917 to 1918.

There is a record on Ancestry attributed to Timothy John Battle, that says he was in military service during the first world war and was discharged due to poor eyesight due to measles which he contracted as a child. I don't think this is our Tim Battle. For one thing it says that he lived in Burnley, which is in Melbourne.

Actually I haven't found any record that any of Jim Battle's sons fought in the first world war. With Jim Battle's political views, I'm not surprised.

A VARIETY OF OFFENCES.

The Railway Traffic Inspector, George Nixon Barrowes, proceeded against Timothy John Battle in the Police Court yesterday for attempting to travel in a railway carriage on the Emu Park line without having paid his fare; secondly, entering a carriage on the wrong side; thirdly, using the return portion of an expired excursion ticket. There was no appearance of the defendant and the case was heard ex parte. Senior-sergeant A. Benzies prosecuted. James Neish, railway porter, deposed that on the 28th of November the defendant produced an expired excursion ticket at Phillip-street railway station, and witness told him to procure a fresh one from the station-master at Emu Park; but although witness told him a couple of times after to get a ticket, the defendant failed to do so. Evidence as to the remaining offences, which occurred on the 1st of December, were also given by Neish and Gilbert McEwan Lawson, guard. Lawson said he was issuing tickets at Phillip-street when he heard a door bang on the side of the carriage opposite to the platform. Witness asked the defendant for his fare, and the defendant replied "It is all right. I will pay you when I get to Rockhampton." Witness replied "It is no good Tim, there is a fare already against you at Emu Park." Witness signalled the train and ordered the de-

endant to get out, which he did. Neish testified to the defendant getting into the carriage on the wrong side at Phillip-street. The Police Magistrate fined the defendant in each case £1, and ordered him to pay 3s. 6d. costs of Court; in default, three days' imprisonment. He also allowed 14s witness's expenses. A further charge against the defendant for having attempted to get into a carriage while the train was in motion was dismissed.

Sadly Tim came to an untimely death in 1929:

DROWNING FATALITY
Texas Tragedy

TEXAS, Thursday.

A young married man, T. Battle, engaged on the railway construction camp, met his death at 5 p.m. last evening when he went into Wilkins' Dam with a mate for a swim. The mate was horrified when looking around to see deceased sinking. He immediately went to his aid but seeing the body was beyond his reach he immediately went on to the nearest neighbour who rang the police and they were soon on the spot with grappling irons and recovered the body which was brought into Texas for burial. Deceased was a native of Mt. Morgan.

DROWNING FATALITY
Our Texas correspondent advises that Timothy Battle (38) was accidentally drowned in Wilkins' Dam. Deceased was a married man, with two children. He came from Mt. Morgan, and was employed at the Railway Construction Camp.

OBITUARY

The death occurred recently near Texas, under tragic circumstances by accidental drowning, of Timothy John Battle, rep. on Craighill's gang, on the Inglewood-Texas construction. Deceased, who was 39 years of age, was a native of Mt. Morgan, where he served for a while as night officer in the Railway Department, filling a similar position later at Reckhampton. He afterwards went to Western Queensland, and was engaged some years in the pastoral industry in the Longreach district. He was a staunch Laborite

The obituary goes on to say:

and an ardent unionist all his life, and was most popular. He leaves a widow and three children, also a father, several brothers and a sister. The funeral, which was attended by many union mates, took place at the Texas cemetery.

Thomas Gormley (1862? – 1945)

We now know that Thomas Gormley is my great grandfather, the father of Jim.

I've located Thomas's wedding certificate.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE


Application Number 13337058-1

1891 Marriage solemnized at <u>St. Peter and St. Paul Roman Catholic Church</u> in the <u>Parish of St. Peter</u> in the <u>Diocese of South Shields</u> in the County of <u>South Shields</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
93	September	Thomas Gormley	29	Bachelor	Labourer	23 Dock Street Tyne Dock	Lawrence Gormley (deceased)	Farmer
	October	Annie Battle	21	Spinster		23 Dock Street Tyne Dock	Amthys Battle (deceased)	Labourer
Married in the <u>St. Peter and St. Paul Roman Catholic Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Roman Catholics</u> by <u>Certificate</u> by me, This Marriage was solemnized between us, <u>Thomas Gormley</u> in the Presence of us, <u>P. Battle</u> <u>A. Conlan</u> <u>Robert Taylor, R. C. Priest</u> <u>Annie Battle</u> <u>Robert Clark, Registrar</u>								

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of South Shields
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 17th day of November 2022

MXJ 515445

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. © CROWN COPYRIGHT
 WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.
 223883 0422 APS/A15P



TGI

The curious thing is that it says that Thomas's father is Lawrence Gormley. There is a name that I haven't come across at all to date. I believe that his father was Malachy. Perhaps Malachy was too unusual for the English, so he changed it? My relatives in Ireland tell me that Malachy is commonly shortened to Lucky, and he is listed as Lucky on the Griffiths Evaluation in 1857. Lucky isn't a million miles from Lawrence. That's my theory anyway.

The date of the wedding is seven months prior to the birth of Jim, who was their first child. This may have been a shotgun wedding. The 1891 census shows that Thomas and Annie were living in the same house at the time, together with her family. Thomas was a lodger. It would have been interesting times.

There is also a DNA match with someone who is descended from Paul Gormaly.

12b	19. H. 12 Twenty four Scorer Killoran	Paul Joseph Gormley	Male	Married	83 yrs.	Farmer	Apprentice 14 September No Med. Att.	Patrick Joseph Gormley Killoran	Touch November 1948	Thomas W. Gormley Clisabeta (Register)
-----	---	------------------------	------	---------	------------	--------	--	---------------------------------------	---------------------------	---

I have a record of the death of a Paul Joseph Gormley in Killoran in 1948. It refers to his son Patrick, which supports the idea that it was actually him, and relatives have confirmed that this is our relative.

William Gormley (1846 – 1917)

After working away at this genealogy for a good couple of years, I find two new DNA matches in quick succession on Ancestry. They are both 2nd or 3rd cousins, and the great-great-grandfather of one and great-grandfather of the other is William Gormley. It seems that William was born in Sligo and migrated to Durham where he was living, married and fathering children by 1876.

I've worked out by now that 2nd cousin means you have a great grandparent in common, and 3rd cousin means it's a great great grandfather in common.

So, up until now, my working hypothesis is that Thomas Gormley (1868-1942) is my great grandfather. If William were his father, that would make William my great great grandfather and the DNA 3rd cousin thing would fit. The problem is that William had a son Thomas, but he was born in 1885, and is definitely not the same person. Also, I know that Paul's father was Malachy, and so I strongly suspect that Thomas's father is also Malachy.

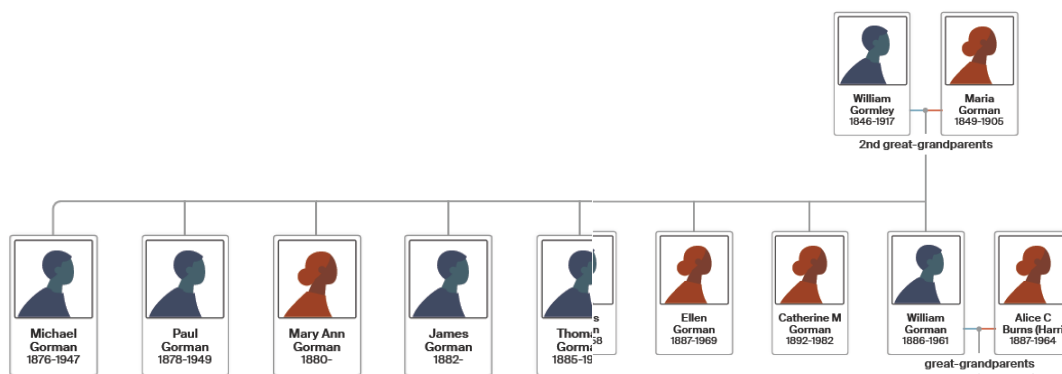
So maybe:

1. Thomas's father Malachy is William's brother. That would make William's father our common ancestor and my great great great grandfather, and we would be 4th cousins. This is most likely, but it doesn't match the DNA. But maybe the degree of relations predictor in Ancestry is not that accurate?
- ~~2. William fathered Thomas in the 1860s and then married and had his legitimate family in the 1870s and 80s. Very unlikely as Paul's father is Malachy and we know I'm related to Paul. We'd have to explain William's relation to Malachy.~~
- ~~3. William is my great grandfather. He would have been around 46 when he fathered my grandfather and it would have been out of wedlock. Unlikely, as Thomas and Annie are listed on his birth certificate, but he was in the north of England, so he's in the right location. And the mother would have to be related to the Battles, because there is a DNA match.~~

However it works, William Gormley is probably closely related to Thomas and Paul and Malachy and the rest of them from Sligo. How they are related is what I still need to work out.

The interesting thing is that William's kids had the surname Gorman according to the tree below. His wife's maiden name was Gorman, and the kids all took her name rather than his for some reason. But then the following generation are all Gormanley/ Gormanly. And there are a lot of them.

The other interesting thing is that Thomas and William were both living in the same part of England in the late 1800s, and they were related, although I'm not sure how. There's no evidence of any contact between them. I've asked the descendants of the Gormleys from South Shields if they know of these relatives, but they do not.



Malachy Gormley (1840? - <1891)

I think that Malachy Gormley is my great great grandfather. He is the father of Paul Gormally on Paul's marriage certificate, and I believe that my great grandfather Thomas and Paul were brothers.

First Page. Superintendent Registrar's District or **05712811**

233

1904. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Rockfield Killooran in the Registrar's District of Coolaney
in the Union of Lattercurry in the County of Sligo

No. (1.)	When Married (2.)	Name and Surname (3.)	Age (4.)	Condition (5.)	Rank or Profession (6.)	Residence at the Time of Marriage (7.)	Father's Name and Surname (8.)	Rank or Profession of Father (9.)
3	8 th May 1904	Paul Gormally Mary Mc Cleachick	full full	Bachelor Spinster	Farmer —	Killooran Rathooley	Malachy Gormally Thomas Mc Cleachick	Farmer Farmer

Registered by me this 3rd day of May 1904

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Rockfield Killooran according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, P. J. McDonald, P.P.

This Marriage was solemnized between us Paul Gormally and Mary Mc Cleachick in the Presence of us, Paul & Henry witnesses of Mark P. J. McDonald and Mary G. Maloney

P. J. McDonald
Registrar

Malachy would have been born around 1840 or earlier.

A 'Lucky' Gormley is listed as a tenant of Henry Irwin on Griffith's Valuation in 1857 in Carnyara, which is about 12km from Coolaney. I think this is Malachy. All the Sligo family seem to agree that this is Lucky Gormley who owned land at Carnyara.

in Griffiths Valuation there is also a Lucky Gormerly who has land in Carrowntawa, and a Lucky Gormerly with land in Streamstown. I don't know if these are the same person.

Griffith's Valuation Record Information	
Tenant	
Family Name 1	GORMLEY
Forename 1	LACKY
Landlord	
Family Name 2	IRWIN
Forename 2	HENRY
Location	
County	SLIGO
Barony	LEyny
Union	TOBERCURRY
Parish	ACHONRY
Townland	CARNYARA
Place Name	CARNYARA
Place Type	TOWNLAND
Publication Details	
Position on Page	33
Printing Date	1857
Act	15&16

VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.

PARISH OF ACHONAY.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.		Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.	
	Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.		
TULLYCUSHEEN								
<i>BEG—continued.</i>								
5	4 b	Eliza Durkin, . . .	Charles Beaty, . . .	Garden and house,	0 0 35	0 3 0	0 2 0	0 5 0
	a	John Hunt, . . .	Same, . . .	Garden and house,	1 0 20	0 7 0	0 3 0	0 10 0
6		James Ferguson, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	5 2 25	0 15 0	0 5 0	1 0 0
7		John Sweeney, . . .	Same, . . .	Land,		0 15 0	—	0 15 0
	a	Daniel Moran, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and offices,	16 2 30	5 5 0	0 5 0	5 10 0
8	f a	Thomas Brett, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, & office,	23 2 1	6 0 0	0 5 0	6 5 0
	b	John Brett, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, & offices,		6 0 0	0 5 0	6 5 0
9	a	John Phillips, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, & offices,		1 5 0	0 5 0	1 10 0
	b	Thomas Bann, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, & offices,	18 3 21	1 5 0	0 5 0	1 10 0
	c	James Woods, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, & offices,		2 10 0	0 5 0	2 15 0
10	a	Thomas Woods, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	2 3 50	1 0 0	0 5 0	1 6 0
11		James M'Donagh, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	5 1 7	2 0 0	0 5 0	2 5 0
12					7 1 0	1 5 0	—	
13	a	Michael Scie, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, & offices,	6 1 13	2 10 0	0 5 0	4 15 0
14					1 0 20	0 15 0	—	
15				Tullycusheen Lough, (part of),	0 2 30	—	—	—
Total, . . .					264 1 20	56 13 0	4 10 0	61 3 0
BALLINVALLY.								
<i>(Ord. S. 32.)</i>								
1	a	Patrick Gray, . . .	Henry Irwin, . . .	Land and house,	1 3 20	1 0 0	0 5 0	1 5 0
2		James Foy, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	40 1 1	26 0 0	0 10 0	26 10 0
3	b	Charles O'Connor, . . .	Same, . . .	Garden and house,	0 0 30	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 10 0
4		Thomas Dorran, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, herd's ho. & offices,	41 0 33	24 15 0	0 15 0	25 10 0
3	a	Patrick Dowde, . . .	Thomas Dorran, . . .	House & small garden,		—	0 5 0	0 5 0
4	b	Charles O'Connor, . . .	Henry Irwin, . . .	Land,	1 3 15	1 5 0	—	1 5 0
Total, . . .					85 1 19	53 5 0	2 0 0	55 5 0
CARNYARA.								
<i>(Ord. S. 32.)</i>								
1	a	Bryan M'Ginnane, . . .	Henry Irwin, . . .	Land and house,	14 0 2	6 15 0	0 5 0	7 0 0
2		Patrick Gormley, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	7 3 28	4 10 0	0 5 0	4 15 0
3	a	Patrick Gormley, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and offices,	59 3 32	33 0 0	1 0 0	34 0 0
4		John Gormley, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and herd's house,	12 2 29	6 10 0	0 5 0	6 15 0
5	a	John Gormley, . . .	Same, . . .	Land,	15 0 0	8 0 0	—	8 0 0
6		James Browne, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	12 1 21	6 5 0	0 5 0	6 10 0
7	f a	John Quinn, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	18 0 16	5 0 0	0 5 0	5 5 0
	b	John O'Hara, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,		5 0 0	0 5 0	5 5 0
8	a	Patrick Finaghty, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	14 1 0	6 10 0	0 5 0	6 15 0
9		Charles Finan, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	12 3 26	6 10 0	0 5 0	6 15 0
10	a	Peter Coleman, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	12 1 21	5 10 0	0 5 0	5 15 0
11		Peter Coleman, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	21 2 37	9 15 0	0 10 0	10 5 0
12	a	Lucky Gormley, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	34 0 7	20 0 0	0 15 0	20 15 0
13		Mark Healy, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	39 0 29	26 0 0	2 0 0	28 0 0
14	a	Edward O'Brien, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	39 1 31	25 0 0	1 0 0	26 0 0
15		Michael Davy, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	35 1 20	19 5 0	0 15 0	20 0 0
16	a	Edward Doherty, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, herd's ho. & offices,	25 3 28	14 0 0	0 5 0	14 5 0
17		William Marran, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and herd's house,	25 3 5	13 15 0	0 5 0	14 0 0
18	a	Michael Armstrong, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	17 3 20	9 15 0	0 10 0	10 5 0
19		Peter M'Ginnane, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	11 0 5	6 0 0	0 5 0	6 5 0
20	a	James Cuffe, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and herd's house,	25 3 30	14 15 0	0 5 0	15 0 0
21		Honor Marran, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	15 3 21	7 10 0	0 10 0	8 0 0
22	a	James Gormley, sen., . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	13 1 5	7 5 0	0 5 0	7 10 0
23		James Gormley, jun., . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	13 3 8	8 5 0	0 5 0	
24	a	Barthol. Callaghan, . . .	Same, . . .	Land,	11 2 31	5 0 0	—	13 10 0
25		John Winsay, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	0 0 17	3 10 0	0 5 0	3 15 0
26	a	Thomas Marran, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	10 3 29	4 10 0	0 10 0	5 0 0
27		Ellen Doherty, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	9 3 17	3 15 0	0 5 0	4 0 0
28	a	Bridget Callaghan, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and herd's house,	12 2 30	5 0 0	0 5 0	5 5 0
29		John Kilmarin, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, house, and office,	14 0 16	5 0 0	0 10 0	5 10 0
30	a	John Scanlan, . . .	Same, . . .	Land and house,	10 2 0	3 0 0	0 5 0	3 5 0
31				Land and herd's house,	10 2 1	9 5 0	0 5 0	9 10 0
Total, . . .					600 1 2	313 15 0	13 0 0	326 15 0

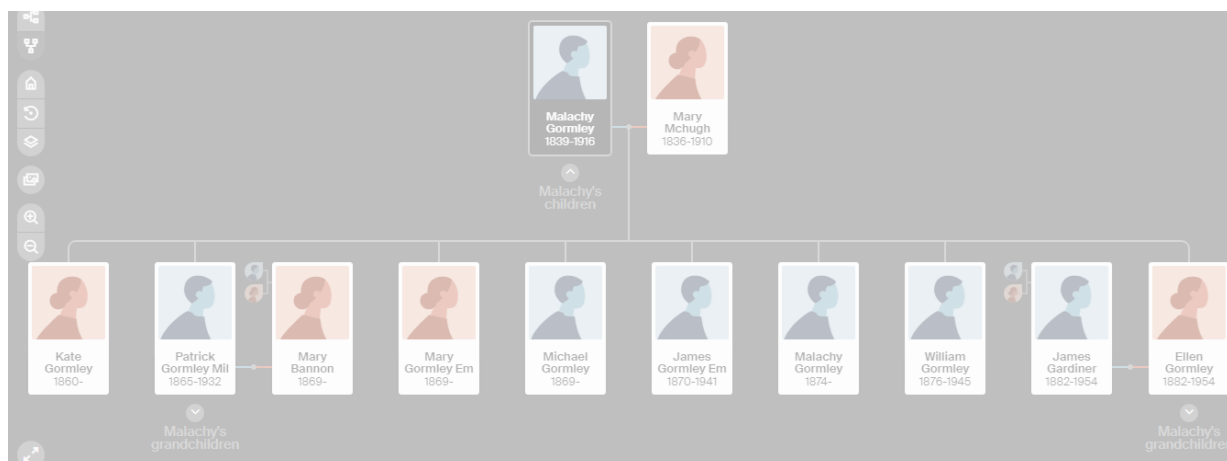
Malachy rented land, house and office, so he was doing better than some.

It's interesting to see that there were quite a few other Gormleys, very likely relatives, in this Townland.

I think that Malachy's wife had the maiden name Henry. I think this because Paul Gormley was living in 1901 with a family of Henrys and he is listed as the nephew of Thomas Henry. Also Paul's son Dominic had a cousin John T. Henry when he arrived in New York.

Thomas Gormley's wedding certificate in 1891 says that his father Laurence Gormley was deceased. Laurence is not Malachy, but it's not too different to Lucky, and we know that Irish names were frequently anglicised names in England. So maybe Malachy had died by 1891.

~~There is a Malachy Gormley born 1839 living in Achonry in 1901 with his wife Mary and seven children. His father was Lacky Gormley. He was born in Carrowkeel and was living in Achonry in 1901. He had a brother Dennis. Achonry is only 3km southeast of Carnyara. Born around 1839 he's the right age. However in his family trees there is no record of him being the father of Paul, and his wife is listed as Mary McHugh, which doesn't fit with the theory that his wife's maiden was Henry. See below. Malachy had a son Thomas, but the birth year is not quite right. I think this a different Malachy.~~



~~Probably not the right Malachy.~~

Malachy's wife

I think that Malachy's wife had the maiden name Henry because:

- one of my DNA matches had the maiden name Henry, and the family is from that area of Sligo. I can't see how we would be related otherwise.
- Paul Gormley my great grandfather's brother was living with a family of Henrys in 1901. It says he is the nephew of Thomas Henry. That implies that Paul's mother's maiden name was Henry.
- Dominic Gormley when he emigrates to America has a contact John Henry listed as his cousin.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A. No. on Form B. 5

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

Number.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Dead and Death Date only (Male) Indicate or Mark as Female.
	Christian Name.	Surname.	State whether Head of Family, "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or "Servant," or "Boarder," &c.	State here the particular Religion, or Religious denomination, to which each person belongs. Members of Protestant Denominations are designated and so described as "Presbyterian," "Anglican," "Methodist," &c. Members of the Catholic Church, the denomination, or body, to which they belong.	State here whether he or she can "Read and Write" or "Read" only, or "Cannot Read."	Years on last Birthday.	Male or Female.	State the Particular Rank, Profession, Trade, or other Employment of each person. Children, or young persons attending a school, or receiving instruction at home, should be returned as "Scholars." Before filling this column you are requested to read the instructions on the other side.	Whether "Married," "Single," "Widow," or "Not Married."	If in Ireland, state in what County or City; if elsewhere, state that name of the County.	Write the word "None" in this column opposite the names of such persons who speak neither Irish nor English. Write "Irish & English" or "Irish" or "English" opposite the names of those who can speak both languages. In filling up this column, the names of the persons should be made in their own names.	Write the respective indications opposite the names of the deceased persons.
1	Thomas	Henry	Head of family	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	68	M	Farmer	not married	Co Sligo	Irish & English	
2	John	Henry	Brother	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	68	M		not married	Co Sligo	Irish & English	
3	Anne	Henry	Sister	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	60	F	Domestic Servant	not married	Co Sligo	Irish & English	
4	Paul	Gormley	Nephew	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	30	M	Labourer	not married	Co Sligo	Irish & English	
5	Pete	Henry	Brother	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	75	M	Farmer	not married	Co Sligo	Irish & English	
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												

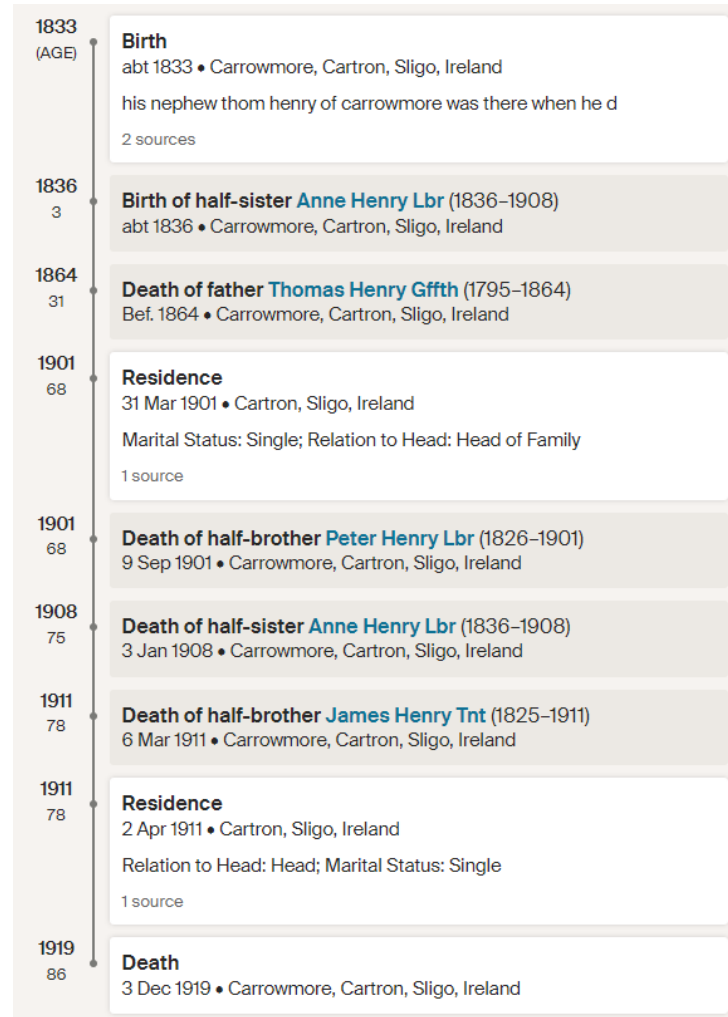
I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic, cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.
John J. Higgins (Signature of Enumerator.)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.
Thomas Henry (Signature of Head of Family.)
William John Higgins (Signature of Head of Family.)

Actually, I think it is entirely possible, and even read likely, that Anne Henry, who is living in the house, is Paul's mother and Malachy's wife. There is some evidence that Malachy had already died before 1891. She is listed as 'not married' which could mean she was a widow? She may have reverted to her maiden name?

The other alternative is that Paul's mother was Anne Henry's sister, who had died prior to 1901. The person who put the Masshill tree together, has indicated that an older sister of Anne, whose first name was not stated, ? Henry (1830-?) was the mother of Paul Gormley and that Malachy was the father. I don't have confidence that this is correct.

Thomas Henry timeline



Here's some more information about Thomas Henry. I'm not certain about the reliability of this Masshill tree data. For, example, I can't see any reason to say that they are half-brothers or sisters, as their mother is not identified. However I'm sure that these are the Henrys in the 1901 census on the previous page, who were living with Paul Gormly.

This record connects Thomas, Anne and Peter Henry as siblings of James Henry. On the following page it says that James Henry married Annie McCarrick in 1860. This is the link to my DNA match CW, so I think the family relationships above are probably right.

Note that there is a record of Anne Henry dying in 1908, and Peter dying in 1901.

James Henry timeline



Assuming all this is correct, then Thomas Henry (1795-1864) was my great great great grandfather. He also owned property at Carrowmore listed in Griffiths Review.

CARROWMORE. (Ord. 8, 32.) (See Exemptions)							
1	a		Ld. & Nat. school house.				
2	a	Patrick M'Gowan.	Land, house, and offices.	29	2	33	15 10 0
3		Major Charles O'Hara.					0 10 0
4		Walter Henry.	Land.	17	0	24	9 15 0
5	a	Thomas Henry.	Land, house, & offices.	29	0	32	22 0 0
6		Thomas Henry.		19	1	14	5 0 0
7		Patrick Henry.	Land.	8	8	10	1 0 0
8							1 0 0
9				11	3	39	4 0 0
10		Patrick Henry.	Land, house, & office.	3	0	0	1 5 0
11	a			2	2	30	1 5 0
12				19	2	34	6 15 0
13	a	James Gorman.	Land, house, & office.	9	0	29	3 0 0
14				4	2	0	3 15 0
				23	3	30	9 5 0
				3	1	13	0 10 0

Other siblings and relatives of Thomas, Paul and Malachy

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A. No. on Form B. 11

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

Number	NAME and SURNAME	RELATION to Head of Family	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION	EDUCATION	AGE	SEX	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION	MARRIAGE	WHERE BORN	IRISH LANGUAGE	If Deaf and dumb; Blind; or Lame.
1	Paul Gormly	Head	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	65	M	Shopkeeper	Married	Co. Wick	Speak English	
2	Bridget Gormly	Sister	Roman Catholic	Read only	55	F	Domestic	Married	Co. Wick	Speak & Understand English	
3	Mary Gormly	Sister	Roman Catholic	Read	39	F	Domestic	Married	Co. Wick	Speak & Understand English	
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											
11											
12											
13											
14											
15											

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic. cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

John J. Higgins
Signature of Enumerator.
Paul Gormly
Signature of Head of Family.

Here is record of an older Paul Gormly, (b.1836-). He was living with his sisters Bridget born (1846-) and Mary in Carrowntawa (1862-) in 1901. We have no evidence that they are relations, but they were living very close to Carnyara, and we know that names run in the family. I think these could well be relations. They're listed as siblings although there is a fair age difference. Paul is the same generation as Malachy.

GB links

There is a match on Ancestry who I'm calling GB. He has in his tree (see at the back) Gormley relatives who come from Sligo, going back to around 1800, which is further back than anything I've found.

We're definitely related, but we're 4th-6th cousins, so the common ancestor could be born as far back as 1750. Also his information indicates they came from Ballincurry townland in Achonry parish on the Sligo/ Mayo border south of Tobercurry, which is about 20 miles away from Carnyara.

It is possible that, referring to the tree at the back, one of the brothers of Patrick Gormley (1833-?) changed his name and is my great great grandfather Malachy Gormley. Michael would be the most likely. However, we need to explain how he came from Ballincurry and ends up living in Carnyara in 1858. When I was in Sligo I was told that was a different bunch of Gormleys down there. We know they didn't travel far back in those days.

It's more likely that the common relation is earlier than their father Michael.

More Photos

Some of the old photos that Jim kept of male persons unknown were taken in South Shields. They are possibly his siblings or parents.



We now think that this is Jim's brother Paul Gormley, which would make him my great uncle.



My grandfather Jim, mining, possibly at Mt Isa. This photo was developed in Cootamundra.



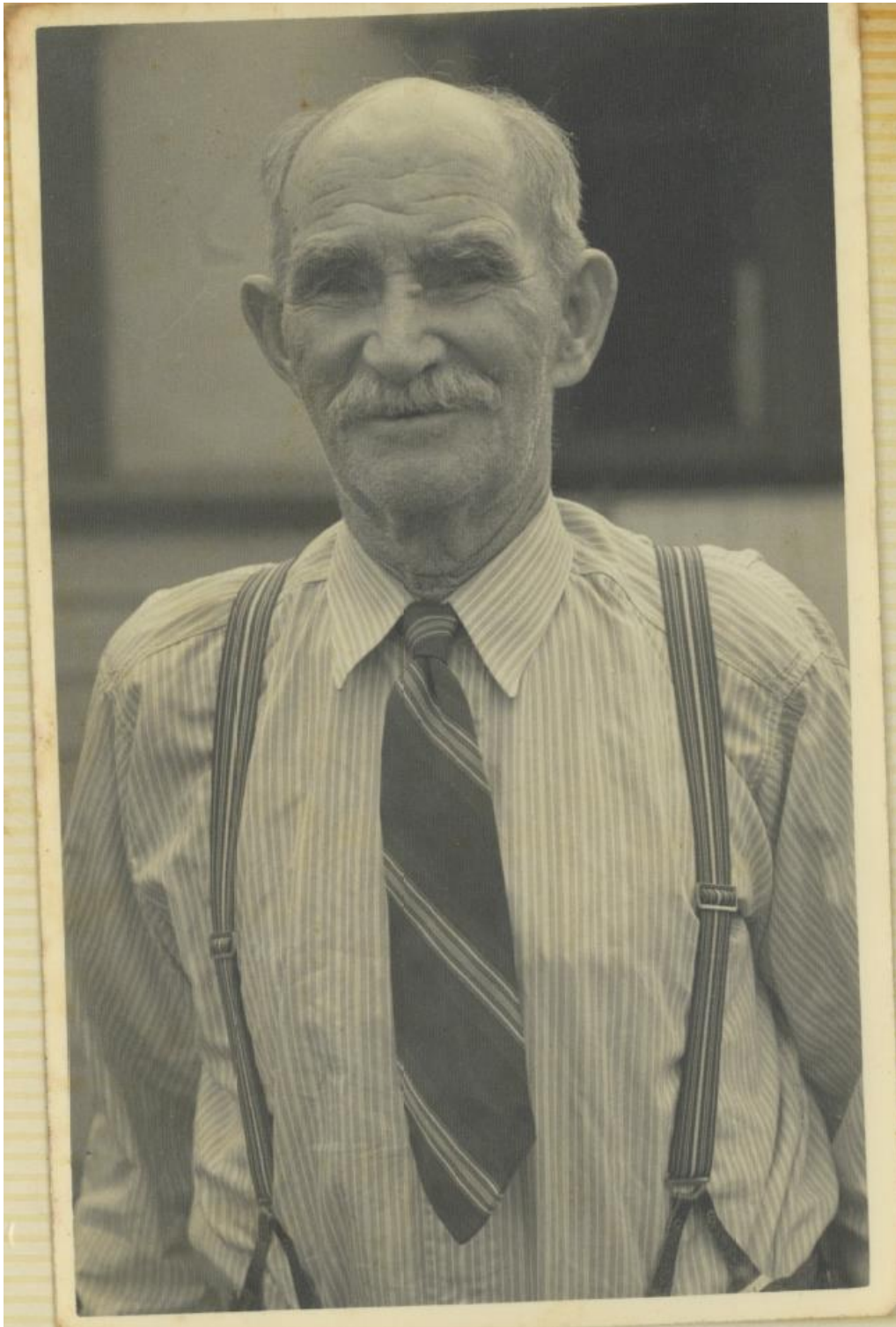
This photo of the Battles has come from a cousin's site online. It was taken in Queensland around 1910. I know this because the two youngest are the twins Matt and Pat Battle and they were born in 1905. The father is James Battle and mother Bridget Mary Moran. That's Honora on the left. The two older boys are Tim and Michael. I'm not sure which is which. The boys at the back are Edward on the left and James on the right. It was probably taken at the front of their house in Mount Morgan.



This photo was developed in Tweed heads. It is a young Jim Gormley on the left. From the previous photo I think this is his uncle Jim Battle in the middle, or it could be one of Jim Battle's brothers, Tim or Matthew. It's definitely his cousin Michael or Tim Battle on the right, son of Jim Battle.



By coincidence I found a very similar photo prop at Woodford Festival in Queensland. Not identical but pretty close.



This photo was developed in Australia. I'm pretty sure this is an older Jim Battle, my grandfather's uncle.



This photo was processed in South Shields. I'd really like to know who this is. I'm taking a stab that this is my great great grandfather Thady Battle, but he could be my great grandfather Thomas Gormley. It's a strange haircut.



This photo was also processed in South Shields. I'm pretty sure this is Timothy and Thomas. Timothy definitely. What do you think? That's probably a war uniform.



Timothy



Thomas



We now know these are three youngest of the seven children of Paul Gormley of South Shields. These photos were taken in 1952. They are my dad's first cousins.



This photo came from my cousin in Canterbury. His father was from South Shields. There is a resemblance with my grandfather Jim, but this is a senior man, so it wouldn't be him. I think this could be my great grandfather Thomas Gormley, of whom I have no photo.



This photo was sent from the family in South Shields. No idea who these stunned, strange-looking people are. I don't see any resemblance to other photos.



Also from the South Shields branch. I don't know who this is. It could be my great grandmother Annie Battle.



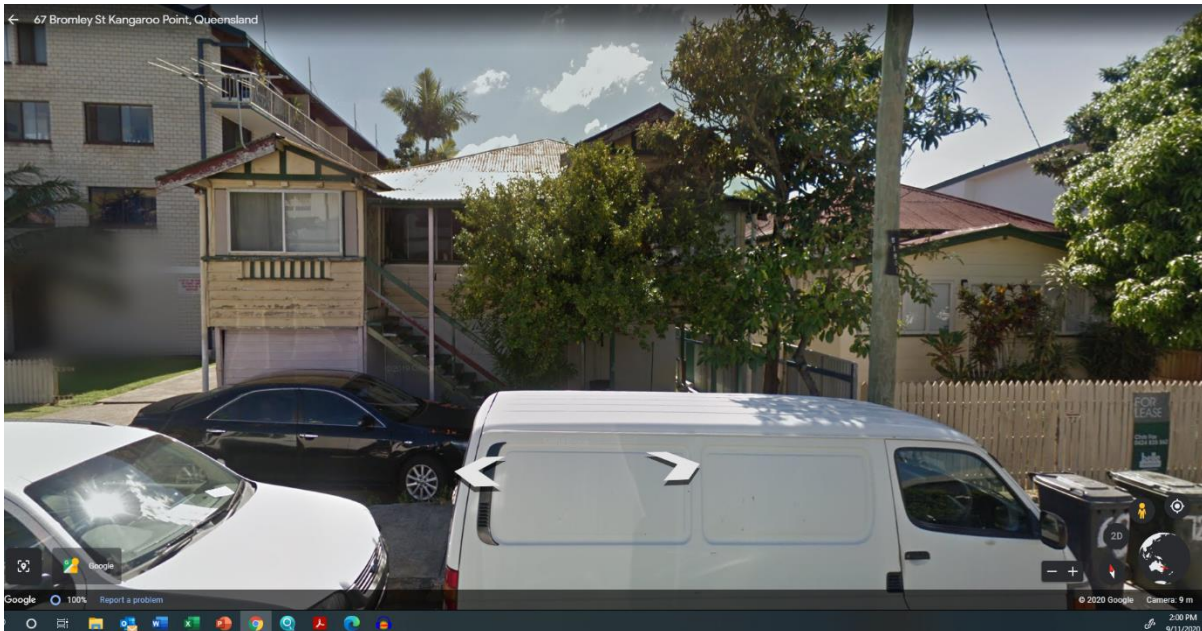
This is Pat Battle in Queensland getting married to his wife Eleanor, and when they are older.



Jack O'Grady (I think) and Nora O'Grady nee Battle with a couple of old friends from Mount Morgan taken at 26 Duke St Kangaroo Point in Brisbane 26/10/1968. Jim may have taken this photo himself.



I think this is 68 Bromley St Kangaroo Point, with James Matthew Gormley with Matthew Peter Battle standing out the front. That was Matt's address from the electoral roll. I've been told that this house was owned by Matthew Battle's wife's family.



The house seems to match the current one at that address on Google Earth.





Several photos of Matt Battle and Jim relaxing at Matt's house at Kangaroo Point in Brisbane.



Matt Battle I think and Jim.



Jim in his 70s reliving his days as a merchant seaman.

An incomplete timeline of Jim Gormley and relatives

1885	James Battle arrives in Brisbane
1888	Tim Battle Arrives Qld
1888	another James Battle Arrives Qld
1891	Thomas Gormley living as boarder with Battle family in South Shields
11 th of May 1892	James Matthew Gormley born in South Shields to Thomas and Annie Gormley.
16/07/1900	Theresa Frances Barker born in Dorking
1901	Paul Gormly living with Henry family as nephew in Carrowmore Cartron - census
1901	James Gormanly living with Mary Gormanly, Bridget Scanlon and Martin May in Doobeg, Kilturra - census
8-May-04	Paul Gormaly marries Mary McCarrick
1904	Dominic Gormaley born to Paul Gormaly marries Mary McCarrick
1911	James Gormley living with Bridget Scanlon, Mary Gormley and Martin May in Doobeg Kilturra - census
22-Jan-13	James Gormly departs London for Rockhampton
14-Mar-13	James Gormly arrives Australia
24-Dec-14	Ad in Brisbane Worker asking for information about Uncle Timothy Battle last heard of 4 years ago at tin mines Irvinebank from brother Mat and nephew James Gormley, who were living at Rockhampton Road, Mount Morgan.
1916	James Matthew Gormley Electoral roll, Duchess, Boulia Qld - Miner
1917	Timothy John Battle apprehended
1917	James Matthew Gormley Electoral roll, Ann St Woodlands, Brisbane
1918	Timothy John Battle prisoner discharged
1921	James Matthew Gormley Electoral roll, Ann St Woodlands, Brisbane
15/08/1925	James Gormley and Theresa Barker married, London (from Frank's birth certificate)
26/3/1926	A Miss Theresa Barker of London sailed to Sydney from London
1929	Jim (Sonny) Gormley born
1931	James Matthew Gormley Electoral roll, 46 Alfred St Milsons Point - Miner
4/09/1932	Francis Patrick Gormley born, living at 19 Napier St North Sydney
30/05/1933?	James (Sonny) Gormley dies
1933	James Matthew Gormley Electoral roll, Napier St North Sydney - Engineer
1934	Josephine Gormley born
19/04/1905	Matthew Peter Battle Electoral Roll, Musgrave Rd, Sunnybank, labourer
1936	James Matthew Gormley Electoral roll, Alfred St Milsons Point
1936	Matthew Peter Battle Electoral Roll, 68 Bromley St Kangaroo Point, meatworker, with Evelyn Mary
late 1949	Matt Battle with wife and daughter visits James Gormley at Milsons Point from Queensland
1954	James Ignatius Battle porter and James Stephen Battle engine driver Electoral Roll, 98 Linton St Kangaroo Point
1954	James Matthew Gormley Electoral roll, Alfred St Milsons Point - Storeman
1958	James Gormley Electoral roll, 18 Alfred St Milsons Point
1965	Theresa Gormley nee Barker dies
1968	James Gormley Electoral roll, 18 Alfred St Milsons Point - Storeman
1972	James Matthew Gormley Electoral roll, Currawang St Concord West
23/06/1974	James Matthew Gormley dies

Jim and Theresa's marriage

Francis Gormley's birth certificate says that Jim and Theresa were married in London on the 15th of August 1925. This was news to my dad Frank, as he had always thought they were married in Australia. There is no record of Theresa or Jim in Australia between 1921 and 1929. Either:

- Jim sailed around the world between these years and they were married in London, or
- they stayed in Australia and lied on the birth certificate. However it is odd that there is no record on the electoral roll between these years.

Recently, a newly found relative on Theresa Barker's side said that she thought that Jim and Theresa had met on the boat when she sailed to Australia. This could well be correct.

Theresa Frances Barker



Theresa Barker and probably James (Sonny) Gormley

When I started on this, I was only really interested in my Irish grandfather's family. However I've come in contact with just as many relatives on my English grandmother's side, and her story is as interesting, albeit full of hardship.

Application Number *R.652*

REGISTRATION DISTRICT *Dorking*

1900 BIRTH in the Sub-district of *Dorking* in the *County of Surrey*

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
<i>60</i>	<i>1st week July 1900 114, Orchard Road Dorking Surrey</i>	<i>Theresa Frances</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Alfred Barker</i>	<i>Theresa Barker formerly Kent</i>	<i>Private in Coldstream Guards</i>	<i>Theresa Barker 114 Orchard Road Dorking</i>	<i>Twelfth August 1900</i>	<i>Constance Reginald</i>	


CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the *20th* day of *August* 19 *01*.

BXBZ 126582 *See note overleaf

CAUTION:- It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

DJ 8272029 8106490 100M 191 Mar(231790)



Theresa Frances Barker was born in Dorking in 1900.

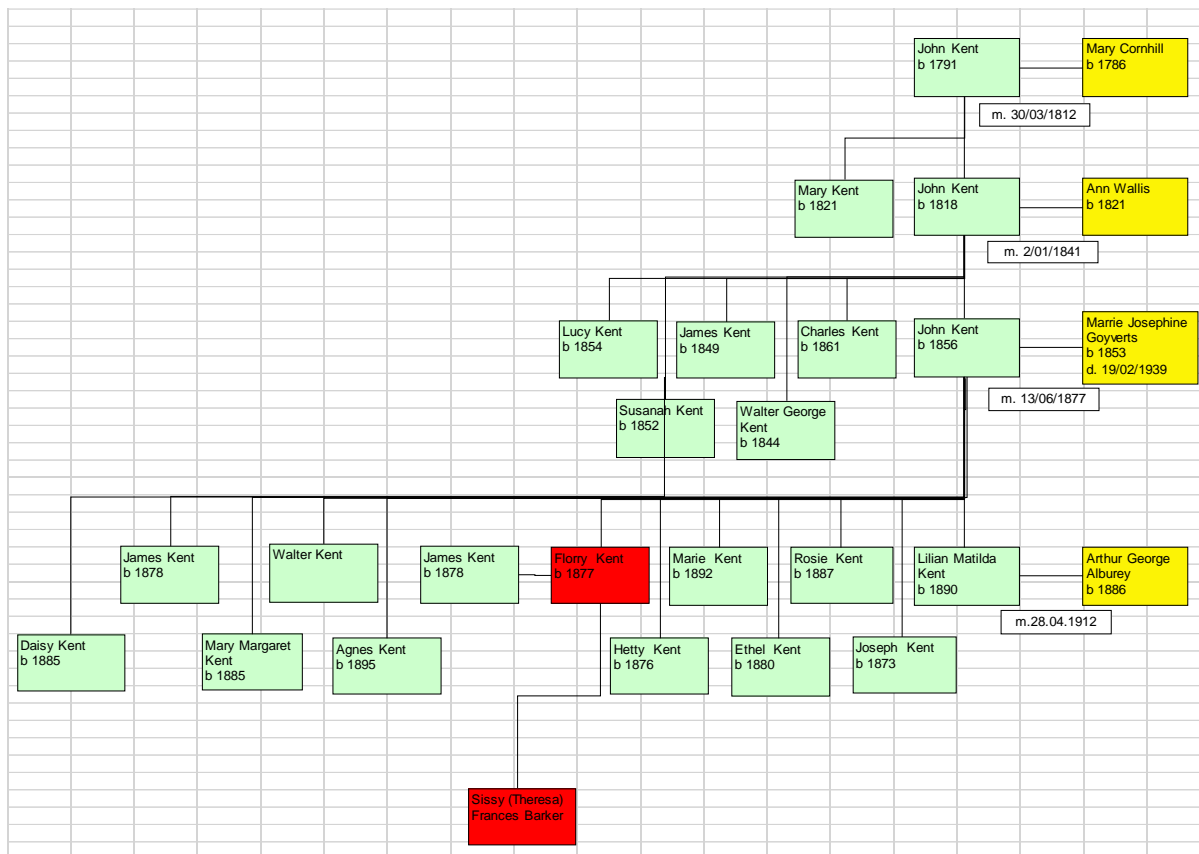
The Kents

We have good knowledge of Theresa's mother's family thanks to the excellent work of an Ancestry DNA match and third cousin Dave A. She was known as Sissy by her family.

Florence (Florry) Mary Kent 15/08/1877 London, M'sex, Died Sept 1953 Croydon

- Married Alfred Barker 12/04/1898 Dorking, Surrey
- **Daughter Sissy (Theresa) Frances Barker 6/7/1900**
- Son James Leonard Barker 12/4/1905
- Son Alfred John Barker 12/9/1902
- Daughter Agnes Josephine Barker 8/3/1906

Lived in Hull as per army papers, some children born in Hull



My father Frank said that the family did not have the space to bring up all four children, so Theresa was brought up by her grandmother. Theresa's grandmother was Belgian, and from the 1911 census it seems Theresa was living with her grandparents and a couple of maiden aunts in Dorking. She was 10 at the time.

Strangely the 1911 census also has Theresa written in as living with her parents in Hull, but her name has been crossed out.

I now know from correspondence with cousins in England that Theresa Barker was treated very badly by her father.

Frank remembers hearing about a cruel Belgian aunt who scalded her with boiling water and left her with a scar on her back. Dad's sister confirmed this. This was probably her grandmother Josephine Kent nee Goyverts.

We don't know the detail, but it is clear that between mistreatment by her father and her grandmother, growing up would not have been easy for Theresa Barker.

The DNA contact says that the Belgian family was supposed to have owned a chocolate factory and been well off, but he has never been able to prove or disprove this.

Our great grandfather, Alfred Barker was private in the Coldstream Guards and fought in the first world war as a desert rat. According to cousins he was a difficult man to live with. This may have been as a result of his war experiences. However Theresa was not living in his house in 1911 before the war.

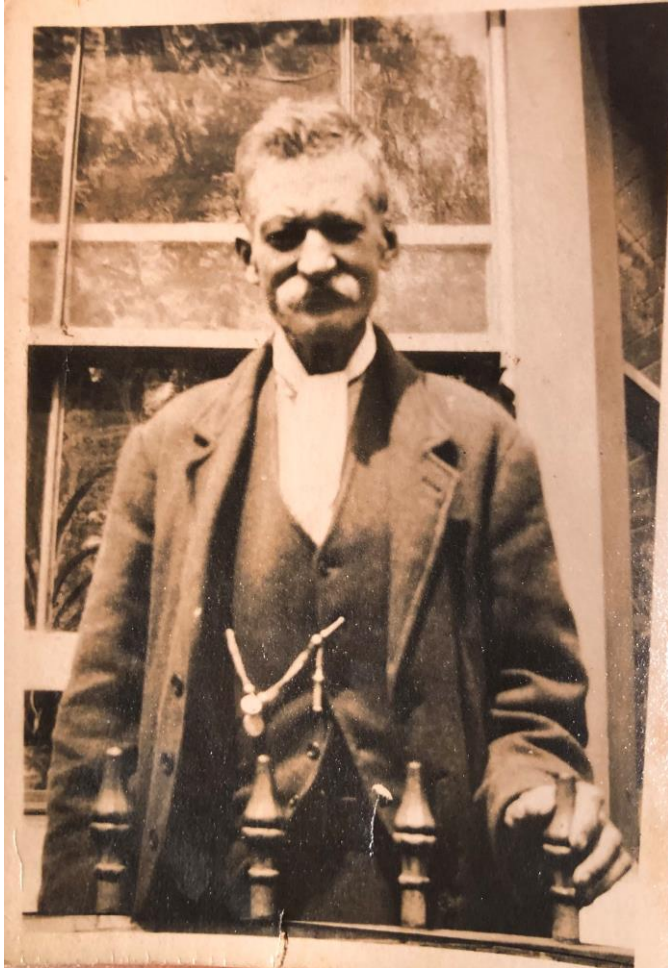
Alfred John Barker was not living with the family in 1901 either. The family were living with his wife's parents in Dorking. Perhaps he was away on service in the army.



The cousins have confirmed that this is my grandmother's mother Florence Barker nee Kent.



This is my grandmother's father Alfred John Barker in Egypt during the war.



We think this might be John Kent and Josephine Goyverts. I went looking to see if the house matched with their place in Dorking but I can't say for sure.

My father's family photo



Here is my father's family. We have my aunt Josie, my grandfather Jim, my grandmother Theresa and my father Frank. This would have been taken around 1942.

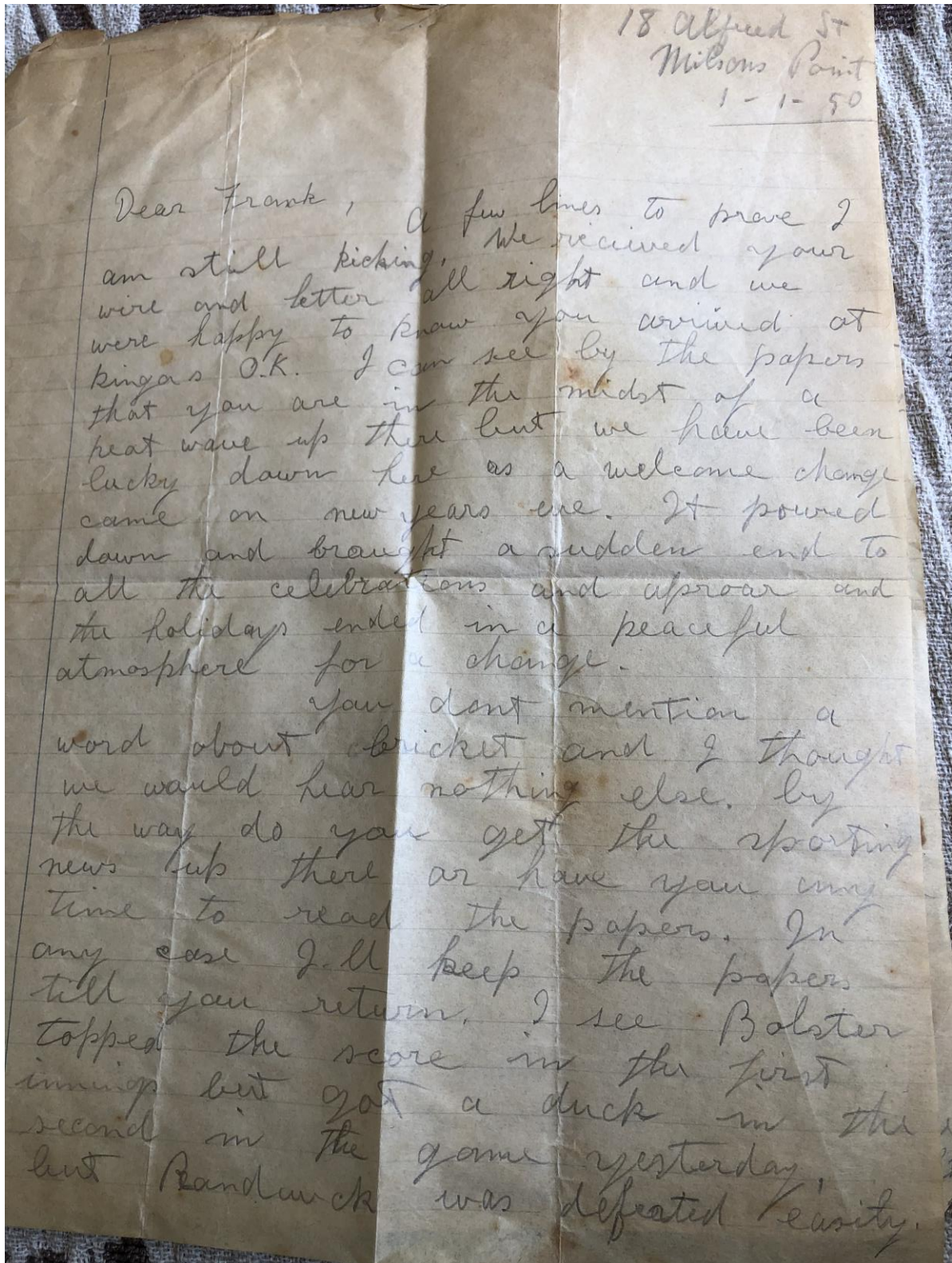
My Family Photo



This is my family. My father Frank, myself, my sister Tracey, my brother David and mother Pat. This was taken sometime in the mid-1980s.

Letters

Here are letters from Jim and Therese to their son Frank around new year 1950. It was the first time that Frank had lived away from home, and it gives some insight into their personalities.



To my
Mummy
is
writing
you
a
long
letter

My
Matt Battle wife & daughter are
down here for a few days and I
met them on new years eve and
had a nice day with them.

The place here is certainly
quiet without you & Gossie and
mummy is now getting plenty of
rest. I may add that is as quiet
as a mouse and eating out of my
hand and I have wake up that
she only plays up and tries to
rule the roost when she has the
moral support of you or Gossie.
and now Frank have a

good time and dont worry about
as down here. Come right back
home whenever you feel like
it or if you are too homesick.

The rain has all gone
again and the sun is now shining
brightly. I hope the rain has you
up your way and made your
holiday a bit cooler and more
pleasant.

And now Frank I'll
ring off for the present in the hope
that this epistle finds you having a nice
enjoyable time. With every love
Dad.

18 Alfred St
Melson's point
Tues 8th

Frank dear "my little boy" The house is
empty without you + Josie + I don't
like it a bit, but I must say it is
a relief to have the wireless off most
of the day. I was worried until I got
your telegram. How is the Mulholland family?
All well I hope + how is Mrs Mulholland
getting on with the new addition to the
clan. Of course I listen in to the South
African cricket I wish you had been
there last Monday-night to hear young
Neil Harvey knocking fours all over the
ground. He had past his centurie Linton
was in the same time but like a sport
that he is. He kept the stroke at Harvey's
end + so did Mr Good. Perhaps you +
Kenga listen in? How is your cricket
making out? What is the country side like
pommie expression I should say what is
Narandera like. Do you like it or would
like Sydney best

Wednesday night 11.30 I've just come
in from work had a cup of tea read the
paper + thought I had better write a little
bit more of this letter to you so that I can

post it on my way to Blakeney. ^{to morrow} I'm missing you but am glad that
 you are having a good holiday. The cricket
 has just come on Linwall seems to be doing
 well & I will write the ~~score~~ score later.
 I think daddy will be pleased when you
 & Josie are home again. Linwall has taken
 3 of 4 wickets. D. Norris has made over 100
 Linwall has just clean bowled Blayfield for
 75. I can't write while I am listen in. The
 wireless is on the table & I'm sitting in my
 usual place can you picture me? The s. african
 have just been dismissed for 333. for the first?
 innings. The aussie must make 85 runs in
 1 hr 45 mins. Do you think they can do it?
 your school report came the morning. Do you
 want to hear it. Yes? Well Religion 90. English
 70 French 31. Physics 73 Chemistry 61 Maths I
 79 Maths II 48. That better than Daddy or I
 could do. Josie is coming home Sat: morning
 I'm pleased to say. How long are you staying
 up there. Write me a letter & tell me how you
 like Karanderra. I think I prefer Sydney to
 the country. Give my hand regards to Mrs
 Mulholland & I will write to her later. Daddy
 sends his love & I will write tomorrow.
 Goodnight son I'm tired to write any more
 now I send you all my love & God Bless you
 Mummy.
 How are you for money? let me know.
 to you with a little
 so that I can

We also have a letter from Pat Battle to my dad Frank Gormley in 1975, following the death of James Gormley.

No 7 Launder Street,
Mundingburra, 4812
Townsville, 10 Feb 1975

Dear Frank

It was with deep regret that we heard of the death of your father.

Well joins me in conveying to you Mrs Gormley & Family our Deep sympathy & Condolences

We would like to know the date of his death and if it was at your home or hospital

We will have Mass said for the repose of his soul and we will always remember him in our prayers

Your Dad was always a Gentleman. He enjoyed the good things in life and led a saintly life. His passing especially if he was suffering would be an act of kindness & mercy. May he Rest in Peace.

Now for the brighter side of life. Nell & I are going on a Catholi overseas trip leaving Sydney 16 Aug. I hope to return in June. The tour includes Auckland Suva Noumea. Down West Coast of America & Countries including Spain France Italy Rome Paris Luxemburg Holy Land London & Ireland with the expected arrival back in Melbourne around 15 December

We are just hoping every thing goes to plan. Our Daughter Loretta and 3 girls & John are happily settled in Melbourne. He is in the RAAF. They have been fortunate enough to have had 2 trips to Malaysia. Brian & Margaret are living at Mt Gravatt Brisbane. Brian is second

Engineer at J. C. Huttons a large meat processing and
canning Co. They have branches in all parts of
Australia. He has a big job with a lot of responsibility
for a young man and Mat & Mera are still at Duke Street
Mera has not been well with couple spells in hospital
They will be sorry to hear of your Dad's passing
Well Frank not much news up this way
Once again extending to yourself Mrs Gannley &
Family Our Sincere Sympathy

Kind Regards
Pat. Balle

Names in Ireland

- Spelling varies greatly. There's Gormley, Gormly, Gormely, Gormelly, Gormally, Gormaly, Gormanly, and even Gorman which could all be the same family name.
- very popular women's names - Bridget, Mary, Margaret
- very popular men's names – James, Peter, Patrick, Thomas, John
- unusual first names - Malachy, Thaly, Honora (Nora)
- The first son is often named after the father. Hence you have generations of people with the same name. Does this cause confusion? You bet.

References

- ancestry.com
- GEDmatch.com
- familytreedna.com
- myheritage.com
- sligo.rootsireland.ie
- Sligo Heritage and History Club [facebook.com/groups/605357269662532](https://www.facebook.com/groups/605357269662532)

These all reference the Irish census of 1901 and 1911, which is by far the best source of information for Ireland. Irish records other than these are very incomplete. Also, spelling, ages and birth dates are very unreliable. Birthdates vary wildly for the same person from one census to the next.

The Irish census gives a lot of interesting information, including language spoken, whether people can read and write, the number of rooms in the house, and even the number of farm animals owned.

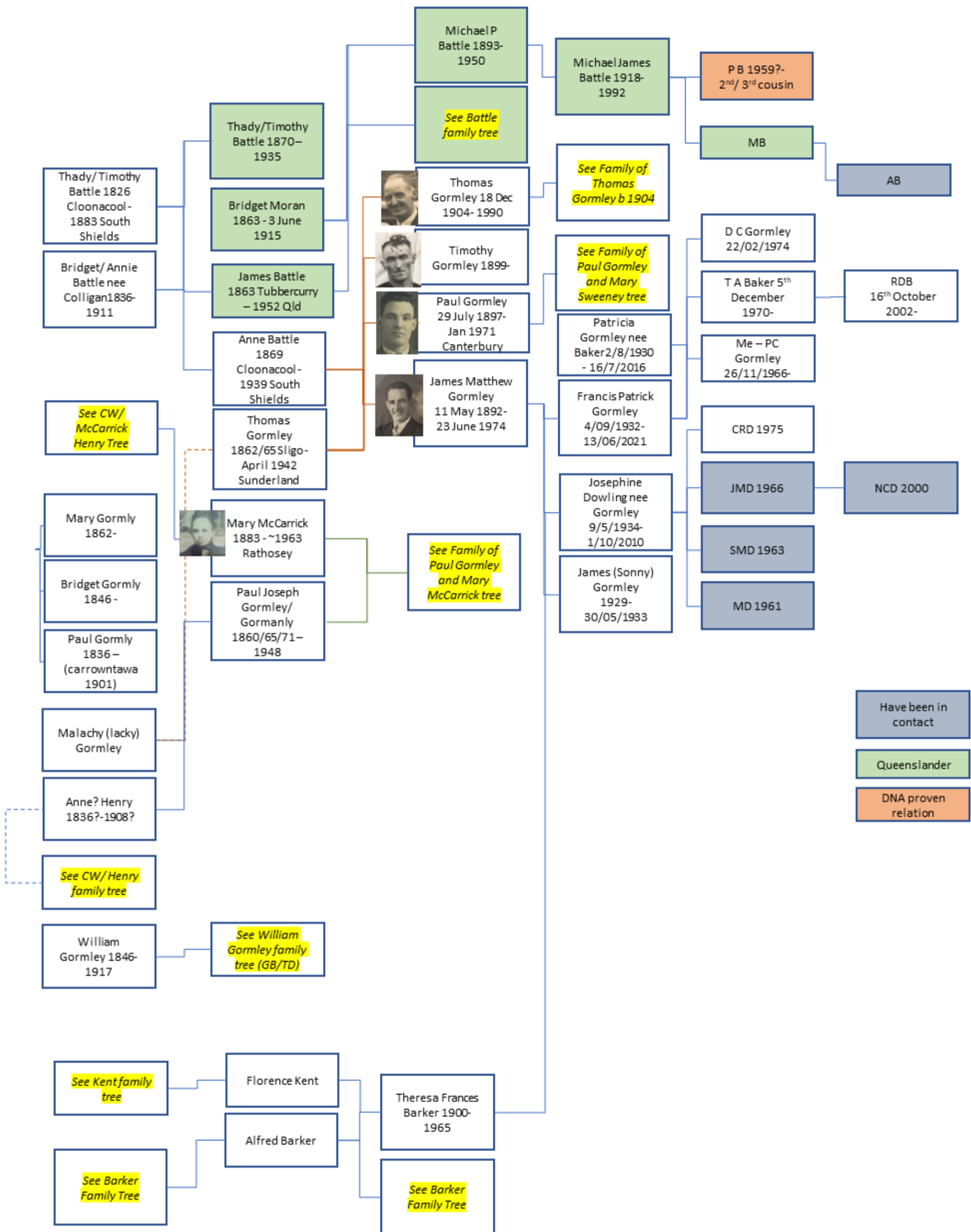
The Australian Electoral Roll is also very useful for locating people.

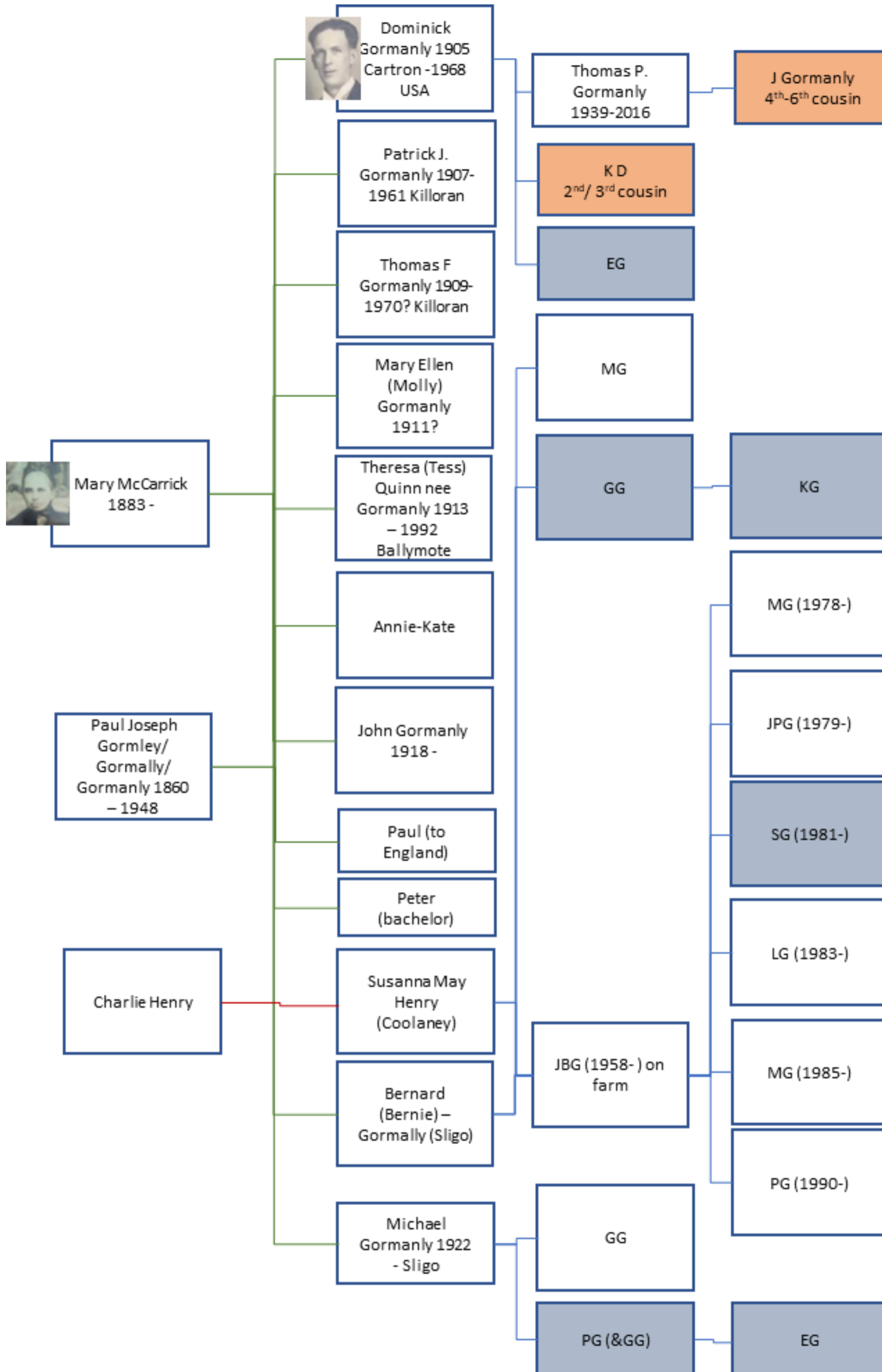
These two books give a good idea of the poverty and politics in the parish of Killoran in Sligo, which is where my grandfather's family came from. They are available free as e-books.

Killoran and Coolaney – A local History by Michael Farry, 1985 and 2005

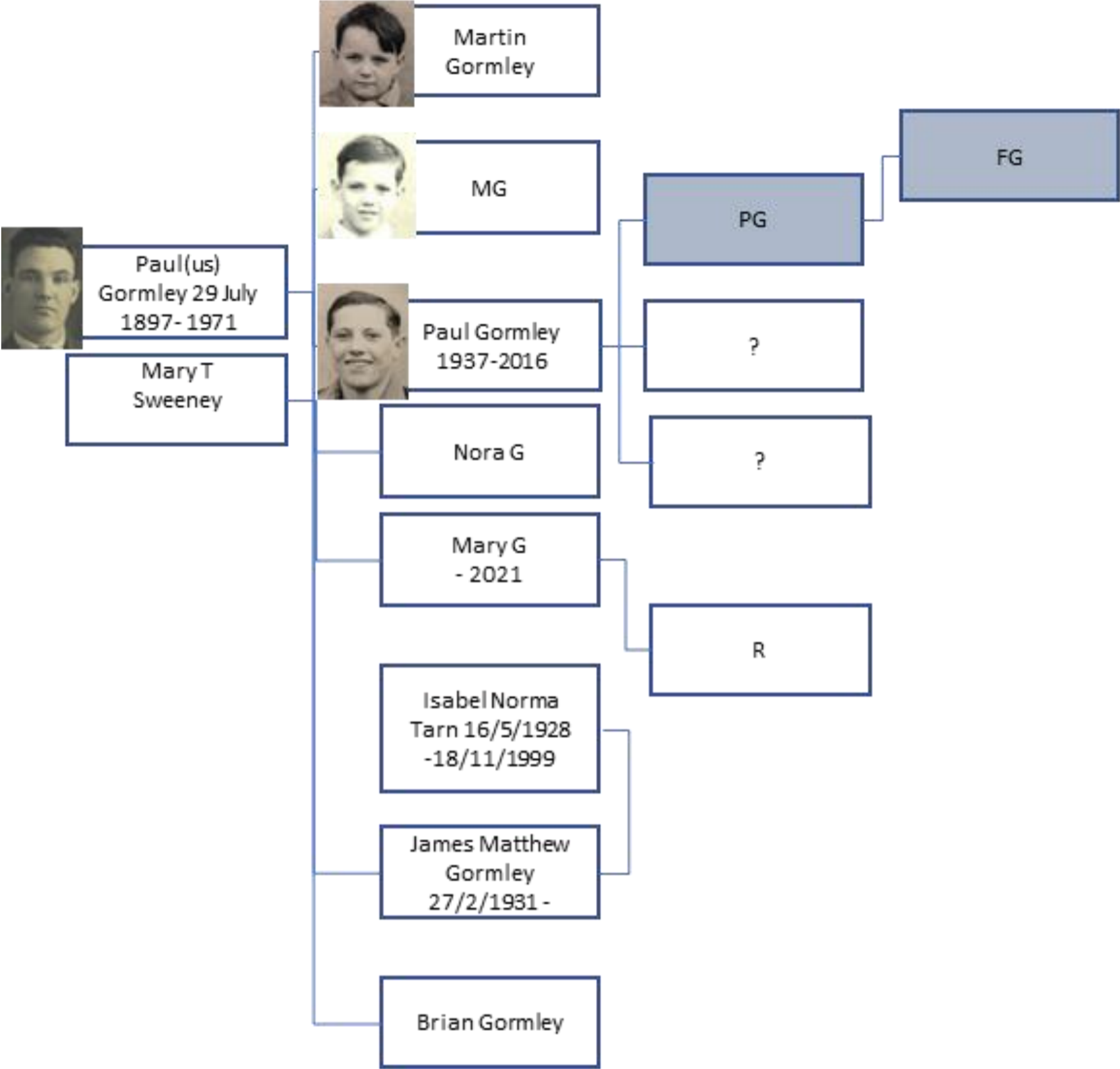
Sligo 1914-1921 – A chronicle of Conflict by Michael Farry, 1992 and 2005

James Gormley Tree

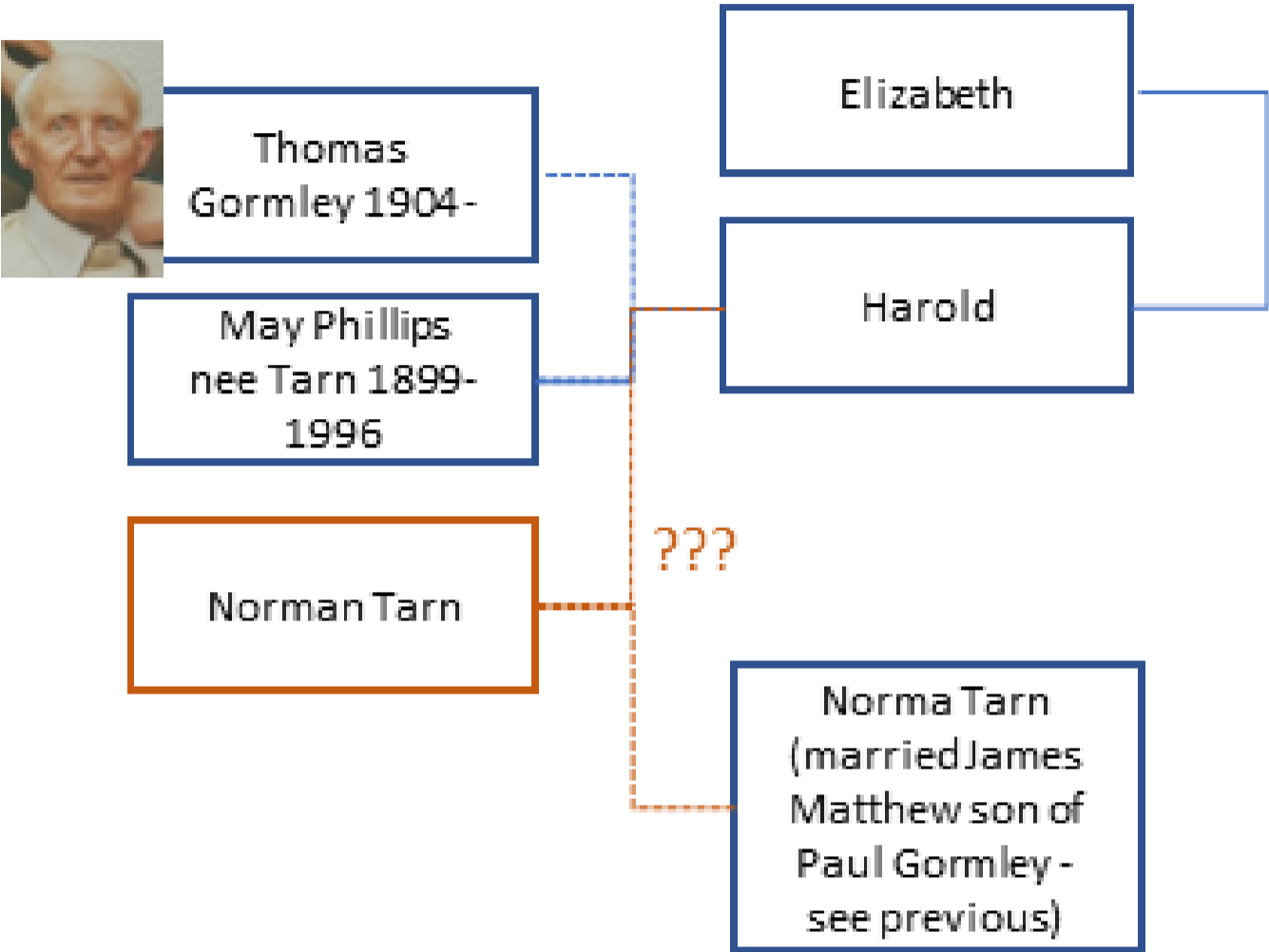




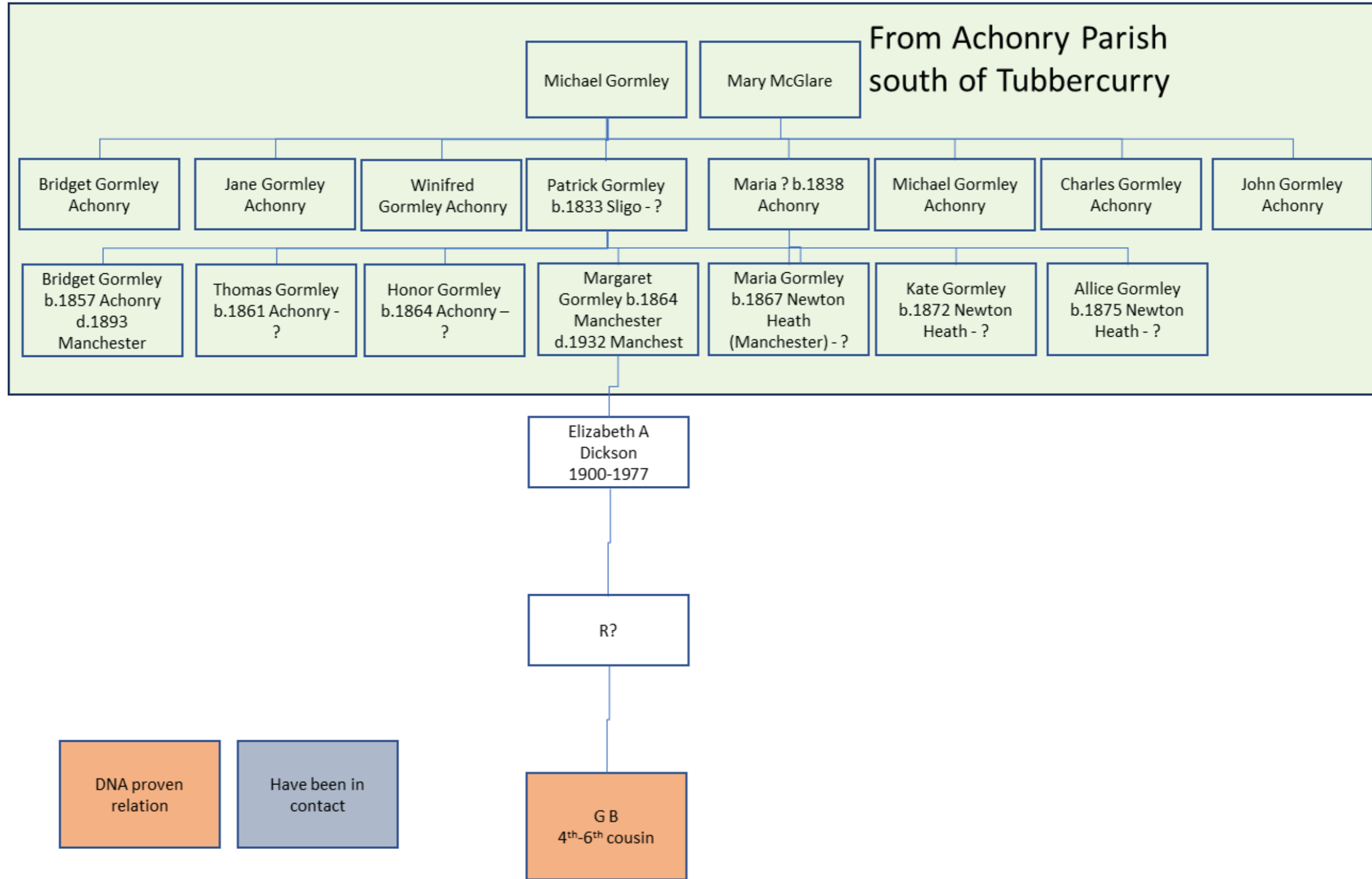
Family of Paul Gormley and Mary Sweeney Tree



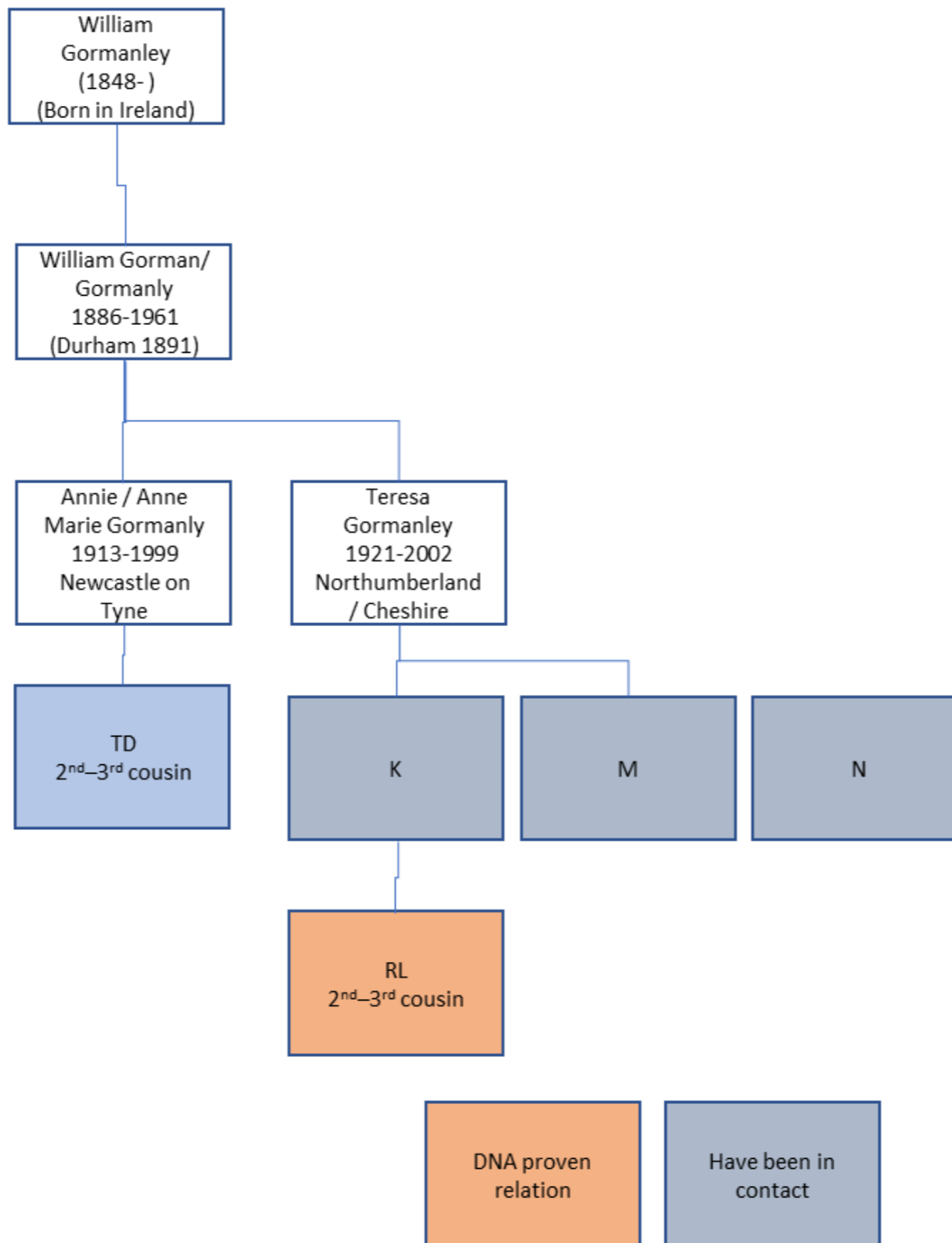
Family of Thomas Gormley b 1904 Tree



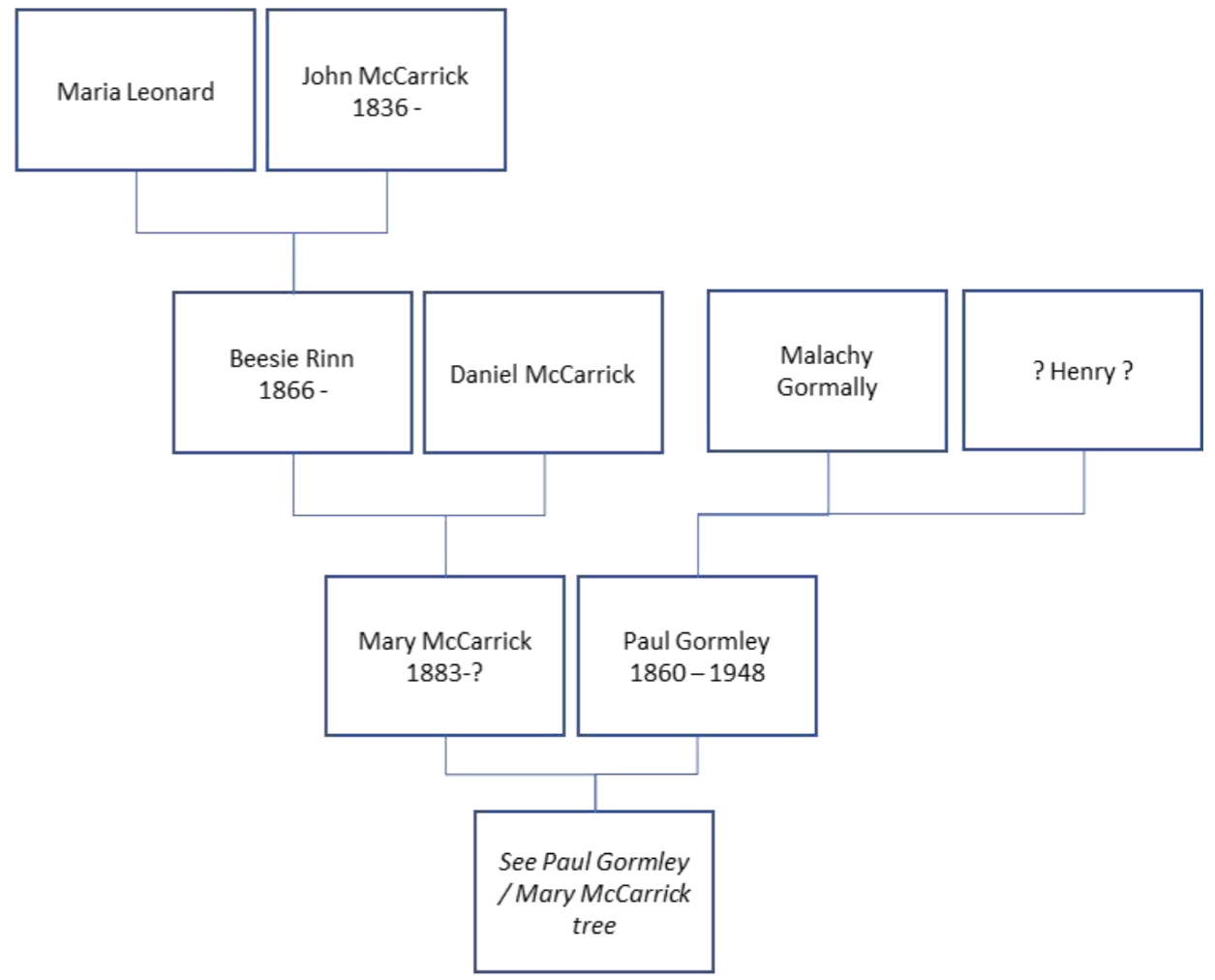
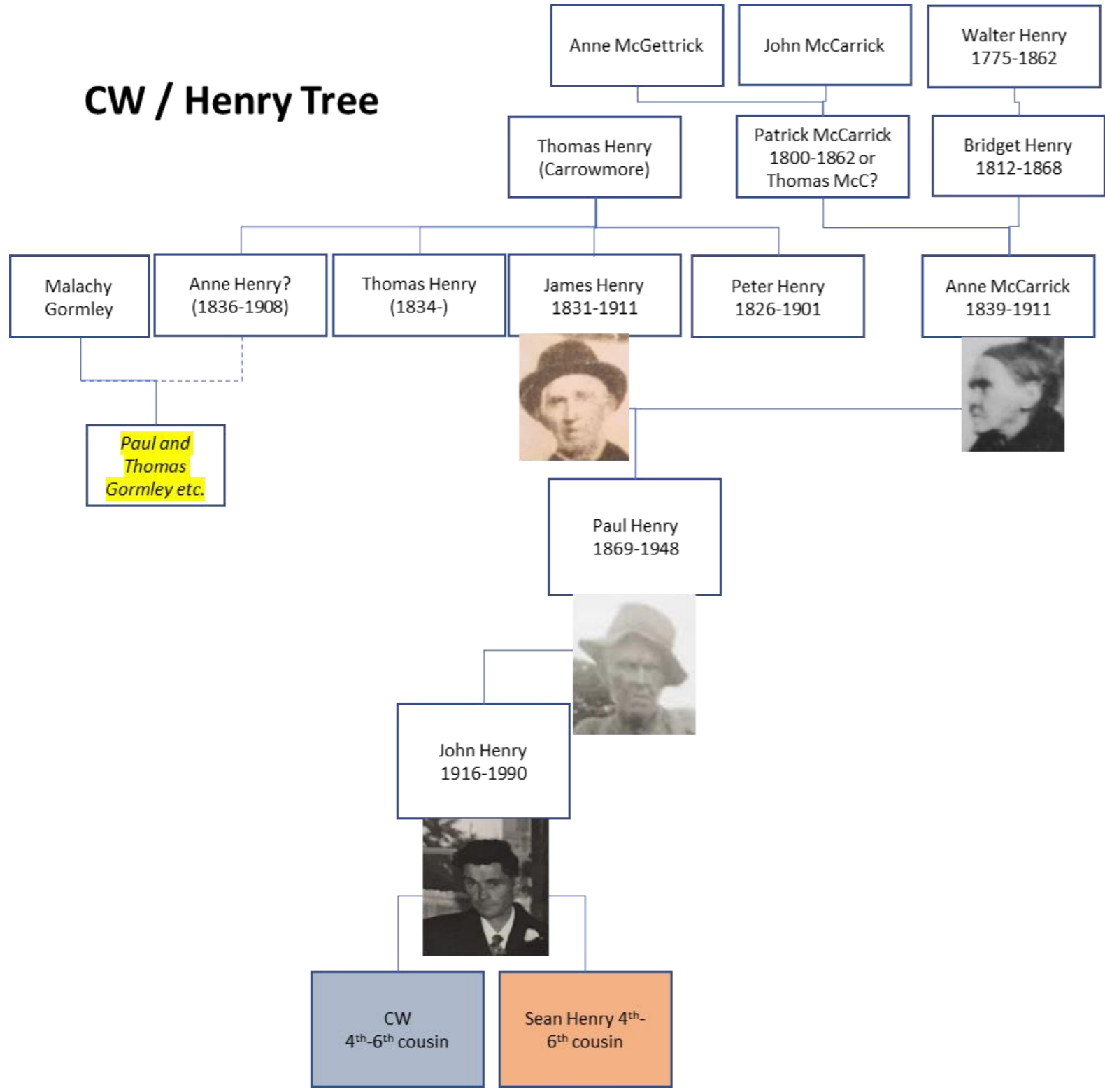
GB Tree



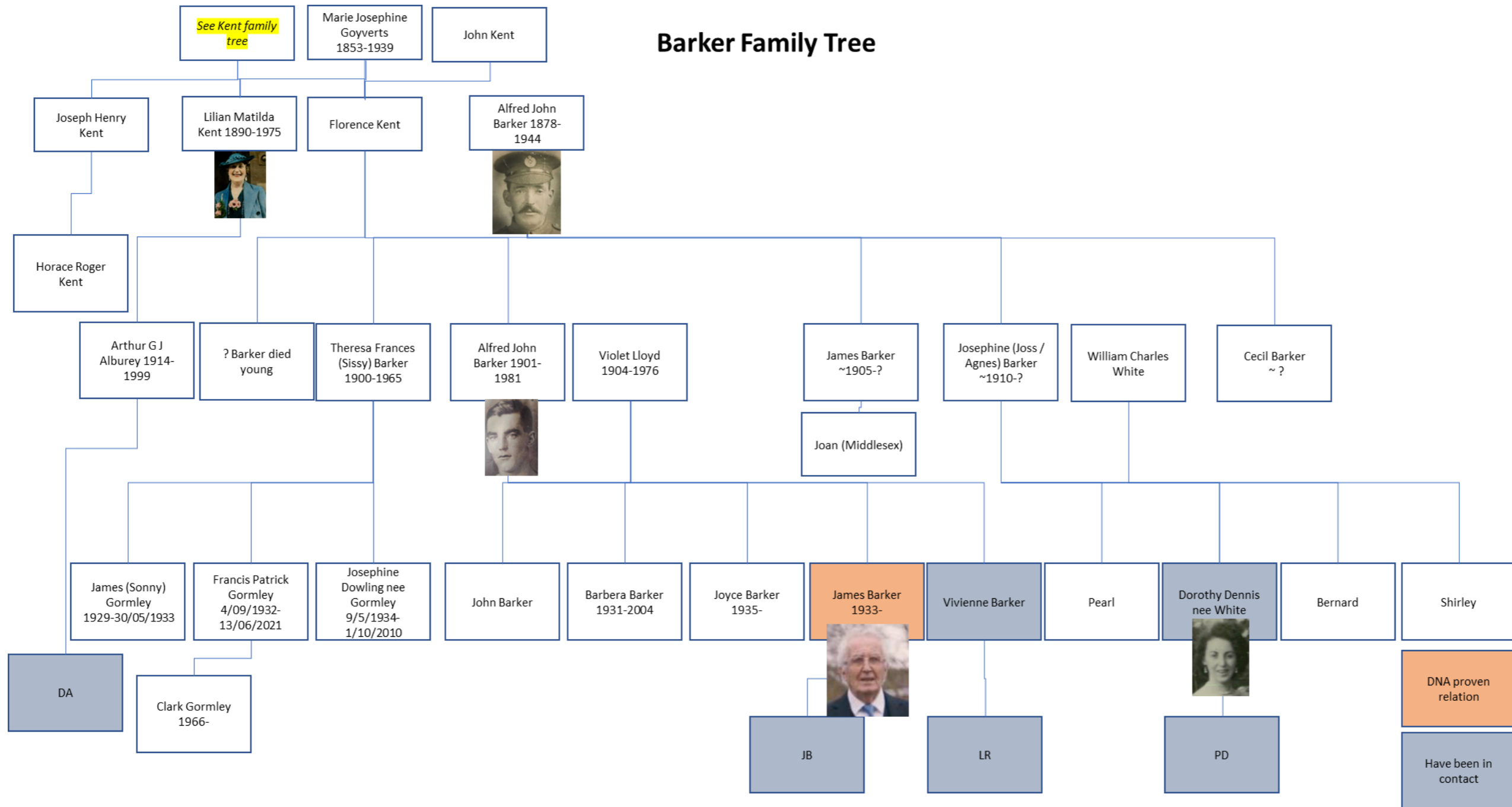
TD Tree



CW / Henry Tree



Barker Family Tree



After contacting relatives in England, I've put together this family tree of my Grandmother's family.