

Looking for James and Ellen: a genealogical journey

by

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STAINED GLASS BY JOHN A. "RED" BULGER, JR.

Foreword

THE TITLE OF THIS LITTLE BOOK HAS CHANGED SLIGHTLY SINCE I ORIGINALLY SET IT DOWN. BECAUSE THE SMALL TITLE CHANGE HAS TO CAPTURE A LARGER CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE.

I ORIGINALLY TITLED IT “LOOKING FOR JAMES AND ELLEN: A *personal* GENEALOGICAL JOURNEY.” WHAT I WANTED THE READER TO KNOW WAS THAT THIS WAS NOT A “BIG” BOOK, NOT “ROOTS” BY ANY MEANS. IT WAS JUST MY OWN PERSONAL SEARCH.

EXCEPT,
OF COURSE IT WASN'T.

IT WASN'T JUST ME. MARYANN FLAHERTY WAS WITH ME ALMOST EVERY STEP OF THE WAY—AND I DO WISH SHE COULD HAVE SAT IN DUBLIN WITH ME IN “THE HEEL OF THE HUNT.” LARRY ARSENAULT—AS ONLY LARRY CAN—RAISED QUESTIONS, POSITED DOUBTS, PROPOSED THEORIES, WITHOUT WHICH THE JOURNEY MIGHT HAVE GONE OFF IN THE WRONG DIRECTION MORE THAN ONCE.

AND MARIE YOUNG, DELIGHTED TO HAVE FOUND OTHER BULGERS (HAVING BEEN PART OF A SMALL SEPT OF THE CLAN ISOLATED IN PENNSYLVANIA), SENT ME INFORMATION AND PHOTOS, SOME OF WHICH ARE IN THIS BOOK.

ALSO, MENTION MUST BE MADE OF DENNIS AND DRU (BULGER) BRETON. WHILE DRU HAILS FROM THE MICHAEL “BRANCH” AND DOESN'T HAVE A DIRECT INTEREST IN JAMES AND ELLEN, DENNIS AND DRU ARE FINE GENEALOGISTS AND HELPED AND ENCOURAGED ME MANY TIMES ALONG THE JOURNEY.

AND FINALLY, ELEANOR (EL) WHO PUT UP WITH MY “DIGGING UP THE ANCESTORS,” AS SHE CALLS IT AND WAS IN THE VICINITY WHEN I FOUND JAMES AND ELLEN

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Beginning

I CERTAINLY KNOW THE DAY (AND THE HOUR) ON WHICH I “FOUND” JAMES BULGER AND ELLEN RUANE. IT WAS APRIL 25, 2005, AT APPROXIMATELY 1:20 P.M., GMT. I WAS USING A MICROFILM READER AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND IN DUBLIN, LOOKING AT PARISH RECORDS ON FILM P4200, AND I FOUND THE RECORD OF THEIR MARRIAGE ON MAY 6, 1838, AT LUGGACURREN, COUNTY LAOIS (QUEEN’S) IRELAND. MY FIND WAS THE RESULT OF A SERIES OF ACCIDENTS, BUT THAT PART COMES TOWARD THE END.

I’M A GOOD DEAL LESS CLEAR ON WHEN AND WHERE I STARTED LOOKING FOR THEM. AND, IN THE BEGINNING, I DIDN’T KNOW THAT IT WAS JAMES BULGER AND ELLEN RUANE I WAS LOOKING FOR. I THOUGHT HIS NAME WAS “JOHN JAMES” AND THAT HER NAME WAS “JENNIE ROUEN.” (IN FACT, WHEN I ENTERED THIS INFORMATION IN THE FAMILY BIBLE WE GOT FOR CHRISTMAS IN THE MID-1970’S, IT WAS DEFINITELY RECORDED AS “JENNIE ROUEN.”) FROM THE SPELLING OF THE SURNAME, I ORIGINALLY THOUGHT THAT SHE MIGHT BE FRENCH.

I DO RECALL DEVELOPING AN INTEREST IN ORIGINS WHEN I FIRST MOVED TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IN 1967. THAT SUMMER, I HAD COME TO THE ISLAND WITH MY PARENTS. MY FATHER WAS TRYING TO FIND HIS GODMOTHER, HIS AUNT AGATHA (BULGER) EVANS. I HAD TO TRY TO LOCATE HOUSING FOR EL, JEAN AND MYSELF, SINCE I WAS STARTING WORK AT ST. DUNSTAN’S IN SEPTEMBER OF THAT YEAR.

WE DID MANAGE TO FIND AUNT AGATHA (AND I DID LOCATE A PLACE TO LIVE), AND FOR ME THAT STARTED A RELATIONSHIP THAT CONTINUED FOR ANOTHER FOURTEEN YEARS, UNTIL AGATHA DIED IN 1981. MY OWN GRANDMOTHER BULGER HAD DIED WHEN I WAS NOT QUITE A YEAR OLD AND IN SOME RESPECTS, ‘GATHA FILLED THAT GAP IN THE WARP AND WEAVE OF MY FAMILY. AND I THINK THAT SHE PROBABLY GOT ME THINKING ABOUT ORIGINS. AFTER ALL, SHE HAD GROWN UP ON THE MURRAY ROAD, AND CERTAINLY KNEW MOST OF THE SECOND GENERATION OF BULGERS—BOTH HER SIBLINGS AND HER COUSINS—ALONG WITH THOSE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST GENERATION WHO HAD STAYED ON THE ISLAND.

I QUIZZED HER ABOUT THE ORIGINAL ANCESTORS. (I MUST HAVE STILL THOUGHT THAT ELLEN WAS “JENNIE” BECAUSE THIS WAS NEARLY A DECADE BEFORE I PUT “JENNIE ROUEN” INTO THE FAMILY BIBLE). “GATHA TOLD ME THREE THINGS: FIRST, SHE SAID THAT WHEN ONE OF HER BROTHERS (OR MAYBE AN UNCLE) HAD WANTED TO JOIN AN IRISH ORGANIZATION IN THE U.S.—MAYBE THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS—HE WROTE HOME ASKING FOR INFORMATION AS TO HIS GRANDPARENTS’ (PARENTS’) PLACES OF BIRTH; ‘GATHA SAID, “AND IT WAS DETERMINED THAT HE WAS BORN IN QUEEN’S COUNTY (LAOIS) AND SHE WAS BORN IN KING’S (OFFALY).” (I HAVE ALWAYS REMEMBERED THIS BECAUSE OF THE SWITCH OF GENDER—HE QUEEN’S, SHE KING’S. AS LATE AS THE MIDDLE 1980’S, AS A RESULT, I

REMEMBER REMARKING TO MY SIBLINGS THAT IF ANY OF US EVER MADE IT TO IRELAND, WE SHOULD SEARCH FOR OUR ANCESTORS ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN QUEEN' AND KING'S COUNTIES.)

SECOND, SHE TOLD ME THAT THEY HAD COME FLEEING THE IRISH POTATO FAMINE. THIRD, THAT THEY HAD BEEN SHIPWRECKED OFF MALPEQUE BAY.

OF THESE THREE THINGS, THE SECOND IS ALMOST CERTAINLY CORRECT AND THE THIRD IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY—THOUGH THERE MAY BE AN EXPLANATION FOR IT. AS TO THE FIRST, IT IS LIKELY THAT BOTH JAMES AND ELLEN WERE BORN IN QUEEN'S COUNTY, THOUGH, SINCE WE ONLY COME UPON THEM AT THE TIME OF THEIR WEDDING IN 1838, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SHE WAS BORN IN KING'S AND MOVED WITH HER PARENTS TO QUEEN'S, AND THERE IS NO RECORD OF HIS BIRTH EITHER, SO EVEN IN HIS CASE, THE BIRTH MIGHT HAVE BEEN ELSEWHERE. BUT, IN THE ABSENCE OF RECORDS, WE CAN ASSUME QUEEN'S COUNTY.

ANOTHER INFLUENCE FROM THOSE "EARLY" DAYS WAS MY GREAT-AUNT RITA. SHE LIVED IN DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, BUT BOTH SHE AND HER HUSBAND, ART MACDOUGALL, WERE FROM THE ISLAND, AND THEY MAINTAINED A SUMMER PLACE AT CASCUMPECQUE (THE PLACE OF HIS REARING). I TOOK 'GATHA UP TO VISIT RITA IN THE FALL OF 1967. RITA WAS SIX OR SEVEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN 'GATHA, SO EVEN MORE REMOVED IN TIME FROM THE ANCESTORS. EVEN SO, I PICKED HER BRAIN AS WELL. AND LEARNED TWO THINGS. FIRST, I LEARNED THAT JAMES AND ELLEN WERE BURIED IN CASCUMPECQUE. SHE TOLD ME THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIND THE CEMETERY, THOUGH, SINCE I'D HAVE TO WALK ALONG THE SHORE, THROUGH BRUSH, ETC., ETC. (IN LATER YEARS, I DISCOVERED THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WALK ALONG THE SHORE, THAT "CEMETERY" ROAD GOES RIGHT DOWN TO THE CEMETERY.)

THE SECOND THING WAS HER NOMINEE AS A POSSIBLE PLACE OF ORIGIN IN IRELAND. THE DIFFICULTY WAS THAT I DIDN'T REMEMBER WHAT SHE HAD SAID. I HAD INTENDED TO LOOK IT UP IN AN ATLAS AT THE UNIVERSITY WHEN I GOT BACK TO TOWN, BUT WE HAD CAR TROUBLE ON THE WAY HOME AND DEALING WITH THAT DROVE THE INFORMATION COMPLETELY OUT OF MY MIND. HOWEVER, IF AUNT RITA WAS THE SOURCE OF CERTAIN MIS-INFORMATION THAT APPEARS IN CLINTON MORRISON'S BOOK, *Along the North Shore* (WHICH I SUSPECT SHE MAY HAVE BEEN, SINCE THERE IS NO OTHER LIKELY CANDIDATE), LOOKING UP THE PLACE NAME SHE GAVE ME WOULDN'T HAVE DONE ANY GOOD ANYWAY.

THE ONGOING INFLUENCE IN ALL THIS IS MY COUSIN, JOHN A. BULGER, JR. (RED). WHEN MY GRANDFATHER, PIUS JAMES BULGER, DIED IN 1957, HE HAD A NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHS AMONG HIS EFFECTS. OVER THE YEARS, RED HAS CATALOGUED THESE, ADDED OTHERS TO THEM, AND PRODUCED A HUGE SCRAPBOOK OF INFORMATION ON THOSE DESCENDANTS OF JAMES AND ELLEN WITH WHOM HE HAS CONTACT. MOST OF THE MATERIAL COMES FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN "R" BULGER, THE ELDEST SON OF JAMES AND ELLEN, BUT THERE ARE ITEMS FROM OTHER "BRANCHES" AS WELL.

RED IS THE KEEPER OF THE SOUL OF THE FAMILY. AND, OF COURSE, OUR PATRIARCH.

The Dubliners

DON'T BE MISLED BY THIS. WE DO NOT HAIL FROM DUBLIN. BUT A GROUP OF DUBLINERS, NAMELY DERMOT RICHARDSON, HIS BROTHER, LIAM, AND ASSORTED RELATIVES AND HANGERS-ON, ARE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE STORY. AS IS MY FORMER COLLEAGUE, JOHN JOSEPH FITZPATRICK KENNEDY.

I FELL IN WITH THIS PACK OF DUBLINERS WHEN I LANDED IN TORONTO IN THE EARLY 1980'S. THEY RECOGNIZED "BULGER" AS A VARIANT OF "BOLGER" AND THEY WANTED TO KNOW WHERE MY FAMILY WAS FROM IN IRELAND. PART OF THIS IS PURE IRISH CURIOSITY ABOUT NATIVE PLACES, BUT, IN THIS CASE, DERMOT AND LIAM MAY HAVE WANTED TO KNOW IF THERE MIGHT BE ANY CONNECTION WITH A CERTAIN PADDY BOLGER, WHO HAD BEEN THEIR FATHER'S BEST FRIEND.

I HAD TO TELL THEM THAT I DIDN'T KNOW WITH ANY CERTAINTY WHERE MY FAMILY WAS FROM. AND IT GOT ME THINKING. I THOUGHT THAT, IF IT WERE HUMANLY POSSIBLE, I SHOULD AT LEAST TRY TO FIND OUT WHERE WE CAME FROM. PARTLY TO ANSWER THE RICHARDSONS' QUESTION, PARTLY FOR MY OWN SATISFACTION. I HAD NO IDEA, WHEN I STARTED, THAT IT WAS LIKELY TO TAKE ME THE BETTER PART OF TWENTY YEARS TO FIND THE ANSWER. AND, AS I SAY, BUT FOR A COUPLE OF ACCIDENTS, I'D STILL BE LOOKING.

PART OF THE REASON FOR THIS IS THE STATE OF IRISH RECORDS. IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE FILM, "MICHAEL COLLINS," IT'S WORTH A LOOK JUST BECAUSE IT'S A GOOD FILM. BUT THERE ARE TWO MOMENTS IN THE FILM—AND WHEN I FIRST SAW IT IN THE THEATER, I LEANED OVER TO EL AND WHISPERED "THERE GOES OUR HISTORY" AT THOSE MOMENTS—THAT EXPLAIN THE DEARTH OF RECORDS. DURING THE REBELLION PHASE BETWEEN 1916 AND 1921, THE IRA MANAGED TO BLOW UP THE CUSTOMS HOUSE ON THE DUBLIN WATERFRONT. WHAT WENT UP IN SMOKE ON THAT OCCASION WAS A HUGE AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT RECORDS, MOST PARTICULARLY, CENSUS RECORDS—FOR WHICH, APPARENTLY, THERE WERE NO COPIES IN ENGLAND. SO, FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU WANTED TO TRY TO LOCATE JAMES BULGER IN THE 1841 CENSUS, YOU HAVEN'T A PRAYER. LONG SINCE TURNED TO ASHES.

THE SECOND MOMENT IS DURING "THE TROUBLES"—THE PERIOD IN 1921–22, WHEN THE IRA SPLIT INTO THE FREE STATERS (WHO ACCEPTED THE TREATY WITH BRITAIN) AND THE IRA ITSELF. THE IRA TOOK OVER THE FOUR COURTS IN DUBLIN. THAT'S THE MAIN COURTHOUSE FOR ALL OF IRELAND, AND STORED THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF RECORDS HAVING TO DO WITH LAND TRANSACTIONS, INCLUDING LEASES OF LAND. THE IRA HAD PLANTED A HUGE BOMB IN THE BASEMENT, WHERE THE RECORDS WERE KEPT, AND WHEN THE FREE STATERS OPENED FIRE ON THEM, THEY DETONATED THE BOMB. SO, IF YOU WANTED TO KNOW IF JAMES BULGER HAD LEASED LAND IN LUGGACURREN IN 1838, OR, EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, IF AN OLDER GENERATION OF BULGERS HAD LEASED LAND THERE AROUND 1800, YOU'RE PROBABLY OUT OF LUCK.

BY AND LARGE, WHAT WE'RE LEFT WITH ARE CHURCH RECORDS. NOW IT MUST BE KEPT IN MIND THAT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS AN ILLEGAL ORGANIZATION (TECHNICALLY UNTIL 1829, THOUGH THERE WAS SOME THAWING PRIOR TO THAT.) AT ONE POINT IN TIME, PRIOR TO THE LATE 1700'S, THERE WERE NO CATHOLIC CHURCHES—MASS WAS SAID IN HEDGEROWS, “HEDGE PRIEST” IS A TERM FROM THAT PERIOD. LATER, CATHOLIC “CHAPELS” WERE TOLERATED (THERE IS A RUINED CHAPEL NEAR LUGGACURREN) BUT THE KEEPING OF RECORDS DURING THE 1700'S WAS SPOTTY AT BEST AND MAINLY NON-EXISTENT. CONSEQUENTLY, A GREAT MANY SETS OF RECORDS BEGIN IN THE YEAR 1820 (WHEN EMANCIPATION WAS ON THE HORIZON), AND THIS IS TRUE OF THE RECORDS WE END UP BEING INTERESTED IN. SINCE JAMES BULGER WAS BORN SOMETIME BETWEEN 1801 AND 1816—ACCORDING THE 1861 P.E.I. CENSUS—WE HAVE NO BAPTISMAL RECORD FOR HIM. LIKewise FOR ELLEN, EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS YOUNGER, BORN BETWEEN 1816 AND 1820.

IF THE INFORMATION YOU ARE SEEKING DOESN'T EXIST IN CHURCH RECORDS, THERE'S AN EXCELLENT CHANCE THAT IT DOESN'T EXIST—THOUGH, THERE IS A KIND OF “LAST GASP” POSSIBILITY, NAMELY, PRIVATE ESTATE RECORDS, WHICH I'LL TALK ABOUT LATER—BUT, BY THE YEAR 2005, I HAD PRETTY MUCH CONCEDED THAT THE INFORMATION I WANTED DIDN'T EXIST. IT DIDN'T MEAN THAT THERE WEREN'T THINGS TO LEARN ALONG THE WAY, HOWEVER.

Clinton Morrison and the Bulgers of Lot 11: Information and Disinformation

SOMETIME IN THE MID-1980'S, I FIRST ENCOUNTERED CLINTON MORRISON'S BOOK, *Along the North Shore: A Social History of Township 11*. THE ORIGINAL PUBLICATION WAS THE SIZE OF A TELEPHONE BOOK FOR A LARGE CITY. (IT HAS SINCE BEEN REPRINTED AS TWO VOLUMES.) WHAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE SIZE OF THE VOLUME IS A SET OF EXTENSIVE GENEALOGICAL STUDIES OF THE FAMILIES WHO LIVED IN LOT 11, INCLUDING, OF COURSE, THE BULGERS.

MORRISON LISTS THREE BULGER FAMILIES, WHICH CAN BE IDENTIFIED AS THE “John,” “Michael” AND “James” FAMILIES. John BULGER AND HIS WIFE, MARGARET PICKETT (THOUGH THE NAME MAY ACTUALLY BE PIGGOT—THERE ARE PIGGOTS IN LUGGACURREN), WERE AMONG THE FIRST GROUP OF SETTLERS IN THE 1820'S. THERE WAS A MINOR FAMINE IN IRELAND IN THE 1820'S, AND THIS MAY HAVE SPURRED THE RECRUITING OF PEOPLE TO SETTLE THE LOT, WHICH WAS OWNED BY THE WALSH FAMILY OF BALLYKILCAVAN, NEAR THE TOWN OF STRADBALLY, QUEEN'S COUNTY, IRELAND. JOHN BULGER IS SAID TO HAVE COME FROM THE PARISH OF BALLYADAMS, QUEEN'S, WHICH IS ALSO NEAR STRADBALLY.

NOW, THERE IS A KIND OF TECHNICAL CONSIDERATION IN THIS. THE TERM “PARISH” CAN MEAN A MINOR CIVIL DIVISION, SOMETHING LARGER THAN A TOWNSHIP, BUT SMALLER THAN A BARONY. OR IT CAN MEAN A RELIGIOUS PARISH. BALLYADAMS IS BOTH A CIVIL PARISH AND A RELIGIOUS PARISH OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. AND TO CONFUSE THINGS, THE RELIGIOUS PARISH OF BALLYADAMS EXTENDS BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CIVIL PARISH OF BALLYADAMS. SO, WAS JOHN BULGER FROM THE CIVIL PARISH, THE RELIGIOUS PARISH OR BOTH? LIKELY THE RELIGIOUS PARISH, AS WILL BE SEEN. I'LL CALL THIS THE “John” FAMILY.

THE SECOND BULGER INTO THE LOT, IN THE 1830's, WAS *Michael* BULGER. MICHAEL BULGER IS THE ANCESTOR OF A GOOD MANY OF THE BULGERS WHO MOVED TO RUMFORD, MAINE (AND, OF COURSE, NOT ALL OF THEM WERE NAMED BULGER, SINCE SOME WERE WOMEN. SO, THE NAMES McINNIS, BURNS, BLACKMORE, DURANT AND GOODWIN ARE FOUND AMONG MICHAEL'S RUMFORD DESCENDANTS.) MORRISON STATES THAT MICHAEL WAS BORN IN QUEEN'S COUNTY, THOUGH HIS INFORMANTS WERE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A SPECIFIC TOWNLAND, PARISH OR BARONY. (ON THE OTHER HAND, MORRISON GIVES MICHAEL'S MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME AS MCKAY. THIS IS POSSIBLE, BUT MCKAY IS USUALLY SCOTTISH. MCKEY (MCKIE) IS IRISH, AND THERE WERE MCKEYS IN LUGGACURREN.) THIS WILL BE THE "*Michael*" FAMILY.

THE THIRD BULGER, IN THE 1840's, WAS *James* –OF WHOM MUCH MORE SHORTLY–AND HIS WIFE ELLEN. THIS WILL BE, OF COURSE, THE "*James*" FAMILY.

ONE QUESTION WHICH ARISES: WERE THESE MEN RELATED? THERE SEEM TO BE DENIALS OF RELATEDNESS IN MORRISON. WHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, CENSUS RECORDS (WHICH I'LL LOOK AT MORE CLOSELY LATER) SHOW A TIMOTHY BULGER LIVING IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF JOHN BULGER, JR. AND CATHERINE BULGER–JOHN BEING A MEMBER OF THE "*John*" FAMILY AND TIMOTHY THE SON OF JAMES AND ELLEN–MORRISON'S INFORMATION SAYS "TIMOTHY BULGER WAS A SON OF ANOTHER BULGER FAMILY WHICH LIVED AT MURRAY ROAD, LOT 11 AND WAS NO RELATION TO JOHN AND CATHERINE BULGER."

IN OTHER PLACES, THOUGH, THIS KIND OF STATEMENT IS "SOFTENED" SOMEWHAT. BULGERS FROM OTHER FAMILIES ARE SAID TO BE "NOT CLOSELY RELATED".

FOR YEARS, I HAVE HELD TO THE VIEW THAT THEY WERE DEFINITELY RELATED. IN MORE OR LESS THE ORDER IN WHICH I EITHER ENCOUNTERED OR PROPOSED THE ARGUMENTS, THERE ARE SEVERAL WHICH POINT TO A RELATIONSHIP. FIRST OFF, AGATHA EVANS TOLD ME, FORTY ODD YEARS AGO, THAT THE ORIGINAL THREE WERE "COUSINS TO ONE ANOTHER." THIS WAS ECHOED BY IVAN BULGER (*John*) IN LATER YEARS, WHEN I ASKED HIM POINT BLANK IF WE WERE RELATED. HIS ANSWER WAS THAT IT WAS LIKE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS WIFE, FRANCES (*Michael*), NAMELY, THAT THERE WAS A COMMON ANCESTOR, BUT A GOOD WAY BACK, IN IRELAND.

SECOND, IN MANY RESPECTS, EVEN THOUGH IT IS OUR ANCESTRAL PLACE, LOT 11, P.E.I., IS THE BACK OF BEYOND. SINCE JOHN WAS ACTIVELY RECRUITED IN 1823, WE CAN UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S THERE. BUT WHY DOES MICHAEL SHOW UP IN THE NEXT DECADE? WITH ALL OF CANADA TO CHOOSE FROM, SOMEONE WITH THE SAME SURNAME JUST HAPPENS TO SHOW UP IN THE SAME SMALL PART OF THE WORLD?

JAMES IS EVEN MORE INTERESTING, FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE. IF HE WAS FLEEING THE FAMINE, AND IF HE WAS POOR–WHICH HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN–THEN HE WOULD HAVE TRAVELLED ON A "BRITISH SHIP" (WHICH HE DID–THOSE WITH MONEY WERE ABLE TO BOOK

PASSAGE ON AMERICAN SHIPS). “BRITISH,” OF COURSE, INCLUDES “CANADIAN”—OFTEN VESSELS WHICH HAD CARRIED TIMBER TO ENGLAND AND HAD NO CARGO FOR THE RETURN TRIP. THERE WERE TWO PLACES IN WHICH PEOPLE FLEEING THE FAMINE ORDINARILY LANDED IN CANADA, QUEBEC AND ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK (THOUGH THERE WERE SOME IRISH WHO LANDED IN HALIFAX, AND SHIPS BOUND FOR QUEBEC WERE OFTEN DIVERTED TO MIRAMICHI BY STORMS OR EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS.) IN THE LATE SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL, MOST “BRITISH” EMIGRANT SHIPS ENTERED THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE, BOUND FOR QUEBEC AND MONTREAL. THOSE CARRYING IRISH IMMIGRANTS HAD TO STOP AT THE QUARANTINE STATION AT GROSSE ISLE, JUST DOWNSTREAM FROM QUEBEC (ORDINARILY—THOUGH, IF THE STATION WAS CROWDED AND THE SHIP WAS BOUND FOR MONTREAL, IT WAS SOMETIMES ALLOWED TO PROCEED, WITH THE PASSENGERS GOING INTO QUARANTINE AT MONTREAL.) THOSE WHO SURVIVED QUARANTINE—AND THOUSANDS DID NOT—WENT ASHORE AT QUEBEC, CREATING IRISH COMMUNITIES AT ST. FOY (NEAR QUEBEC CITY) AND POINT ST. CHARLES (AT MONTREAL). MANY KEPT MOVING UP THE ST. LAWRENCE VALLEY INTO ONTARIO. (AT LEAST ONE, A MAN NAMED JOHN FORD, SIMPLY KEPT MOVING UNTIL HE REACHED THE ST. CLAIR RIVER, BETWEEN ONTARIO AND MICHIGAN, CROSSED THE RIVER, CARVED OUT A FARM AT DEARBORN, WHERE HIS SON, HENRY, WAS BORN.) SO, IF JAMES AND ELLEN HAD LANDED AT GROSSE ISLE, IT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT THEY WOULD HAVE GONE BACK DOWN THE ST. LAWRENCE—UNLESS THEY HAD A GOOD REASON TO. BUT THEY PROBABLY DIDN’T LAND THERE ANYWAY.

A SMALLER NUMBER OF SHIPS PUT IN AT ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, WHERE THE QUARANTINE STATION WAS AT PARTRIDGE ISLAND. WHILE THE NUMBER WAS SMALLER, ST. JOHN BECAME THE MAJOR PORT DURING THE WINTER, WHEN THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE WAS ICEBOUND. MORRISON’S ACCOUNT OF JAMES BULGER HAS HIM SETTLING IN NEW BRUNSWICK BEFORE MOVING ON TO P.E.I. AND LOT 11. THIS “SETTLING” IS PROBABLY ANOTHER INACCURACY IN THE ACCOUNT, BUT IT MAY DISCLOSE A GRAIN OF TRUTH, NAMELY, A WINTER CROSSING OF THE ATLANTIC, WITH A LANDING AT ST. JOHN. HOWEVER, THE IRISH WHO LANDED AT ST. JOHN TENDED TO STAY IN THE AREA, EITHER IN ST. JOHN ITSELF OR ALONG THE FUNDY COAST, (SO THAT A LOYALIST SETTLEMENT, LIKE ST. GEORGE, ALSO HAS A SUBSTANTIAL IRISH POPULATION.) THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO REASON FOR JAMES PICK UP AND MOVE OVER TO THE ISLAND, UNLESS THAT WAS WHERE HE REALLY INTENDED TO GO.

THE MORE PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT BOTH MICHAEL AND JAMES BULGER SETTLED IN THAT RELATIVELY REMOTE PART OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND BECAUSE THEY HAD RELATIVES THERE.

THIRD, THERE ARE SMALL INDICATORS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN ELIZABETH BULGER (*James*) WAS BAPTIZED IN 1847, THE SPONSORS WERE JAMES BULGER AND MARY BULGER, THE ELDEST SON AND DAUGHTER OF *John*. LIKewise, JOHN “R” BULGER’S GODMOTHER WAS A BRIDGET BULGER, WHO MAY HAVE BEEN A SISTER OF *Michael*.

FOURTH—AND THE PIECE OF EVIDENCE I ALWAYS CONSIDERED MOST TELLING, UNTIL 2009—JAMES BULGER MADE A WILL IN APRIL OF 1865 (PROBABLY THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, EVEN

THOUGH MORRISON PUTS IT AT 1873—THESE PEOPLE DIDN'T MAKE WILLS UNLESS THEY WERE AT DEATH'S DOOR.) SINCE JAMES WAS ILLITERATE, THE WILL WAS DRAFTED—USING A STANDARD FORM THAT CIRCULATED AROUND IN THOSE DAYS—BY ANOTHER JAMES BULGER, THE SON OF THE FIRST JOHN, AND THE ELDEST MEMBER OF THE “*John*” FAMILY, HIS FATHER HAVING DIED IN 1860.

NOW, IT MAY BE WONDERED HOW I KNOW THAT THE OTHER JAMES BULGER DRAFTED THE WILL. I DIDN'T FOR A LONG TIME. IT WAS ONLY WHEN I WAS GOING OVER A PHOTOCOPY OF THE ACTUAL WILL ITSELF—NOT THE PROBATE COPY I HAD USED ORIGINALLY—THAT I REALIZED THIS. JAMES IS ONE OF THE SUBSCRIBING WITNESSES TO THE WILL AND EVERY LETTER IN HIS SIGNATURE MATCHES UP WITH THE SAME LETTERS IN THE WILL ITSELF.

SO, ONE OF THE WITNESSES TO THE WILL IS THE ELDEST MALE IN THE “*John*” FAMILY. THE OTHER WITNESS IS THE ELDEST MALE IN THE “*Michael*” FAMILY, NAMELY, MICHAEL HIMSELF. NOW, IN THE DAYS OF HORSES AND BUGGIES, BOTH OF THESE MEN HAVE TRAVELLED SOME DISTANCE TO GET THERE. JAMES, BY THE SHORTEST ROUTE THEN AVAILABLE, WOULD HAVE COME FOUR AND ONE-HALF MILES AND MICHAEL ABOUT TWO AND ONE-HALF. EVEN IF JAMES WAS NECESSARY—A LITERATE PERSON TO DRAFT THE WILL—THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE CLOSER TO SERVE AS WITNESSES, FOR EXAMPLE, PATRICK MURPHY AND MICHAEL CALLAGHAN, WHO LIVE WITHIN HAILING DISTANCE. NOT FAR AWAY IS PHILLIP GAIN, JR., WHOSE SON, PATRICK, IS MARRIED TO JAMES' DAUGHTER, MARY. SO, WHY, PARTICULARLY, DOES MICHAEL HAVE TO BE THERE?

AGAIN, THE MOST LIKELY ANSWER IS THE SIMPLEST: JAMES AND MICHAEL ARE “FAMILY,” AND SUCCESSION OF PROPERTY IS FAMILY BUSINESS.

ON APRIL 15, 2009, THE QUESTION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAMES AND MICHAEL WAS SETTLED. BUT THAT COMES NEAR THE END OF THIS NARRATIVE, SO IT WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEN.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE THREE BULGER FAMILIES IS OF GENEALOGICAL INTEREST, BUT THE “NO RELATIONSHIP,” “NO CLOSE RELATIONSHIP” MISINFORMATION ALSO DEMONSTRATES THE EXTENT TO WHICH CLINTON MORRISON WAS DEPENDENT UPON HIS INFORMANTS. WHAT HE PRINTS IS WHAT HE WAS TOLD, AND IT IS AS ACCURATE AS THE TELLING. (AND ONE OF THE REASONS THAT THE INFORMANTS WERE BEING “CAGEY” ABOUT THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS MAY HAVE BEEN INTERMARRIAGE, WHERE PEOPLE WEREN'T SURE ABOUT POSSIBLY BEING TOO CLOSELY RELATED. HENCE, NO “CLOSE RELATIONSHIP” KEEPS CHURCH AND STATE AWAY FROM THE DOOR.)

MORRISON TELLS US THE FOLLOWING ABOUT JAMES BULGER, SR.:

- HE WAS BORN IN COUNTY CLARE, BETWEEN 1801 AND 1816
- HE FLED THE POTATO FAMINE OF THE MID-1840'S
- HE ARRIVED FIRST IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND LATER SETTLED ON P.E.I.
- HE WAS SHIPWRECKED OFF MALPEQUE

- HE CAME TO CASCUMPECQUE FIRST
- BECAUSE HIS WIFE, HELEN MARY ROWAN, WAS A NATIVE OF CASCUMPECQUE
- HE DIED IN 1873

MOST OF THIS INFORMATION TURNS OUT TO BE INCORRECT, THOUGH SOME OF IT IS PLAUSIBLE. MY GUESS IS THAT MY GREAT-AUNT RITA IS THE SOURCE OF MUCH OF IT, ESPECIALLY THE CASCUMPECQUE STUFF, BECAUSE HER SUMMER PLACE WAS IN CASCUMPECQUE AND, AS ALREADY MENTIONED, JAMES AND ELLEN ARE BURIED THERE.

WHAT IS CORRECT?

- HE WAS PROBABLY BORN IN LAOIS, BETWEEN 1801 AND 1816 (THE DATES COME FROM THE 1861 CANADIAN CENSUS)
- HE LIKELY FLED THE FAMINE, BECAUSE HIS DAUGHTER, CATHERINE, WHOSE BIRTH/BAPTISM DOES NOT APPEAR IN ISLAND RECORDS, STATES IN THE 1881 AND 1891 CENSUSES THAT SHE WAS BORN IN IRELAND, AND THE AGE SHE GIVES PLACES HER BIRTH IN 1844 OR 1846 OR 1847. WE KNOW THAT THE FAMILY WAS ON THE ISLAND BY JUNE OF 1847—ELIZABETH BULGER’S BAPTISM AT ST. ANTHONY’S, CASCUMPECQUE, AND WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN 1845 AND 1847 IS THE BEGINNING OF THE FAMINE—WHICH DIDN’T ACTUALLY HIT QUEEN’S COUNTY UNTIL 1846
- ARRIVAL IN NEW BRUNSWICK MIGHT NOT MEAN SETTLING THERE—THERE IS AN EXCELLENT CHANCE THAT JAMES AND FAMILY MADE A WINTER CROSSING IN 1846-47 AND LANDED AT PARTRIDGE ISLAND, GOING DIRECTLY FROM THERE TO P.E.I. IN MID-WINTER
- THE SHIPWRECK STORY IS VERY DURABLE, I HAVE HEARD IT FROM MANY RELATIVES—MY COUSIN JOHN A. BULGER, JR. CAN EVEN NAME THE VESSEL, “THE DUDLEY”—BUT THERE IS NO RECORD WHATSOEVER OF A SHIPWRECK OFF MALPEQUE—OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE AREA—IN THE 1840’S, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE SINKING IN ST. PETER’S BAY IN THE YEAR 1840 ITSELF. I SUSPECT THAT THE SHIPWRECK STORY STEMS FROM TWO INFLUENCES. FIRST, I HAVE HEARD THAT PATRICK MURPHY, WHO LIVED JUST DOWN THE ROAD FROM JAMES AND ELLEN, WAS SHIPWRECKED OFF NEWFOUNDLAND, BEFORE COMING TO P.E.I. AND, MARVEL OF MARVELS, THE NAME OF THE SHIP WAS “THE DUDLEY.” I CAN IMAGINE CHILDREN DOING THE THINGS THAT CHILDREN ALWAYS DO. “MY DADDY WAS SHIPWRECKED,” CHANT THE MURPHYS. “MY DADDY WAS SHIPWRECKED TOO,” CHANT THE BULGERS BACK AT THEM. “MY DADDY WAS SHIPWRECKED ON THE DUDLEY,” COUNTER THE MURPHYS. “MY DADDY WAS ON THE DUDLEY TOO,” REPLY THE BULGERS. AND AS THE CHILDREN GREW, THE STORY BECAME THE “TRUTH.” AND WHAT MAY HAVE ADDED SOME CREDENCE TO THIS IS THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITY: IF JAMES BULGER AND HIS FAMILY DID LAND AT NEW BRUNSWICK IN THE WINTER OF 1846-47, AND IF THEY TRIED TO MAKE THEIR WAY DIRECTLY TO THE ISLAND, THEN THEY WOULD HAVE HAD TO CROSS THE NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT IN “ICEBOATS”. THESE WERE OAR POWERED DORIES WHICH CAME EQUIPPED WITH IRON RUNNERS ON THE BOTTOM. THEY WERE ROWED OVER PATCHES OF OPEN WATER, THEN PUSHED ON THEIR RUNNERS OVER THE ICE. THE PROCESS WOULD BE REPEATED AGAIN AND AGAIN UNTIL THE SHORE WAS

EVENTUALLY REACHED. JAMES AND ELLEN'S GIRLS WERE VERY LITTLE. IF THERE WAS A SHIPWRECK STORY THAT CIRCULATED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, IT WOULDN'T TAKE MUCH FOR THEM TO CONVERT THE ICEBOAT CROSSING INTO THEIR OWN SHIPWRECK

- THE CASCUMPECQUE STORY IS SIMPLY WRONG. IT PROBABLY STEMS FROM A COMBINATION OF THINGS. THERE WAS A FAMILY NAMED "ROWE" IN CASCUMPECQUE— IT MIGHT BE THOUGHT THAT "ROWE" IS A CONTRACTION OF "ROWAN." SECOND, JAMES AND ELLEN ARE BURIED THERE, SO IT MIGHT BE THOUGHT THAT THEY ARE BURIED IN HER FAMILY PLOT. THIRD, AS I SAY, CASCUMPECQUE FIGURED LARGE IN RITA MACDOUGALL'S WORLD, AND I THINK SHE IS THE INFORMANT HERE.
- ELLEN WAS LIKELY FROM LAOIS, BUT CERTAINLY FROM IRELAND. THEY ARE BURIED IN CASCUMPECQUE FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT CASCUMPECQUE WAS WHERE ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH WAS AT THE TIME. UNTIL LOT 11 GOT ITS OWN CHURCH, ST. BRIGID'S, IN 1868, THAT WAS THEIR PARISH. IN THE ST. ANTHONY'S RECORDS, JAMES IS SHOWN AS OWING A PLOT IN THE CEMETERY
- DIED IN 1873 IS PROBABLY WRONG. AS ALREADY MENTIONED, THESE PEOPLE DIDN'T DRAW UP WILLS UNTIL THEY WERE AT DEATH'S DOOR. (MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER, NOLAN, FROM LOT 9, DREW UP HIS WILL IN 1897, AND WE KNOW THAT HE DIED IN 1897.) JAMES VERY LIKELY DIED IN APRIL OF 1865. THE 1873 DATE IS THE DATE OF THE WILL'S PROBATE. HOWEVER, IN THE WILL, JAMES GRANTS A LIFE ESTATE TO HIS WIFE, ELLEN, WITH THE LAND TO GO TO HIS SONS JOHN AND JAMES UPON HER DEATH. THE 1873 DATE IS PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH ELLEN'S DEATH. (INDEED, SHE MAY BE THE "BLANK" BULGER WHOSE BURIAL AT CASCUMPECQUE IS RECORDED IN THE ST. ANTHONY'S RECORDS IN 1872, FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT, BY 1872, THE LOT 11 PEOPLE WERE BEING BURIED AT FOXLEY RIVER AND THE BURIAL OF ONE AT CASCUMPECQUE IS LIKELY THAT OF A SPOUSE OF SOMEONE ALREADY BURIED THERE. FURTHERMORE CLINTON MORRISON DOESN'T LIST ANY OTHER BULGER PERSON DYING IN 1872 OR 1873.) THE REAL NECESSITY OF PROBATE, AS POINTED OUT BY OUR COUSIN, LARRY ARSENAULT, AROSE WHEN THE LAND HAD TO PASS TO THE BOYS.

THE INFORMATION IN CLINTON MORRISON'S BOOK, WHATEVER DEFECTS IT MAY HAVE IN ACCURACY, DID PROVIDE A PLACE TO START. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THE LATER GENERATIONS, WHERE THE ACCOUNT IS BETTER.

THUS, MORRISON STATES THAT JAMES AND ELLEN HAD AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN:

- MARY, MARRIED PATRICK GAIN, DIED 1879
- BRIDGET, MARRIED MOSES HUGHES IN 1859, LATER MOVED TO NEW YORK STATE
- CATHERINE (1845-1896), MARRIED JOHN MACGREGOR, RESIDED AT LOT 7
- ELIZABETH (1847-1925), MARRIED MICHAEL O'MEARA, RESIDED ALONG THE DOCK ROAD
- JOHN R (1849-CA1934), MARRIED JULIE ANN MACDONALD, RESIDED AT MURRAY ROAD
- MARGARET (1851)

- ANN (1852-1953), MARRIED JOHN KILBRIDE, RESIDED AT PORT HILL
- ELLEN (1853)
- JAMES J. (1855-1945), MARRIED AGNES BLANCHARD, RESIDED AT MURRAY ROAD
- TIMOTHY (1857), LATER MARRIED AND SETTLED IN PENNSYLVANIA
- MARGARET ELLEN (1859), BELIEVED TO HAVE MARRIED A MR. CROSSCUP (1) AND A MR. LYNCH (2), RESIDED IN MASS
- AND PETER (1861), MARRIED, SETTLED IN NEW YORK STATE

THIS IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT, AND GIVES US THE “BRANCHES” OF THE JAMES AND ELLEN FAMILY. SOME COMMENTS:

- BRIDGET IS OLDER THAN MARY, AS WE WILL SEE, AND SHOULD COME BEFORE HER. BRIDGET AND MOSES HUGHES MOVED TO MIRAMICHI AND THEN TO JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY.
- ELIZABETH AND MICHAEL O’MEARA LIVED MOST OF THEIR MARRIED LIVES IN BROOKLYN, N.Y., RETURNING TO THE ISLAND ONLY IN RETIREMENT.
- JOHN R. MARRIED ANN MACDONALD—THERE IS NO RECORD OF A “JULIE” IN HER NAME, THOUGH HER MOTHER WAS NAMED “JULIA.” JOHN R. DIED IN 1935
- TIMOTHY DID SETTLE IN LOCK HAVEN, PENNSYLVANIA, MARRIED MARGARET LOUNEY, AND DIED IN 1936.
- MARGARET ELLEN MARRIED RONALD CROSSCUP AND THEN BERNARD LYNCH. SHE DIED IN DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS IN 1913.
- IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT BOTH “MARGARET” (1851) AND “ELLEN” (1853) DIED IN CHILDHOOD, AND THEIR NAMES WERE BOTH GIVEN TO “MARGARET ELLEN.” HOWEVER, I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND A BAPTISMAL RECORD FOR “ANN,” BORN IN 1852. THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THE ELLEN BORN IN 1853 IS ACTUALLY ANN. IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON FOR PRIESTS TO MIX UP NAMES, AND HE MAY HAVE CONFUSED THE MOTHER’S NAME WITH THE NAME OF THE CHILD.
- FINALLY, THERE IS ONE MORE CHILD, OF WHOSE EXISTENCE I ONLY BECAME AWARE IN 2008. BUT MORE ON THAT LATER.

(At the eleventh hour—in fact, well past the eleventh hour—as this document was just about finalized and going to “press,” Clinton Morrison appeared once more. He has just published A CENTURY OF FAREWELLS: A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IMMIGRANTS, 1800-1900. This is essentially a collection of obituaries and there is one for our James. It does affect some of what appears above. However, I have decided to leave everything as is for a couple of reasons. First, part of the purpose in writing this has been to show how the journey develops—including the mis-steps. Second, the outline of this little book is intended to be mainly chronological, and this is the latest event. Since I have been somewhat critical of Morrison’s information in ALONG THE NORTH SHORE, I have decided that both chronology and fairness dictate that he get the “last word” which will come at the end.)

JJFK

IN 1987, WHICH IS AROUND THE TIME THAT I FIRST DISCOVERED CLINTON MORRISON'S BOOK (AND THE TIME THAT I FIRST HAD ACTUAL DOCUMENTARY HISTORY AS A RESULT OF A VISIT TO THE ISLAND THAT SUMMER) CENTENNIAL COLLEGE, WHERE I USED TO WORK, HIRED JOHN JOSEPH FITZPATRICK KENNEDY AS CHAIRPERSON OF LIBERAL STUDIES. (I WAS SUPPOSED TO APPLY FOR THE JOB, BUT I KNEW BETTER. THE BIG UNION HONCHO WAS PART OF THAT DEPARTMENT, AND I COULD FORESEE NOTHING BUT A WHOLE UNIVERSE OF GRIEF TRYING TO MANAGE HIM AND IT.) HOWEVER, BECAUSE I HAD BEEN THE CHAIR OF THE NOW DEFUNCT HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT (AND PARTLY BECAUSE I FELT SORRY FOR JOHN), INSTEAD OF RETURNING TO TEACHING, I SPENT THE FALL OF 1987 HELPING HIM TO ADJUST TO OUR MINI INSANE ASYLUM.

WE BECAME GOOD FRIENDS. JOHN HAD JUST COMPLETED HIS PH.D. IN PHILOSOPHY WHEN WE HIRED HIM. HE WAS AN ACCOMPLISHED HERALDRY EXPERT, AND, SUBSEQUENT TO THE TIME I KNEW HIM, HE BECAME A KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF RHODES AND MALTA, AND IS NOW THE REGIONAL VP FOR ONTARIO. WHILE HE WAS BORN AND RAISED IN NEW YORK, HE TOOK HIS B.A. AT ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

BUT, AND THIS IS PROBABLY PROVIDENTIAL, JOHN'S PARENTS WERE BOTH BORN IN COUNTY GALWAY, AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF IRISH GENEALOGY IS EXTENSIVE. EITHER FROM JOHN DIRECTLY, OR FROM SOURCES TO WHICH HE DIRECTED ME, I MANAGED TO PUT TOGETHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE BULGER/BOLGER CLAN, TOGETHER WITH SOME MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION. HIS NOTE ACCOMPANYING THE MATERIALS HE GAVE ME IS DATED FEBRUARY 13, 1989. SO, CLEARLY, BY THEN, I WAS FULLY GEARED UP FOR THE SEARCH.

LET'S START WITH THE CLAN ITSELF. THE FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON IRISH NAMES IS EDWARD MACLYSACHT.

- **Edward MacLysacht, M.A., D.Litt., M.R.I.A., *More Irish Families*, Irish Academic Press, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, 1982. p. 37**

(O) BOLGER Bolger is one of those Irish surnames which, in spite of its very un-Irish appearance in this anglicized form, presents no difficulty as to its origin. The name itself--O Bolguidhir in Irish--is certainly well disguised: the practice in modern English speech of pronouncing the G of Bolger soft adds to this; had it been written Bolgar the distortion would not have been so marked. Up to the end of the sixteenth century O'Bulgire was the usual form, though O'Boulger occurs at Ferns in 1541. Woulfe's derivation of O Bolguidhir from bolg odhar (yellow belly) seems not unreasonable, though it is not unquestioned.

The name Bolger is closely associated with south-east Leinster and is rarely found elsewhere. It is that of a sept which supplied many physicians to the chiefs in that area. There are frequent references to the name in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, to tenants, jurors and clergy as well as medical men, mainly in Co. Kilkenny; in the 1659 census it is recorded as a principal Irish name in three baronies of Co. Kilkenny, two of Co. Carlow and two of Co. Wexford. In the seventeenth century, they are more prominent in Co. Wexford than elsewhere, as is the case today. Brassell and Dermot O'Bolger, both of Ballywalter, were among the chief gentlemen of the barony of Ballagheen in 1608, and in 1570 O'Bolgirs were of sufficient importance to be consulted by the Lord Deputy and Council on a matter relating to ancient rights, especially of the Colcloughs, in Co. Wexford. The family was

well represented in James II's Irish army and, after the Jacobite defeat, in the Irish Brigade in France. Although it is safe to say that almost all Bolgers in Ireland are of O Bolguidhir stock, it is possible that the soft G referred to above is to some extent attributable to the existence of the English surname Bolger or Boulger, which is derived from the Old-French word boulgier (maker of leather bags). It is of interest to note that in most (but not all) cases where the name Bolger appears in the sixteenth century it has no terminal R so the accepted derivation may be erroneous.

ONE OF THE THINGS I'VE ALWAYS FOUND FASCINATING IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NAME MAY HAVE COME FROM *bolg odhar*, MEANING YELLOW BELLY. THE CLAN IS THOUGHT TO HAVE ORIGINATED IN WEXFORD AND "YELLOW BELLY" IS A NICKNAME FOR A WEXFORD PERSON. NOW, ADMITTEDLY, THE HISTORY OF THE TERM HAS IT ORIGINATING IN THE 17TH CENTURY—THE RESULT OF A PURE ACCIDENT, ACTUALLY—BUT IT MIGHT BE OLDER.

OTHER "CLAN" INFORMATION:

↳ ***Irish Pedigrees page 838***

Families of the Ancient Kingdom of Leinster
Ancient Families of Hy-Kinselagh

15. O'Kinsellagh, O'Cahill, O'Doyle, ***O'Bulger*** and MacCoskley were powerful clans and had large possessions in the counties of Wexford and Carlow. O'Brien of MacBrien and O'Moore, were also respectable families in Wexford.

↳ **Sir Robert E. Matheson, LL.D., Barrister at Law, Registrar General of Ireland, *Special Report on Surnames in Ireland with Notes as to Numerical Strength, Derivation, Ethnology and Distribution.* Dublin, H.M.S.O., 1909**

In the 1169-1600 period, the surname O'Bolger was principally found in counties Carlow and Kilkenny. p. 39

Table showing the Surnames in Ireland having Five Entries and upwards in the Birth Indexes of 1890, together with the Number in each Registration Province, and the Registration Counties in which these names are principally found...

Names	Ireland	Leinster	Munster	Ulster	Connaught
*Bolger	70	64	2	1	2

Counties in which principally found: Wexford, Kildare and Wicklow.

* indicates that there are variant spellings, e.g. Bulger, Boulger, Bolgar.

SO, WHAT DOES ALL THIS TELL US? FIRST OFF, THE ORIGINS OF THE CLAN ARE IN THE PROVINCE OF LEINSTER, THE MOST SOUTHEAST OF THE FOUR PROVINCES OF IRELAND (LEINSTER, MUNSTER, CONNAUGHT AND ULSTER). AGAIN, WEXFORD IS THOUGHT TO BE THE PLACE OF ORIGIN.

SECOND, WE ARE ONE OF THE CLANS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROYAL HOUSE OF LEINSTER, THE MACMURRAGH-KAVANAUGHS.

THIRD, WE WERE PROBABLY NOT MEMBERS OF THE GAELIC NOBILITY, HOWEVER IMPORTANT DERMOT AND BRASSELL O'BOLGER WERE IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES. AS JOHN KENNEDY INFORMS ME, THE KEY IS MACLYSACHT'S "*It is that of a sept which supplied many physicians to the chiefs in that area.*" AS JOHN PUTS IT, THE BOLGERS WOULD HAVE DEVELOPED EXPERTISE IN WHATEVER HEALING METHODS EXISTED AT THE TIME, BOTH FOR PEOPLE AND FOR ANIMALS. THEY WOULD HAVE KEPT THEIR CRAFT A CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET, PASSED ON FROM FATHER TO SON. AS CHIEFS THROUGHOUT LEINSTER FROM TIME TO TIME REQUIRED A HOUSE PHYSICIAN-VETERINARIAN, THE SONS WOULD BE SENT OUT TO THOSE HOUSEHOLDS. THIS, ACCORDING TO JOHN, EXPLAINS THE DISPERSAL OF THE NAME THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE-BUT MAY ALSO EXPLAIN WHY IT ISN'T FOUND ELSEWHERE.

FOURTH, EVEN THOUGH, IN 1890, THE NAME WAS FOUND PRINCIPALLY IN WEXFORD, WICKLOW AND KILDARE, OTHER SOURCES INDICATE THAT THERE ARE FOUR MAIN BRANCHES OF THE CLAN: WEXFORD, WATERFORD, KILKENNY AND CARLOW. (THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF BULGER FAMILIES IN NEWFOUNDLAND, AND THE NEWFOUNDLAND IRISH, BY AND LARGE, HAIL FROM WATERFORD.)

WE ARE VERY LIKELY FROM THE CARLOW BRANCH OF THE CLAN. I'M GOING TO REPRODUCE A MAP OF THE VARIOUS CIVIL PARISHES OF COUNTY LAOIS, IN WHICH I FOUND THE NAMES BOLGER (BULGER) AND ROWAN IN THE "HOUSEHOLDERS INDEX" (ABOUT WHICH MORE SHORTLY). NOTICE THAT THE DISTRIBUTION OF NAMES "VECTORS" ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE COUNTY. JUST BEYOND THE COUNTY LINE, AT THAT POINT, LIES THE CITY OF CARLOW.

Wills

JOHN HAD AN INDEX OF IRISH WILLS, FROM WHICH HE EXTRACTED ENTRIES WHICH CAME FROM THE DIOCESES OF LEINSTER. THE ENTRY THAT IS PROBABLY OF MOST INTEREST IS THE ONE FROM THE DIOCESE OF LEIGHLIN.

Diocese of Leighlin 1652-1800

Bolger, Honora, Cloonmore, Carlow 1662 (Entry in book only)
" Matthew, Coolrae, Carlow 1790 (Receipt for original will only)
" Stephen, Ballykenan, Carlow 1763
Bulger, Murtagh, Ballycarney, Carlow 1775
Bulger, Nicholas, Cappolugg, Queen's 1747

I HAVE PUT THE LAST ENTRY IN BOLD FOR A REASON. CAPPOLUG IS ADJACENT TO THE CURRENT TOWN OF BALLICKMOYLER. ACCORDING TO GOOGLE EARTH, BALLICKMOYLER IS 16 K, OR 10 MILES, BY ROAD, SOUTH FROM THE VILLAGE OF LUGGACURREN. THE WILL IS DATED

1747. IF THIS IS THE PROBATE DATE, THEN NICHOLAS DIED MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS BEFORE JAMES BULGER WAS BORN. IT IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE THAT A COUPLE OF GENERATIONS MIGHT HAVE INTERVENED BETWEEN THESE DATES, AND ALSO POSSIBLE THAT NICHOLAS IS AN ANCESTOR.

AND THERE IS AN INTERESTING SIDE-LIGHT TO THIS. WHEN I FIRST READ ABOUT NICHOLAS BULGER, I WENT LOOKING FOR CAPPOLUGG. I MADE A NOTE TO MYSELF AT THE TIME—OR SHORTLY AFTER—WHICH WENT LIKE THIS:

“JOHN TURNED UP THE RECORD OF THE PROBATE OF A WILL OF ONE NICHOLAS BULGER OF CAPPOLUGG, CO. LAOIS. I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND CAPPOLUGG ON ANY MAP (JOHN WARNS ME THAT IT MAY BE THE NAME OF A SINGLE FARM), BUT I HAVE FOUND A PLACE CALLED **Luggacurren** WHICH IS LOCATED CLOSE TO THE PARISH OF BALLYADAMS.”

I WROTE THAT TWENTY YEARS AGO, AND SIXTEEN YEARS BEFORE LUGGACURREN BECAME SIGNIFICANT IN OUR FAMILY HISTORY. LITTLE DID I KNOW. OH, AND OF COURSE, LUGGACURREN IS ACTUALLY **in** THE PARISH OF BALLYADAMS—THE RELIGIOUS PARISH OF BALLYADAMS, NOT THE CIVIL ONE.

(ON THE MAP BELOW, BALLICKMOYLER IS SLIGHTLY UP FROM THE BOTTOM, ALMOST ON THE CENTRE LINE. FOLLOW THE HIGHWAY NORTHWEST AND YOU WILL SEE LUGGACURREN.)

THERE WERE TWO OTHER THINGS THAT JOHN KENNEDY TAUGHT ME ABOUT. THE FIRST IS THE *Tithe Applotment Index* OF 1828. EVEN THOUGH THE GAELIC IRISH WERE, BY AND LARGE, ROMAN CATHOLIC, UNTIL 1829 THEY WERE REQUIRED TO PAY TITHES TO THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF IRELAND. THE TITHES WERE BASED ON LANDHOLDING, SO THE INDEX GIVES A KIND OF PICTURE OF WHO WAS HOLDING—ORDINARILY ON LEASES—WHAT PARCELS OF LAND IN IRELAND AS OF THAT DATE. THE DIFFICULTY IS THAT MUCH LAND-HOLDING WAS IN THE FORM OF SUB-LETS, SO THE NAMES THAT WOULD TURN UP WOULD BE THE FIRST IN WHAT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE A CHAIN OF SUB-LEASES. CONSEQUENTLY, IF THE NAME “BULGER” DOESN’T TURN UP IN THE VILLAGE OF LUGGACURREN IN THE INDEX—AND IT DOESN’T—THAT DOESN’T MEANT THAT THEY WEREN’T THERE.

THE OTHER IS *Griffith’s Valuation*. THIS WAS A GRAND TAX ASSESSMENT DONE IN THE WAKE OF THE POTATO FAMINE. IT IS FAR MORE DETAILED THAN THE INDEX. THE DIFFICULTY IS THAT IT WAS DONE IN THE LATE 1840’S AND EARLY 1850’S, SO, IN THEORY, SOMEONE WHO MAY HAVE LEFT IN 1846-47, WOULDN’T BE IN IT. JOHN POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT GRIFFITH COUNTED THE LAST TENANT TO HOLD THE PROPERTY, SO, EVEN IF THE PERSON WERE LONG GONE, HE MIGHT TURN UP IN THE *Valuation*. THIS WAS USEFUL, BUT, AS IT TURNS OUT, LED ME ON A MAJOR, BUT INTERESTING, WILD GOOSE CHASE.

THE OTHER PIECE OF ADVICE I GOT FROM JOHN WAS THIS—AND IT APPLIES TO ANY

GENEALOGICAL SEARCH—THE PLACE YOU HAVE TO START IS WITH THE MORMONS.

The Mormons and False Starts

THE PLACE TO START IS ALWAYS WITH THE MORMONS. APPARENTLY, AND I HAVE NEVER TROUBLED MYSELF TO LOOK IT UP, ONE OF THE TENETS OF THE MORMON RELIGION IS THE POSSIBILITY OF BAPTIZING THEIR ANCESTORS—OR MAYBE ANYBODY’S ANCESTORS, I’M NOT SURE—INTO THE MORMON FAITH. (YOUR SHADE CAN BE DRAGGED KICKING AND SCREAMING INTO MORMONISM, I GUESS, THOUGH I EXPECT THEY’D SAY THAT, ONCE YOU’VE PASSED ON, YOU’LL KNOW THAT MORMONISM IS THE TRUE FAITH, SO YOU’LL BE DESPERATE TO BE BAPTIZED. SORT OF A COMBINATION OF LIMBO AND PURGATORY ROLLED INTO ONE.)

THE KICKER IS, AGAIN AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THAT THEY HAVE TO HAVE A NAME. YOU CAN’T JUST WALTZ IN AND SAY: I BAPTIZE ALL MY ANCESTORS. YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO NAME THEM. THE NET EFFECT OF THIS GENEALOGY WRIT LARGE. FOR GENERATIONS, THE MORMONS HAVE BEEN COLLECTING GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION FROM ALL OVER THE PLANET, AND STORING IT AT SALT LAKE CITY.

I HAD BEEN TO THE MORMON TEMPLE IN TORONTO SOMETIME IN FEBRUARY OF 1989, PROBABLY AFTER JOHN KENNEDY HAD PROVIDED ME WITH THE INFORMATION MENTIONED ABOVE. THE REASON I KNOW THIS IS THE FACT THAT I HAVE A LETTER DATED MARCH 1, 1989, FROM THE PERSON IN SALT LAKE CITY WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRITISH ISLES RECORDS. I HAD BEEN GIVEN HIS NAME AS A CONTACT WHEN I VISITED THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE AT THE TEMPLE. THEY DIDN’T HAVE CHURCH RECORDS FOR STRADBALLY OR BALLYADAMS AT THE CENTRE—TWO OF THE PLACE NAMES THAT TURN UP IN CLINTON MORRISON’S BOOK—SO I WANTED TO KNOW IF THEY HAD THEM AT ALL.

THEIR COLLECTION OF IRISH CATHOLIC RECORDS IS “CHECKERED” AT BEST. THE MORMONS ARE BASICALLY SALESPERSONS, AND THEIR APPROACH IN IRELAND, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, WENT LIKE THIS: “LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CUSTOMS HOUSE AND THE FOUR COURTS. IF YOU LET US MAKE COPIES OF YOUR RECORDS, THOSE COPIES WILL BE SAFE IN OUR FIREPROOF, AIR-CONDITIONED VAULTS” (OR WORDS TO THAT EFFECT). SOME DIOCESES SIGNED ON, SOME DIDN’T. SOME PARISHES SIGNED ON, SOME DIDN’T. IF I SEARCH JAMES BULGER (OR BOLGER) ON THEIR WEBSITE, WITH A MARRIAGE DATE OF 1838, THE ONLY THING THAT COMES UP IS A JAMES BOLGER WHO MARRIED A MARGARET MOORE IN THE DIOCESE OF OSSORY (WESTERN LAOIS—NOT OUR PART OF THE UNIVERSE).

THEY DON’T HAVE OUR RECORDS. THEY DIDN’T THEN, AND THEY STILL DON’T. OUR ANCESTRAL DIOCESE DIDN’T “SIGN ON.”

SO, FOR THIS SEARCH, THE MORMONS WEREN’T MUCH HELP. THEY DID TURN OUT TO BE THE SOURCE OF A KIND OF HINDRANCE, THOUGH, AND THE PITFALLS ARE AS IMPORTANT AS THE SUCCESSES.

AT THEIR FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE, THEY START YOU WITH SOMETHING CALLED “THE HOUSEHOLDERS INDEX.” THIS IS AN INDEX OF ALL THE NAMES FOUND IN THE *Tithe Applotment Book* AND *Griffith’s Valuation* MENTIONED ABOVE. I PAINSTAKINGLY WROTE DOWN ALL THE REFERENCES FOR BOLGER AND ROWAN IN CLARE (BECAUSE OF MORRISON), QUEEN’S AND KING’S COUNTIES. NOTHING JUMPED OUT, THOUGH, SIXTEEN YEARS LATER, I WOULD REALIZE THAT I HAD MADE A NOTE OF TWO BOLGERS WHO MIGHT WELL BE RELATED TO US.

I HAD THOUGHT THAT THE NAME O’BOLGUIDHIR WOULD ALWAYS BE ANGLICIZED AS “BOLGER” IN IRELAND. HOWEVER, AT THE END OF A LONG AFTERNOON, I WONDERED IF THERE MIGHT BE REFERENCES FOR “BULGER.” AND THERE WERE. ALL IN KING’S COUNTY (OFFALY).

AMONG THOSE BULGERS, THERE WAS ONE NAMED JAMES—IN *Griffith’s*. IT TURNED OUT THAT THE MORMONS DIDN’T HAVE THE MICROFILMS OF *Griffith’s Valuation*, BUT THE METROPOLITAN TORONTO LIBRARY DID. SO, AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, I HIED MYSELF OFF TO THE LIBRARY.

NOW, I MUST BE FORTHRIGHT AND ADMIT THAT I LOOKED FOR BULGERS IN COUNTY CLARE. FOR ONE THING, I ALREADY KNEW THERE ACTUALLY WERE BULGERS THERE. I USED TO TEACH WITH A MAN NAMED GERARD CROTTY—A FORMER PRIEST—WHO WAS FROM THE TOWN OF KILRUSH, IN CLARE. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD GROWN UP WITH BULGERS THERE. AND FOR SURE, I FOUND ONE FAMILY OF BULGERS THERE, A WIDOW (I THINK), MARY BULGER, AND HER SON. (JOHN TOLD ME THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MIGRATION OF PEOPLE, LIKE HIS OWN FITZPATRICK ANCESTORS, TO CLARE AND GALWAY FROM THE “MIDLANDS”—THAT INCLUDES OFFALY AND LAOIS—IN THE 1700’S.) BUT THESE BULGERS HAD MONEY—THEY APPEARED, IN *Griffith’s*, TO BE BUYING UP THE PROPERTY OF PEOPLE DISPLACED BY THE FAMINE—AND, IN MY BONES, I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT WE CAME FROM POVERTY. SO, I TENDED TO DISCOUNT THESE BULGERS

AND THEN I STRUCK GOLD. OR THOUGHT I DID.

I FOUND JAMES BULGER. IN THE TOWN OF Clara (!) AHA, THINKS I, HE WASN’T BORN IN COUNTY *Clare*, AS MORRISON’S INFORMANT WOULD HAVE IT, BUT IN THE TOWN OF *Clara*, IN COUNTY KING’S. WHICH IS IN THE CIVIL PARISH OF “KILBRIDE”, A NAME CONNECTED WITH OUR CLAN ON THE ISLAND. WHAT WAS MORE, THERE WERE BULGERS AND ROWENS IN GEASHILL, JUST SOUTH OF CLARA. ‘GATHA MAY HAVE BEEN HALF RIGHT, BUT MAYBE IT WAS THE WRONG HALF. MAYBE JAMES AND ELLEN WERE BOTH BORN IN KING’S. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DISTANCES AREN’T GREAT. THE DISTANCE FROM CLARA TO PORTLAOISE, IN LAOIS, IS ABOUT 30 MILES. SO, MAYBE HE WAS BORN IN QUEEN’S (LAOIS), AND MAYBE I HAD THE MIGRATION PATTERN REVERSED, HAVING ASSUMED THAT ELLEN WAS BORN IN KING’S AND SOMEHOW MADE HER WAY TO QUEEN’S. MAYBE IT WAS THE OPPOSITE.

(IT’S WORTH NOTING THAT CLARA IS ON THE N80 ROUTE, AS IS TULLAMORE, PORTLAOISE, STRADBALLY AND BALLICKMOYLER. LUGGACURREN LIES ABOUT FIVE MILES OFF THE N80.

CONTEMPORARY ROADS IN IRELAND TEND TO FOLLOW ANCIENT ROUTES—AS ONE DISCOVERS WHEN THE ROAD NARROWS BETWEEN ANCIENT HEDGEROWS WHICH ARE NEVER GOING TO BE REMOVED. WHILE THE BULGERS IN KING’S AREN’T “OUR” BULGERS, AS IT TURNS OUT, THAT DOESN’T MEAN THAT THEY AREN’T RELATED. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY ARE PROBABLY PEOPLE WHO, LIKE US, HAD THEIR ORIGINS IN CARLOW AND WANDERED NORTH ALONG THE ROUTE WHICH IS NOW THE N80.)

I REALLY THOUGHT I HAD IT. BUT HAVING REACHED THIS POINT, IN THE SPRING OF 1989, I DIDN’T REALLY GET ANY FURTHER.

UNTIL 1991. AND THAT’S WHEN OUR COUSIN, MARYANN FLAHERTY, ENTERED THE PICTURE.

Maryann Flaherty

WHAT FINALLY CAME ABOUT ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULDN’T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT THE PERSISTENCE OF MARYANN FLAHERTY—AND THE SOLID COMMON SENSE OF LARRY ARSENAULT, BUT I’LL GET TO HIM IN A MOMENT. IN THE WINTER OF 1991, I GOT A LETTER IN THE MAIL WHICH HAD A RETURN ADDRESS OF QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS. NOW, I DIDN’T KNOW ANYONE IN QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS, BUT MY FATHER’S UNCLE RONNIE HAD LIVED IN BRAINTREE (NOT FAR AWAY), AND HIS SONS HAD CHILDREN. SO, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THOSE KIDS.

WHEN I OPENED THE LETTER, I RECALL THE WORDS “I’M A BULGER, TOO” STOOD OUT ON THE PAGE. NOW, OVER THE YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER COMMUNICATIONS FROM PEOPLE NAMED BULGER. FOR EXAMPLE, I HAVE A LETTER IN MY FILE FOLDER FROM A WOMAN WHO WROTE TO RED INQUIRING ABOUT HER BULGER ANCESTRY. HE PASSED IT ON TO ME, AND I WAS ABLE TO WRITE BACK TO HER TO TELL HER THAT WE WEREN’T RELATED. THAT WOMAN’S FAMILY COMES FROM THE ACADIAN PENINSULA OF NEW BRUNSWICK, AROUND THE TOWN OF SHIPPEGAN. WHEN I WAS ORIGINALLY “TESTING” CLINTON MORRISON’S INFORMATION, I WENT TO THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES AT FREDERICTON, N.B., LOOKING FOR ANY RECORD OF JAMES BULGER’S HAVING LIVED IN NEW BRUNSWICK. AMONG OTHER THINGS, I LOOKED AT LAND GRANTS, AND FOUND TWO BULGER BROTHERS WHO, AROUND 1800, APPLIED FOR GRANTS IN THAT AREA. THEY STATED THAT THEY WERE FROM NEWFOUNDLAND. THAT THEY HAD BEEN FRIGHTENED BY THE APPEARANCE OF A FRENCH FLEET OFF THE COAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND, SO THEY HAD FLED, AND SINCE THEY HAD GIVEN UP THEIR HOMES THERE, AND SINCE THEY WERE LOYAL SUBJECTS, WOULD THE KING GRACIOUSLY GRANT THEM 200 ACRES EACH? THE KING WOULD AND DID, THOUGH PEOPLE I KNOW FROM THAT AREA TELL ME THAT THERE ARE VERY FEW BULGERS LEFT THERE NOW.

BUT MARYANN IS THE REAL THING. SHE IS THE GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER OF MARGARET ELLEN BULGER AND BERNARD LYNCH. SHE TRACES HER ANCESTRY THROUGH HER FATHER, ROBERT CARROLL AND HIS MOTHER, MARY LYNCH. SHE HAD BEEN DOING THE FAMILY HISTORY FOR BOTH HER OWN ANCESTRY AND THAT OF HER HUSBAND, BILL, WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SUCCESS IN SOME RESPECTS, AND NONE AT ALL AS FAR AS THE BULGERS WERE

CONCERNED. MARYANN DOESN'T TAKE BLOCKADES LIGHTLY.

SO, THOUGH I HAD PRETTY MUCH PUT THE WHOLE BULGER SEARCH ON THE BACK BURNER, MARYANN GOT ME MOVING AGAIN. IN PARTICULAR, SHE GOT ME MOVING ON THE JAMES BULGER-CLARA CONNECTION. BUT MORE ON THAT IN A MOMENT.

I HAVE SAVED MOST OF THE LETTERS I HAD FROM HER OVER THE YEARS. THEY WOULD PROBABLY MAKE A BOOK ON THEIR OWN. WHAT THEY DETAIL MOST CLEARLY IS STARTS, FALSE STARTS, STARTING AGAIN, AND A WHOLE HOST OF FRUSTRATIONS-I'LL PROVIDE EXCERPTS LATER. SO, IT WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT, WHEN I FINALLY GOT TO A COMPUTER TERMINAL AT SHANNON AIRPORT, ON APRIL 28TH, 2005-THREE DAYS AFTER MY DISCOVERY IN DUBLIN-THE FIRST PERSON I CONTACTED WAS MARYANN. THE NEXT PERSON I WANTED TO CONTACT-THOUGH IT WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL I GOT TO THE ISLAND, WAS LARRY ARSENAULT.

Larry Arsenault

ALMOST EXACTLY A YEAR AFTER I "MET" MARYANN IN 1991, LARRY ARSENAULT ENTERED MY LIFE. LIKE MARYANN-AND TOM BULGER, OF AVON, MAINE-LARRY IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE COUSINS. WHAT'S FASCINATING IS THE FACT THAT ALL OF THEM ARE THIRD COUSINS, SO, IF IT SHOULD TRANSPIRE THAT OUR ANCESTOR, JAMES, WAS A THIRD COUSIN OF THE ORIGINAL JOHN BULGER AND MICHAEL BULGER, THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THERE WAS "NO CLOSE RELATIONSHIP."

LARRY APPEARED THANKS TO MARYANN. SHE HAD CONTACTED CLINTON MORRISON REGARDING HIS SOURCES FOR *Along the North Shore*. ONE OF THOSE HAD BEEN OUR COUSIN, VIVIAN MILLIGAN (GRAND-DAUGHTER OF JAMES, JR.) SO, MARYANN WROTE TO HER. NOW VIV AND HER LATE HUSBAND, JACK, DIDN'T QUITE KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THE LETTER. JACK WAS OF THE VIEW THAT MARYANN WAS MAKING INQUIRIES IN ORDER TO POSSIBLY PURSUE A CLAIM ON THE BULGER PROPERTY ON THE MURRAY ROAD, WHICH VIVIAN OWNED ("SHE'S AFTER THE LAND," WAS JACK'S COMMENT). VIVIAN DECIDED THAT THREE HEADS WERE BETTER THAN TWO, SO SHE CALLED IN LARRY ARSENAULT, HER NEPHEW.

LARRY IS A VERY BRIGHT GUY. HIS EDUCATION AND SKILLS ARE MECHANICAL-HE HOLDS A CANADA-WIDE WELDING LICENCE-BUT HIS INTELLIGENCE IS SUCH THAT HE COULD EASILY BE TEACHING ECONOMICS OR PRACTICING LAW. IF IT SOUNDS LIKE I AM BIASED, I AM. LARRY IS ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS-BUT I STAND BY MY ASSESSMENT.

LARRY QUICKLY SUMMED UP THE SITUATION FOR VIV AND JACK (MARYANN WASN'T "AFTER THE LAND"), BUT HE WAS INTRIGUED BY THE APPEARANCE OF THIS LONG-LOST COUSIN, SO HE CONTACTED HER. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION, THE FACT CAME OUT THAT I-ANOTHER LONG-LOST COUSIN-HAD RELOCATED TO THE ISLAND THE PREVIOUS SUMMER. SO, IN DUE COURSE, I GOT A PHONE CALL FROM LARRY.

I KNEW WHO HE WAS, BECAUSE MARYANN HAD MENTIONED HIM IN A LETTER. I GOT THE CALL IN THE MORNING, TOLD EL THERE WAS NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT, AND WENT OVER TO SEE HIM THAT AFTERNOON. HE WAS ON UNEMPLOYMENT AT THE TIME—WHICH MEANT THAT HE WAS WORKING IN HIS GARAGE WHEN I GOT THERE. (I’LL SAY NO MORE.) HE KNOCKED OFF AND WE WENT INTO THE HOUSE. HE WENT OFF, OSTENSIBLY TO WASH HIS HANDS—WHICH HE DID—BUT WHEN HE CAME BACK, HE WAS CARRYING AN 8 X 10 FRAMED PICTURE.

“DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE PEOPLE?” HE ASKED ME.

WHAT COULD I SAY? I KNEW ALL OF THEM. IT WAS A FORMAL PHOTO OF MY GRANDFATHER AND GRANDMOTHER, AND ALL THEIR CHILDREN, TAKEN ABOUT 1935. IT HAD BEEN IN A TRUNK OF THINGS THAT LARRY HAD INHERITED FROM ONE OF HIS AUNTS UPON HER DEATH. NOT THAT THERE WAS ANY DOUBT THAT WE WERE RELATED, OF COURSE, BUT THIS CEMENTED IT.

SINCE LARRY WAS COLLECTING UNEMPLOYMENT, AND SINCE I WAS ONLY TEACHING ONE COURSE—WHICH CAME TO AN END IN APRIL—WE DID SOME ROAMING AROUND IN THE SPRING. LARRY LIVED ON THE MURRAY ROAD UNTIL HE WAS TEN, SO HE KNOWS ALL THE INHABITANTS—AND MUCH OF THEIR HISTORY. IN OUR TRIPS “UP WEST,” HE INTRODUCED ME TO VIV AND JACK MILLIGAN, THEIR SON, WAYNE, AND HIS WIFE, JEAN.

BY CHANCE, ON ONE OF THOSE TRIPS, AS WE WERE LEAVING VIV’S, ANOTHER MILLIGAN, FOSTER, PULLED IN. FOSTER IS, BY ANY STRETCH, A CHARACTER. IN FACT, WE HAD JUST BEEN AT WAYNE’S, WHERE HE AND LARRY HAD BEEN CHUCKLING OVER SOME OF FOSTER’S EXPLOITS. I HAD BEEN HALF LISTENING, BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT FOSTER WAS ONE OF WAYNE’S RELATIVES THROUGH THE MILLIGANS. HE IS. WHAT I DIDN’T REALIZE WAS THE FACT THAT FOSTER WAS RELATED TO ME, THROUGH THE BULGERS. AS WELL. HE IS. IN FACT, WHEN WE MET AT VIV’S THAT AFTERNOON, FOSTER DESCRIBED MY GRANDFATHER TO A TEE.

SO, THROUGH LARRY, I WAS FULLY INTRODUCED TO LOT 11 AND THE MURRAY ROAD. AND THERE ARE A COUPLE OF STORIES THAT GO ALONG WITH THIS. IN 1965, JUST AFTER WE WERE MARRIED, MY PARENTS TOOK EL AND MYSELF TO HALIFAX, SO THAT I COULD START MY FINAL YEAR IN UNIVERSITY. ON THE WAY, WE SPENT AN AFTERNOON, A NIGHT, AND A GOOD CHUNK OF THE NEXT DAY ON THE ISLAND. IT WAS ONE OF MY FATHER’S ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE HIS AUNT AGATHA. IT FAILED THAT YEAR. BUT WE DID END UP IN FREELAND, WHICH MY FATHER KNEW TO BE THE TOWNLAND HIS FATHER HAD COME FROM.

WE STOPPED AT THE FREELAND STORE. MY FATHER WENT IN TO MAKE INQUIRIES ABOUT OUR RELATIVES. WHEN HE CAME OUT, HE SAID THAT WE WERE TO RETURN IN THE DIRECTION WE HAD COME, TURN LEFT AT THE HOUSE WITH “ALL THE FLOWERS” AROUND IT, AND GO UP ABOUT A MILE, AND THERE WOULD BE A WHITE FARMHOUSE ON THE LEFT. THE WOMAN WHO LIVED IN THE FARMHOUSE WOULD BE A RELATIVE OF OURS.

NOW, I WAS 21, AND, OF COURSE, SMARTER THAN GOD. I KNEW THAT THERE CERTAINLY WOULD BE A WHITE FARMHOUSE AND A WOMAN. BUT HOW WOULD SOME BACKWOODS STOREKEEPER KNOW THAT SHE WAS A RELATIVE OF OURS? RIDICULOUS.

SHE WAS, THOUGH. SHE WAS MARY ELLEN (BULGER) ARSENAULT—ALWAYS KNOWN AS “NELL”. SHE WAS THE SISTER OF JAMES EDWARD BULGER (ED), WHO LIVED IN RUMFORD. BOTH WERE CHILDREN OF JAMES BULGER, JR., AND, OF COURSE, MY GRANDFATHER’S FIRST COUSINS. TWENTY-SIX AND ONE-HALF YEARS LATER (OR MAYBE A LITTLE EARLIER), I WOULD MEET NELL’S GRANDSON, LARRY.

THIS WAS MY FIRST INTRODUCTION TO THE MURRAY ROAD—THAT’S THE ROUTE YOU’RE ON WHEN YOU TURN AT THE HOUSE WITH ALL THE FLOWERS. WE HAD “TEA” IN THE KITCHEN (AN ISLAND TEA, READ “LUNCH”). AND AFTERWARD, MY FATHER PUT THE QUESTION: “WHERE, EXACTLY, DID THE BULGERS COME FROM? WHERE WAS MY FATHER BORN?”

“STAND UP,” SAID NELL, “AND COME TO THE WINDOW.”

“THERE,” SHE SAID, AND POINTED ACROSS THE ROAD. ACROSS THE ROAD, WAS THE PLOT OF LAND JAMES BULGER, SR., LANDED ON, PROBABLY IN THE SPRING OF 1847. THE PLACE OF OUR ORIGINS IN NORTH AMERICA—ABOUT WHICH MORE SHORTLY.

AFTER EL AND I MOVED TO THE ISLAND IN THE FALL OF 1967, WE WENT TO THE MURRAY ROAD ONCE OR TWICE. NELL AND HER HUSBAND, ERNEST, ONLY LIVED IN THE FARMHOUSE IN THE SUMMER. ONCE FALL CAME, THEY RETURNED TO A SENIORS’ APARTMENT IN MISCOUCHE. SO, I DIDN’T SEE HER AGAIN IN LOT 11. AND IN 1968-1969, WE DIDN’T GO UP AT ALL.

WHEN WE RETURNED TO THE ISLAND FROM 1976 TO 1982, WE MADE A FEW TRIPS TO THE MURRAY ROAD. ONE OF THE THINGS WE’D USUALLY DO WAS TAKE A TRIP DOWN TO THE SHORE ALONG WHAT I NOW KNOW TO BE THE MICKEY’S SHORE ROAD. AT THE END OF THE ROAD, THERE IS A NARROW BEACH, WHICH EXTENDS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. (IF YOU WALK FAR ENOUGH TO THE RIGHT, YOU’RE ON LAND WHICH JAMES BULGER, SR. OWNED.)

THE FIRST TIME WE WENT TO MICKEY’S SHORE WAS IN THE SUMMER OF 1976. WHEN I WALKED OUT ONTO THE BEACH, I HAD ONE OF THOSE EXPERIENCES THAT ARE ALWAYS UNSETTLING. WHEN I WAS A CHILD, (500 MILES AWAY, IN RUMFORD, MAINE—NEVER HAVING BEEN TO THE ISLAND) I HAD THE FLU ONE SUMMER, WITH A HIGH FEVER. JUST BEFORE MY FEVER BROKE, I HAD A DREAM. I REMEMBER IT CLEARLY, BECAUSE IT WAS SO VIVID—A FEVER DREAM—AND IT WAS JUST BEFORE I WOKE. IN MY DREAM, I WAS ON A BEACH, WITH A RELATIVELY NARROW EXPANSE OF GREENISH SEAWATER BETWEEN ME AND DUNES ON THE OTHER SIDE.

AND THAT’S EXACTLY WHAT YOU SEE FROM MICKEY’S SHORE. SPOOKY.

TO ADD TO THIS, ONE LAST STORY. EVERY TIME WE WENT DOWN TO MICKEY'S SHORE, WE WERE A BIT NERVOUS, BECAUSE THERE WERE A COUPLE OF COTTAGES DOWN THERE. WE WERE AFRAID THAT THE BEACH MIGHT BE PRIVATE PROPERTY AND WE WOULD BE TRESPASSING. THAT IS PART OF THE EXPLANATION FOR WHAT HAPPENED ON OUR FIRST TRIP THERE WHEN WE RETURNED TO THE ISLAND IN THE SUMMER OF 1991.

WE WENT DOWN TO MICKEY'S SHORE, EL AND I. AS USUAL, THERE WAS NO ONE AROUND, EXCEPT FOR SOME PEOPLE IN A BOAT. WELL, FOUR PEOPLE WERE IN THE BOAT, AND ONE WAS WADING IN TOWARD SHORE AND PULLING IT BEHIND HIM. THE PERSON PULLING THE BOAT REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE. HE WAS A PRETTY BIG BUILT GUY, WITH A MOP OF DARK HAIR (AND IT WAS ONLY WHEN I WAS DRIVING HOME LATER THAT I REALIZED HE REMINDED ME OF TOM BULGER'S BROTHER, JOEY.) THERE WAS A SMALLER BUILT MAN IN THE BOAT, ALONG WITH THREE YOUNG BOYS.

NOW, I WAS NERVOUS, BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT WE WERE TRESPASSING. AND I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE THESE WERE THE PEOPLE WHO OWNED THE COTTAGES. SO, I WASN'T PLANNING TO HANG AROUND. I DO RECALL THAT THE MAN TOWING THE BOAT SPOKE TO US, AND I DO REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID: "WE'RE JUST LOOKING FOR A FEW OYSTERS."

YEARS LATER, LARRY TOLD ME THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY HAD BEEN STAYING UP AT LOT 11 IN THE SUMMER OF 1991 IN A TRAILER HE HAD IN THOSE DAYS. I REMEMBER THE TRAILER, BECAUSE IT WAS PARKED NEAR WHERE NELLIE ARSENAULT'S HOUSE USED TO BE. (THE HOUSE WAS GONE—THERE WAS A MINI-HOME ON THE SITE). ONE DAY, HE, HIS THREE SONS AND WAYNE MILLIGAN WENT OUT IN A DORY WAYNE HAD—OR BORROWED—LOOKING FOR OYSTERS. AS THEY WERE COMING IN TO SHORE, THEY SAW A COUPLE OF PEOPLE STANDING ON THE BEACH. APPARENTLY, THERE WAS A NEW OYSTER WARDEN IN THE AREA, SOMEBODY WAYNE DIDN'T KNOW. AND, OF COURSE, THE TAKING OF OYSTERS WITHOUT A LICENCE IS ILLEGAL. THAT'S WHY THERE ARE WARDENS. WAYNE FIGURED THAT, IF THIS WAS THE WARDEN, HE'D BETTER OWN UP TO WHAT THEY WERE DOING.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SINCE I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT TRESPASSING, WE VERY QUICKLY LEFT. NO INTRODUCTIONS, NO FURTHER CHIT-CHAT. AND I WOULD GUESS THAT, GIVEN THE OYSTER PICKING, THEY WERE GLAD TO SEE US LEAVE.

SO, DID I MEET LARRY BEFORE I MET HIM? I THINK SO. WHEN I MET WAYNE IN THE SPRING OF 1992, HIS HAIR WAS MORE TRIMMED THAN THAT OF THE BOAT-TOWING PERSON I HAD SEEN THE SUMMER BEFORE, BUT HE STILL REALLY REMINDED ME OF JOEY BULGER (WHO WOULD BE, OF COURSE, A SECOND COUSIN.) LARRY IS A SMALL-BUILT MAN, AND, AS I SAY, HE HAS THREE SONS. SO, I THINK IT WAS WAYNE, LARRY AND THE BOYS WHO WERE COMING INTO MICKEY'S SHORE ON THAT SUMMER DAY.

The Land

BECAUSE HE SPENT PART OF HIS CHILDHOOD ON THE MURRAY ROAD, LARRY STEERED ME

TOWARD A STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF THE LAND WHERE THE BULGERS LANDED AND LIVED. YEARS BEFORE, AT THE ARCHIVES, I HAD COPIED DOWN JAMES BULGER, SR.'S WILL. LARRY INTRODUCED ME TO THE REGISTRY OFFICE, WHERE OTHER RECORDS WERE LOCATED. AND I WENT BACK TO THE ARCHIVES FOR STILL MORE.

IN JAMES BULGER, SR.'S WILL, HE STATES:

First I give and bequeath to Ellen my dearly beloved wife my farm of land consisting of 88 acres during her life and after her death the said 88 acres of land shall be possessed by my two sons namely John Bulger and James Bulger...

NOW, 88 ACRES MAY NOT SEEM LIKE MUCH, IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS. AND CERTAINLY, IT WAS A BIT OF A COME DOWN FROM THE 100 ACRES ORIGINALLY AWARDED TO JAMES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IN 1856, BUT, IN THE INTERVENING YEARS, IT HAD BECOME OBVIOUS THAT JAMES WAS NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO PAY OFF THE COST OF 100 ACRES, SO THE PARCEL WAS REDUCED IN SIZE.

HOWEVER REDUCED IN SIZE IT MAY HAVE BEEN, IN IRELAND, 88 ACRES WOULD HAVE BEEN A HUGE ESTATE. EXPERTS ON THE FAMINE POINT OUT THAT ANYONE WHO LEASED FEWER THAN FIVE ACRES OF LAND WAS UNLIKELY TO HAVE SURVIVED (WHICH WAS ANOTHER REASON WHY I THOUGHT THAT THE JAMES BULGER IN CLARA MIGHT BE OUR JAMES. HE HAD TWO ACRES ONLY.) SO, IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON FOR THE IRISH TO FARM FEWER THAN TEN ACRES. TEN TIMES THAT AMOUNT WAS ONLY FOR THE WEALTHY. THOUGH JAMES WAS FAR FROM WEALTHY, IT MUST HAVE BEEN A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE PRIDE FOR HIM TO LEAVE AN 88 ACRE FARM TO HIS HEIRS.

BUT THE FACT THAT HE OWNED 88 ACRES OF LAND AT ALL IS SOMETHING OF A SMALL MIRACLE, FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, UNTIL THE 1870'S, TOWNSHIPS (LOTS) ON P.E.I. WERE OWNED BY LARGE LANDHOLDERS—MOST OF WHOM WERE ABSENTEES—SO THAT MOST FARMERS WERE MERELY LEASEHOLDERS AND PAID RENT. ONE EXCEPTIONAL CASE WAS LOT 11, OWNED BY THE WALSH FAMILY OF BALLYKILCAVAN, COUNTY QUEENS, IRELAND. IN 1856, THEY SOLD THEIR HOLDINGS—PRESUMABLY AT A BARGAIN PRICE, OR THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUY THE LOT—TO THE COLONY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. MORRISON POINTS TO THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF JAMES WARBURTON, THE WALSH'S AGENT, IN ACHIEVING THIS. BUT MY OWN SUSPICION IS THAT THE WALSH FAMILY WAS OPEN TO LETTING THE LAND GO CHEAPLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS, BECAUSE THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY AT THAT TIME WAS THE REVEREND RAPHAEL WALSH, A CHURCH OF IRELAND PRIEST.

SECOND, IN THE CASE OF JAMES, IT ISN'T ENTIRELY CLEAR THAT HE WAS LEASING ANYTHING FROM THE WALSHS. IF ONE STUDIES THE LAND GRANTS OF 1857, MOST READ SOMETHING LIKE, "LAND PREVIOUSLY LEASED..." BUT NOT IN THE CASE OF JAMES. THE VERY FIRST ENTRY READS:

Feb 14 To purchase 50 acres of land in his occupation on Lot 11 @ 8/ per acre
596

THE PHRASE "LAND IN HIS OCCUPATION" SOUNDS VERY MUCH LIKE WHAT LAWYERS WOULD CALL "POSSESSORY TITLE," NAMELY, HE HAD A BARE POSSESSION OF THE LAND, WITHOUT OTHER LEGAL CLAIM. IN OTHER WORDS, HE WAS SQUATTING.

IT'S CERTAINLY POSSIBLE. THE MURRAY ROAD, AND IN PARTICULAR THE AREA OF THOSE 88 ACRES, IS SORT OF THE BACK OF BEYOND. I'VE REPRODUCED PART OF THE MAP OF LOT 11, TAKEN FROM THE *Meacham Atlas* OF 1880. THE JOHN BULGER FARM (JAMES) IS LOCATED AT THE RIGHT OF THE MAP, AT THE SHORELINE, IN LINE WITH THE "N" IN "NARROWS". THE MAIN ROAD INTO THE AREA, IN THOSE DAYS, WAS THE LUKE ROAD WHICH CAME DIRECTLY FROM FOXLEY RIVER. SO EVEN THOUGH JAMES' FARM WAS CLOSE TO WHERE THE MURRAY ROAD JOINS THE LOT 11 ROAD, THIS PART OF THE MURRAY ROAD WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HEAVILY TRAVELLED, SINCE THE REAL CENTRE OF THE LOT WAS AT FOXLEY RIVER. SO, IT MAY HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO EFFECTIVELY HIDE FROM WARBURTON.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT MAY HAVE BEEN DONE WITH WARBURTON'S CONNIVANCE. HE HIMSELF WAS IRISH, FROM KING'S COUNTY. BY 1847, THE FAMINE WAS PROVING ITSELF ONE OF THE TRULY GREAT TRAGEDIES OF IRELAND. JAMES BULGER AND FAMILY MAY HAVE LANDED IN LOT 11 WITH LITERALLY NOTHING MORE THAN THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS—AND THEIR LIVES. WHEN THESE DESTITUTE PEOPLE APPEARED IN THE LOT, WARBURTON MAY SIMPLY HAVE TOLD THEM TO FIND AN EMPTY PLOT AND START TO FARM.

IN ANY EVENT, I THINK JAMES WAS SQUATTING, AND BY THE GRACE OF GOD—OR FORTUNE—HE WAS "IN OCCUPATION" OF LAND WHEN THE WALSHS DECIDED TO SELL IT TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE GOVERNMENT, IN TURN, SOLD IT—ON TIME PAYMENTS—TO THE PEOPLE FARMING IT. FROM POTATO FAMINE DESTITUTE, IN LESS THAN TEN YEARS, JAMES HAD BECOME A LANDOWNER.

HE PURCHASED 50 ACRES, AT 8 SHILLINGS AN ACRE, IN 1857. (THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REDUCED TO 6 SHILLINGS IN MAY OF 1864, BY ORDER IN COUNCIL). HE ADDED ANOTHER 50 ACRES IN 1858. HE MADE PAYMENTS IN 1857, 1858 AND 1859. THEN THERE WAS NOTHING UNTIL 1864 (PROBABLY AFTER THE REDUCTION IN PRICE). EARLIER IN THE YEAR, IN FEBRUARY, THE ACREAGE WAS REDUCED TO 86 ACRES FROM 100, PROBABLY REFLECTING THE DIFFICULTY IN PAYING OFF THE DEBT.

THEN THE RECORD GOES SILENT UNTIL FEBRUARY OF 1873, WHEN, APPARENTLY, INTEREST OWING WAS FORGIVEN. IN MARCH OF 1873, THE WILL OF JAMES BULGER, SR. WAS TAKEN TO PROBATE, AND A DEED TO "100 ACRES" IS REQUESTED BY JOHN BULGER.

NOW, IN THESE TRANSACTIONS, THERE MAY BE SHENANIGANS. TEN DAYS BEFORE THE REQUEST FOR THE DEED, JOHN "R" HAD PURCHASED HIS BROTHER, JAMES', SHARE OF THE PROPERTY FOR THE SUM OF \$13—A BILL OF SALE WAS DRAWN UP TO THAT EFFECT BY THE

OTHER "JAMES BULGER", SAME JAMES BULGER WHO HAD DRAWN UP THE WILL. WHETHER JOHN WAS UNABLE TO COME UP WITH THE \$13 OR NOT WILL NEVER BE KNOWN. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT, ON MARCH 24, JOHN "R" THOUGHT HE OWNED 100 ACRES.

(JOHN "R" WASN'T BORN WITH THE "R". HE HAD NO MIDDLE NAME. HE GAVE HIMSELF THE "R" IN ORDER TO DISTINGUISH HIMSELF FROM OTHER JOHN BULGERS IN LOT 11.)

IN LIGHT OF WHAT CAME LATER, WHAT MAY HAVE HAPPENED IS THIS: IF JOHN "R" WAS UNABLE TO COME UP WITH THE \$13, WHAT HE CERTAINLY MANAGED TO DO WAS SWITCH HIS INHERITANCE FROM THE NORTH SIDE OF THE PROPERTY TO THE SOUTH, WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN JAMES'. WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IS THAT THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE PROPERTY WAS WHERE THE HOUSE STOOD, SO, WHATEVER THE STATE OF OWNERSHIP, JOHN "R" MADE SURE THAT HE GOT THE HOUSE.

AND HE MAY ALWAYS HAVE THOUGHT THAT HE OWNED 100 ACRES, WHEREAS THE ACTUAL PARCEL WAS 86 (NOT THE 88 ACRES JAMES, SR. THOUGHT HE HAD). ON THE MAP REPRODUCED EARLIER, THE ORIGINAL 100 ACRE PARCEL IS REPRESENTED AS A RECTANGLE (DOTTED LINE), DIVIDED ALMOST IN HALF BY THE MURRAY ROAD. THE ACTUAL 86 ACRES IS THE TRIANGLE, OF WHICH THE BULK IS EAST OF THE ROAD.

THIS IS THE BEST INTERPRETATION THAT CAN BE PLACED ON WHAT HAPPENED LATER. WHEN JAMES, JR. GOT MARRIED, IN 1883, HE WANTED HIS OWN HOUSE (HE HAD LIVED WITH JOHN AND ANNIE—HE'S PART OF THE HOUSEHOLD IN THE 1881 CENSUS.) SO, ONE CAN ALMOST SEE JOHN "R" POINTING ACROSS THE ROAD AND SAYING, WHY DON'T YOU BUILD OVER THERE? THAT'S WHAT JAMES DID—THE WHITE HOUSE IN WHICH WE FOUND NELLIE IN 1965. IF JOHN "R" STILL THOUGHT HE AND HIS BROTHER OWNED 100 ACRES, AND IF HE THOUGHT THAT THE 100 ACRES WAS THE ORIGINAL RECTANGLE, THEN "OVER THERE" WOULD HAVE BEEN ON JAMES' NORTHERN PART OF THE PROPERTY (THE TWO PARTS HAVING BEEN SWITCHED.) THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THE LOCATION OF JAMES' HOUSE WAS JUST ABOVE THE ACTUAL PROPERTY LINE, THE TRIANGULAR SIDE SLICING FROM NORTHEAST TO SOUTHWEST.

IN 1883, THAT PROPERTY WAS UNOCCUPIED. TWENTY YEARS LATER, IT WAS PART OF A PARCEL PURCHASED BY JOSHUA HENDERSON. IN 1903, JAMES DISCOVERED THAT HE DIDN'T OWN THE LAND ON WHICH HIS HOUSE SAT. HENDERSON WAS WILLING TO SELL JAMES THE PROPERTY, BUT IN ORDER TO BUY "HIS" LAND, JAMES HAD TO TAKE OUT A MORTGAGE FOR \$110—A SUM HE WAS NEVER ABLE TO PAY OFF FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE. ONLY UPON HIS DEATH, IN 1945, DID NELLIE ARSENAULT MAKE THE FINAL PAYMENTS, JOINING HER FATHER'S ACRES TO PROPERTY SHE AND ERN ALREADY OWNED.

BUT EVEN TRYING TO PUT THINGS IN THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE LIGHTS, JOHN "R" DOESN'T COME OUT LOOKING ALL THAT GOOD. HE MANAGED THINGS SO THAT HE GOT THE PART OF THE PROPERTY HIS FATHER HAD WILLED TO JAMES. AND EVEN IF HE INNOCENTLY THOUGHT THAT JAMES COULD SAFELY BUILD HIS HOUSE ACROSS THE ROAD, IT WAS JAMES WHO ENDED

UP ON THE SHORT END THINGS. IT WAS SAID, IN THE FAMILY, THAT JAMES AND JOHN DID NOT SPEAK TO ONE ANOTHER FOR THE LAST THIRTY YEARS OF JOHN'S LIFE—AND THAT WOULD PRETTY MUCH BE FROM 1903 TO 1935.

AND HE MAY HAVE BEEN A ROGUE. JOHN "R" WAS ILLITERATE, BUT HE WAS NO FOOL. MORRISON RECOUNTS THE FOLLOWING STORY:

Perhaps the greatest debater within the Lot was John R. Bulger, known locally as "Irish Johnny." He was a remarkable man for his wit and impromptu humour and, although he possessed very little education, he came to be known far and wide for his oratorical skill. His parents had settled at Murray Road during the mid-1800's, having fled from Ireland during the potato famine; although he was born within the Lot, he had a distinctive Irish brogue and hence his nickname. About 1910 he participated in a debating session at Freeland Hall; the topic for debate was "Which is greater, the work of art or the work of nature?" One of his competitors was a young man by the name of Ira Banks. Ira occupied the stage first and skillfully expounded upon the beauty of great works of art, mentioning in the course of his talk the grandeur and beauty of the female form cast in marble for future generations to marvel over. When it came to "Irish Johnny's" turn he methodically and artfully explained in wonderful detail the beauty of the works of nature as opposed to works of art. He adamantly opposed young Ira's point of view and to prove his point he summarized his discourse by asking the young man several questions which proved his downfall and won for "Irish Johnny" the thunderous approval of the audience: "Irish Johnny": "Did you ever take a girl out, Ira?" Ira: "Yes, Mr. Bulger." "Irish Johnny": "Did you ever put your arm around her?" Ira (sheepishly): "Yes, sir." "Irish Johnny": "Well, then, which do you think is greater, art or nature?"

WHATEVER THE CASE, JOHN "R"'S FINAGLING WOULD EVENTUALLY CATCH UP WITH HIM. IN 1911, HE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE ISLAND, WITH HIS WIFE, ANNIE (MACDONALD), TO LIVE IN THE U.S. (PROBABLY RENT FREE WITH EACH OF HIS CHILDREN IN TURN.) HE RECONVEYED THE PROPERTY TO HIMSELF AND HIS SON, FRANK, AS JOINT TENANTS. FRANK'S PART OF THE BARGAIN WAS TO PROVIDE "IRISH JOHNNY" WITH INCOME WHILE HE WAS SOJOURNING AMONGST THE AMERICAN BRANCHES OF HIS FAMILY.

THIS ARRANGEMENT LASTED UNTIL 1926/27. IN DECEMBER OF 1926, FRANK SOLD HIS INTEREST BACK TO JOHN "R" FOR THE PRINCELY SUM OF \$1 (WHICH MAY HAVE LITERALLY BEEN THE CASE, THOUGH DEEDS ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ALWAYS RECITED A SELLING PRICE OF \$1, REGARDLESS OF THE ACTUAL AMOUNT). IN JANUARY OF 1927, JOHN "R" SOLD THE PROPERTY TO ERNEST ARSENAULT, THE HUSBAND OF HIS NIECE NELLIE.

MY INTERPRETATION OF THIS "SALE" GOES LIKE THIS. AT THE TIME OF THE SALE, ERN ARSENAULT WAS LIVING IN KENOGAMI (NOW JONQUIERE) IN QUEBEC. JOHN "R" HAD, APPARENTLY, SEPARATED FROM ANNIE. HE INTENDED TO LIVE ON THE MURRAY ROAD PROPERTY, BUT HE NEEDED MONEY. SO, HE TRIED A VARIATION ON THE SCHEME HE HAD WORKED WITH FRANK IN 1911. HE KNEW THAT ERN WASN'T GOING TO ENTER INTO A JOINT

TENANCY ARRANGEMENT, BUT HE PROBABLY ASSUMED THAT ERN WAS GOING TO CONTINUE TO LIVE AND WORK IN THE PAPER MILL IN KENOGAMI, AND WAS SIMPLY BUYING THE LAND FOR HIS FUTURE RETIREMENT. IN THE MEANTIME, JOHN "R", WHO WAS APPROACHING HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY, FIGURED THAT HE COULD GO ON LIVING THERE UNTIL HE PASSED ON TO HIS ETERNAL REWARD.

NOT SO. ERN AND NELLIE ARSENAULT WANTED TO COME HOME. AND TO HIS SHOCK, JOHN "R" DISCOVERED THAT THEY WANTED HIM TO VACATE THE FARM. APPARENTLY, HE RESISTED AT FIRST. THEN HE HUNG AROUND THE LOT FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, LIVING WITH BESSIE (DOYLE) MORAN FOR A WHILE (HIS LIVING ROOM SET LEFT THE ISLAND IN THE POSSESSION OF ONE OF BESSIE'S CHILDREN WHO MOVED TO HAMPTON, N.B.). EVENTUALLY, HIS DAUGHTER, AGATHA (BULGER) EVANS CAME AND COLLECTED HIM, AND TOOK HIM TO LIVE WITH HER AND HER FAMILY IN ST. THERESA'S, P.E.I. AND WHEN HE BECAME TOO SENILE TO HANDLE, SHE PLACED HIM IN THE SACRED HEART HOME IN CHARLOTTETOWN, WHERE HE DIED ON JANUARY 28, 1935, AT THE AGE OF 86.

AS I'VE ALREADY MENTIONED, NELLIE PAID OFF THE MORTGAGE ON JAMES' PROPERTY WHEN HE DIED IN 1945. EITHER NELLIE AND FAMILY HAD BEEN LIVING WITH JAMES, OR THEY TOOK OVER THE PROPERTY UPON HIS DEATH. WHATEVER THE CASE, ON MAY 16, 1946, THE 88 ACRES JAMES BULGER, SR., HAD—ONE ASSUMES WITH SOME PRIDE—WILLED TO HIS SONS, WAS SOLD BY ERN ARSENAULT TO ILO THOMPSON, AND PASSED OUT OF THE FAMILY.

Maryann comes to the Island—and we find other Bulgers

IN JUNE OF 1992, MARYANN FLAHERTY CAME TO P.E.I., FOR A BRIEF VISIT. THE HIGH POINT OF THE VISIT WAS A TRIP "UP WEST" TO LOT 11. WE WENT DOWN TO MICKEY'S SHORE AND WALKED ALONG THE BEACH UNTIL WE COULD BE REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT WE WERE ON LAND OWNED BY JAMES BULGER, SR. THEN WE RETURNED TO WAYNE MILLIGAN'S MINI-HOME (SEE PHOTO), WHICH WAS BUILT JUST SOUTH OF WHERE JAMES BULGER, JR. HAD BUILT THE WHITE FARMHOUSE IN WHICH I MET NELLIE IN 1965.

MARYANN WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN LOCATING A RHUBARB PLANT ON THE OLD BULGER PROPERTY. A TALE PASSED DOWN IN HER BRANCH OF THE FAMILY SAYS THAT ELLEN RUANE BULGER PLANTED THE RHUBARB WHEN SHE FIRST LIVED ON THE MURRAY ROAD. WELL, FOR CERTAIN, THERE WAS A RHUBARB PLANT—THERE IS A PHOTO OF MARYANN WITH IT. IS IT THE SAME ONE? ALL I KNOW IS THIS: THE RHUBARB PLANTS WE HAVE ON OUR PROPERTY COME UP YEAR AFTER YEAR IN THE SAME LOCATION, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE ACTUALLY HARVESTED. THEY REQUIRE NO CARE THAT I CAN SEE, SO IT'S CERTAINLY POSSIBLE THAT RHUBARB PLANTED IN THE SUMMER OF 1847 COULD STILL BE THERE IN 1992, PROVIDED IT WASN'T DUG UP IN THE MEANTIME. AND THE LOCATION OF THE PLANT IS IN A GARDEN PATCH, WHICH COULD WELL HAVE BEEN IN USE CONTINUALLY OVER THE YEARS.

THE OTHER HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIP WAS A VISIT WITH VIVIAN MILLIGAN. VIV IS ONE OF THE NICEST PEOPLE ON GOD'S GREEN EARTH. BUT MARYANN WAS NERVOUS ABOUT MEETING

HER—WE'D TOLD HER ABOUT JACK'S "SHE'S AFTER THE LAND" HYPOTHESIS. WE LET MARYANN STEW, KNOWING FULL WELL HOW DELIGHTED VIV WOULD BE TO MEET HER. WHICH, OF COURSE, SHE WAS.

WE HAD TEA. AND AFTER THAT, VIV GOT OUT A BOX OF OLD PHOTOS THAT HAD BELONGED TO HER MOTHER, NELLIE. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF THEM THAT CAUGHT OUR ATTENTION. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WAS ONE OF A "TANSEY HUGHES". JAMES AND ELLEN'S DAUGHTER, BRIDGET, HAD MARRIED MOSES HUGHES, IN 1859, AND—ACCORDING TO MORRISON—"LATER MOVED TO NEW YORK STATE" (ACTUALLY, NEW JERSEY, AS WE LEARNED.) ALSO, MORRISON HAD PETER BULGER, THE YOUNGEST OF JAMES AND ELLEN'S CHILDREN, SETTLING IN NEW YORK. AND TIMOTHY, THE THIRD FROM THE YOUNGEST, "LATER MARRIED AND SETTLED IN PENNSYLVANIA."

I THINK IT WAS THIS EXPERIENCE THAT PLANTED THE NOTION THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO FIND THE OTHER "BRANCHES" OF JAMES AND ELLEN'S FAMILY, IF WE COULD. (AS IT IS, WE HAVE CONTACTS WITH SIX OF THE TEN BRANCHES—AND, IN REALITY, IT SHOULD BE SIX OF NINE, SINCE ELIZABETH BULGER HAD NO CHILDREN.) THAT PROCESS STARTED THAT AFTERNOON.

WE FOUND TWO PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AROUND THE YEAR 1900, JUDGING FROM THE STYLES OF THE CLOTHING. BOTH WERE FORMAL, IN CARDBOARD FRAMES. ONE WAS OF A MAN AND TWO SMALL BOYS. THERE WAS A NOTE ON THE BACK IDENTIFYING THE BOYS, BUT NOT THE MAN. HOWEVER, THE FRAME OR MAT HAD THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S ADDRESS—BROOKLYN, N.Y. GIVEN MORRISON'S INFORMATION, WE WONDERED IF THIS MIGHT BE PETER BULGER. BROOKLYN NARROWED IT DOWN, BECAUSE IT WAS IN NEW YORK.

THE SECOND PHOTOGRAPH WAS OF FOUR SMALL CHILDREN. THIS HAD NO NOTE OR IDENTIFICATION, BUT, AGAIN, THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S ADDRESS WAS ON THE FRAME: LOCK HAVEN CITY, PA. THE ONLY PERSON WITH ANY PENNSYLVANIA CONNECTION, ACCORDING TO MORRISON, WAS TIMOTHY BULGER. COULD THESE BE HIS CHILDREN?

WE CAME BACK FROM "UP WEST" DETERMINED TO FOLLOW UP WHAT WE'D LEARNED. WE STARTED WITH SOMETHING I HAD, UP TO THEN, CONSIDERED LARGELY A WASTE OF MONEY. IT WAS A PUBLICATION CALLED *The World Book of Bulgers*, WHICH WAS PRODUCED BY SEARCHING TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. SO, IT PROVIDED NAMES AND ADDRESSES, BUT NOT MUCH MORE.

BUT IN THIS CASE, IT TURNED OUT TO BE A GEM. WE FOUND A LORENA BULGER IN LOCK HAVEN, PENNSYLVANIA. AND I VERY QUICKLY SENT OFF A LETTER TO THE ADDRESS IN THE BOOK.

TIME PASSED. I HEARD NOTHING BACK. I CONTACTED MARYANN, TOLD HER ABOUT THE LACK OF PROGRESS. SHE WENT TO WORK ON THE PROBLEM, AND HERE IS HER LETTER OF OCTOBER 23, 1992, DETAILING THE RESULTS OF HER INCREDIBLE PERSISTENCE.

We found Lorena. Almost four years too late, but you'll see that all is not lost. The State of Pennsylvania won't give a death certificate to anyone unless it is the next of kin, the attorney or the executor. I was going to pose as the next of kin until I received the death notice. Where she was the assistant town clerk, I was afraid that everyone would know her and know that I was an imposter. The death notice was pretty informative. I don't know how much more the death certificate would tell us. I called information and asked for her nieces numbers. There were no Youngs in New Milford (according to the operator who was obviously not hired because he had mastered the English language). He said there were "lots" of Shoemakers in Williamsport. I should have figured—there is a large German population in Pennsylvania. He was only giving out one number at a time, so I took any Shoemaker in Williamsport. It wasn't the right one and that Shoemaker didn't know Rita. It took a while, but I got to the Boston Public Library. They have phone books for everywhere in the world. There were a lot of Shoemakers so I copied down all the numbers and started calling them all. (I'll have to hide the phone bill again.) I was at the bottom of the list and getting very discouraged when I called a number that had an answering machine. "Hello, Ron and Rita cannot come to the phone now..." I didn't leave a message because it would take more than 30 seconds to explain who I was, why I was calling and how I found Rita Shoemaker. It took a few days, but Rita finally answered. She was a wonderful lady, and had she received your letter to Lorena, she would surely have answered. She was very interested in the family and had been to P.E.I. She attempted to find James Bulger's grave... She said that her daughter was very interested in the family history... She did tell me that Timothy died about 1935 or 1936. He had four children—the ones that are in your picture. John was the oldest and he was her father. We know about Annie (Lorena). Mary died about 20 years ago (I didn't ask if she had married) and William who was the baby in the picture. He died very young. She suggested that I call her sister Marie who she said had done more research. I called Marie and Marie didn't seem surprised to hear from me. Marie had just seen the 60 Minutes piece on Senate President William Bulger and she had written to him to see if she was related. She thought I was an answer to the letter. After we got who I was straightened out, I assured her that we were not related to the infamous Bulger boys. I was about to start asking her some questions when she started asking me. She immediately wanted to know Helen's maiden name. I knew right away that we were far ahead of her on research. I was a little disappointed. I was hoping that she would be able to tell me quite a bit. She could only tell me that Timothy taught roller skating on P.E.I. and that he was a woodsman, a clay miner and a folk singer. She knew that James was born in Ireland but thought that Helen was Acadian. I didn't ask her how she knew James was born in Ireland—if Timothy had told her (she remembers him vividly) or if she had since found it out doing her research.

I WROTE TO MARIE, AND WE'VE MAINTAINED REGULAR CONTACT EVER SINCE. SHE SENT ME INFORMATION ON HER FAMILY. TIMOTHY AND MARGARET HAD SIX CHILDREN, BUT ONLY THREE SURVIVED, NAMELY, JOHN L., ANNA LORENA AND MARY E. LORENA AND MARY NEVER MARRIED. JOHN HAD THE TWO DAUGHTERS ALREADY MENTIONED, MARIE (ACTUALLY MARGARET MARIE) AND RITA. MARIE MARRIED CLAIR YOUNG AND THEY HAD ONE SON, JOHN, WHO MARRIED MARINA MURPHY. THEY HAVE A DAUGHTER, MARIEL, AND A SON, PAUL.

RITA MARRIED RON SHOEMAKER, AND THEY HAVE FOUR CHILDREN, RONALD, CHRISTINA, FRANCES AND MICHAEL.

WE'VE VISITED WITH MARIE ON FOUR OCCASIONS, IN 1999, 2001, 2007 AND, MOST RECENTLY, ON APRIL 28, 2009. SHE AND CLAIR HAD LIVED IN NEW MILFORD, PA FOR 57 YEARS. CLAIR DIED IN THE FALL OF 2007, AND IN JANUARY OF 2009, MARIE MOVED INTO A SENIORS' RESIDENCE IN JOHNSON CITY, NY. WE HAD HOPED TO VISIT RITA WHEN WE PASSED THROUGH WILLIAMSPORT IN APRIL OF 2007, BUT WE ARRIVED LATE AND HAD TO BE CONTENT WITH JUST A TELEPHONE CALL.

THE OTHER PHOTOGRAPH MENTIONED EARLIER WAS, INDEED, A PORTRAIT OF PETER BULGER AND HIS SONS, WESLEY AND CHARLES. CHARLES AND HIS WIFE HAD NO CHILDREN. WESLEY HAD A SON, AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE 1920 CENSUS, NAMED GERARD, BUT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE HIM. SO, THIS IS A BRANCH WITH WHICH WE HAVE NO CONTACT.

Belle Lutrell and the McGregors

THERE ARE ALWAYS BREAKTHROUGH MOMENTS IN THIS KIND OF SEARCH. WHEN SUCH A MOMENT HAPPENS, IT IS LIKE A SHAFT OF LIGHT HAS BROKEN THROUGH. ONE OF THE ORIGINAL PUZZLES HAD BEEN THE STATEMENT IN CLINTON MORRISON'S BOOK THAT ELLEN ROWAN (RUANE) WAS A NATIVE OF CASCUMPECQUE. WE (LARRY ARSENAULT AND I) DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS CORRECT--AND EVEN MORRISON TENDS TO CONTRADICT THIS WHEN HE POINTS (ABOVE) OUT THAT "IRISH JOHNNY" GOT HIS BROGUE FROM HIS PARENTS WHO HAD FLED IRELAND DURING THE FAMINE. BUT IT REMAINED A PROBLEMATIC POINT.

IN THE SPRING OF 1992, I RECALLED THAT, IN THE 1891 CENSUS, PEOPLE HAD TO STATE THEIR PARENTS' PLACES OF BIRTH. SO, I GOT THE MICROFILM FOR LOT 11 AND FOUND THAT, SURE ENOUGH, "IRISH JOHNNY" STATED THAT THE PLACE OF BIRTH FOR BOTH FATHER AND MOTHER WAS IRELAND. HIS BROTHER, JAMES, WAS THE NEXT ENTRY ON THE PAGE, AND HE, LIKEWISE, STATED THAT FATHER AND MOTHER WERE BORN IN IRELAND.

THAT SETTLED THAT ISSUE, AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED. HOWEVER, AS I SAT THERE LOOKING AT THE PROJECTED IMAGE OF THE PAGE, I SUDDENLY REALIZED WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS TO ME ALL ALONG: THEY ALSO STATED THEIR OWN PLACES OF BIRTH. AND THIS GALVANIZED ME INTO ACTION.

THE FIRST OF JAMES AND ELLEN'S CHILDREN TO BE BAPTIZED ON PEI WAS ELIZABETH, IN JUNE OF 1847. THERE WERE NO RECORDS OF THE BAPTISMS OF BRIDGET, MARY OR CATHERINE—AT LEAST ON PEI. THE ASSUMPTION, BASED UPON THE LEGEND OF JAMES AND ELLEN FLEEING THE FAMINE, WAS THAT THEY WERE BORN IN IRELAND.

WHEN I REALIZED THAT JOHN "R" AND JAMES HAD PROVIDED THEIR OWN PLACES OF BIRTH FOR THE CENSUS, IT STRUCK ME THAT CATHERINE MCGREGOR, WHO ALSO LIVED ON PEI IN 1891, WOULD ALSO HAVE PROVIDED HER PLACE OF BIRTH. I DASHED TO THE MICROFILM STORAGE DRAWERS TO GET THE REEL FOR LOT 7. THREADED IT ONTO THE MACHINE, AND THEN SUFFERED A MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT: SHE WASN'T THERE.

I WENT THROUGH THE FORMS FROM BEGINNING TO END AND COULDN'T SEE ANY MCGREGORS. BUT I PERSISTED, AND THEN I SAW IT. THE CENSUS TAKER HAD STARTED TO WRITE "JOHN MCGREGOR", BUT HAD SCRATCHED IT OUT, BECAUSE JOHN HAD FLOWN THE COOP BY THIS POINT IN TIME. IN THE VERY SMALL SPACE LEFT, HE HAD WRITTEN "MRS. MCGREGOR." IT WAS VERY HARD TO MAKE OUT, BUT WORTH THE EFFORT.

IN THE SPACE FOR PLACE OF BIRTH, CATHERINE MCGREGOR STATES THAT SHE HAD BEEN BORN IN "IRELAND". SHE GIVES HER AGE AS 47 YEARS, SO HER DATE OF BIRTH WOULD HAVE BEEN 1846 (OR POSSIBLY 1845). IF SHE HAD BEEN BORN IN IRELAND IN 1846 OR 1845, AND HER SISTER ELIZABETH WAS BAPTIZED ON PEI IN 1847, THE INTERVENING EVENT THAT EXPLAINS THE MOVE FROM IRELAND TO THE ISLAND IS THE FAMINE.

WE WERE UNABLE TO FIND A RECORD OF CATHERINE'S BAPTISM IN IRELAND. THE FAMILY MAY HAVE LEFT LUGGACURREN, OR THE BAPTISM RECORD MAY BE UNREADABLE IN THE LEDGER. SOME OF THE ENTRIES AT TOPS OR BOTTOMS OF PAGES ARE SIMPLY TOO SMUDGED OR FADED TO BE DECIPHERABLE. HOWEVER, I THINK THAT A PERSON WOULD KNOW WHERE HE OR SHE WAS BORN. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE THING WHICH DISTINGUISHED CATHERINE FROM HER YOUNGER SIBLINGS, ALL OF WHOM RECORD PEI AS THEIR BIRTHPLACE IN CENSUS RECORDS. SO, I THINK WE CAN TRUST HER STATEMENTS.

THAT SUMMER, I WENT LOOKING FOR THE MCGREGORS. I KNEW THAT CATHERINE WAS BURIED AT ST. MARK'S CEMETERY, LOT 7. SO, I WENT TO THE CEMETERY FIRST AND AFTER SOME LOOKING, FOUND HER STONE. IT STANDS ALMOST BY ITSELF IN THE NORTH EAST CORNER OF THE CEMETERY. (I DIDN'T REALIZE, AT THE TIME, THAT ELIZABETH O'MEARA WAS ALSO BURIED IN THAT CEMETERY. I LEARNED THAT LATER.)

IN THOSE DAYS, THERE WAS STILL A PARISH PRIEST RESIDENT AT ST. MARK'S, SO, AFTER I HAD PAID MY RESPECTS TO CATHERINE, WE WENT OVER TO THE RECTORY. THE PRIEST DIRECTED US TO GERALDINE MCGREGOR'S HOUSE. IT WASN'T DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE DIRECTIONS. HE MERELY HAD TO STAND ON THE FRONT STEP AND POINT.

WE HAD A PLEASANT VISIT WITH GERALDINE, AND LEARNED A GOOD DEAL ABOUT HER OWN FAMILY. HOWEVER, GERALDINE WAS A MCGREGOR BY MARRIAGE. SHE THOUGHT THAT WE

SHOULD TALK TO BELLE LUTTRELL, WHO WAS A MCGREGOR BY DESCENT. I'LL NEVER FORGET THE DIRECTIONS GERALDINE GAVE US, TELLING US THAT ONCE WE PASSED THE ROSEVILLE SIGN, WE SHOULD LOOK FOR A HOUSE THAT LOOKED ALMOST PERFECTLY SQUARE. AND SO IT DID.

BELLE WAS THE ONLY PERSON HOME THAT AFTERNOON. IN RECENT YEARS, HER SON FRANK HAS RETIRED AND IS HOME A GOOD DEAL OF THE TIME. SINCE THERE WERE NO VEHICLES IN THE YARD, I HESITATED ABOUT KNOCKING, BUT BELLE ANSWERED THE DOOR. MY FIRST IMPRESSION WAS THAT SHE REMINDED ME A GREAT DEAL OF MY AUNT AGATHA. NOT SO MUCH IN LOOKS, BELLE IS A GOOD DEAL TALLER THAN AGATHA WAS, BUT SHE HAS THE SAME DETERMINED GLINT IN HER EYES.

WE WENT BACK TO SEE BELLE A NUMBER OF TIMES. WE TRY TO SEE HER ONCE A YEAR, THOUGH, AS OF THIS WRITING, SHE IS ALMOST 94 YEARS OF AGE—I HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY IN 2005—SO IT'S HARD TO PREDICT HOW MANY YEARS OF VISITING ARE LEFT. SHE IS SHARP AS A TACK, THOUGH, AND MIGHT WELL MAKE HER CENTURY.

FROM BELLE, I GOT A VERY COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE MCGREGORS. EVENTUALLY, I WOULD MEET HER SONS, FRANK, GEORGE, BERNARD AND GARY. (I SEE FRANK OFTEN AT CEILIDH'S AND GEORGE FROM TIME TO TIME.) IN MAINE, I WOULD MEET BILL ANDERSON, GRANDSON OF AGNES MCGREGOR, WHOSE COMPANY I ENJOYED UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 2006. ALSO, I WAS BRIEFLY INTRODUCED TO FR. HAROLD MORESHEAD, ANOTHER GRANDSON, WHO IS A RETIRED PRIEST OF THE DIOCESE OF PORTLAND. I HAD ONE VISIT WITH JUNE HOWARD, DAUGHTER OF ERNEST AND GERALDINE MCGREGOR, BEFORE HER UNTIMELY DEATH FROM CANCER. AND I HAVE MET HER BROTHER, FRANK, BRIEFLY, AT GERALDINE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Other Bulgers

IN ROUGHLY THE SAME TIME PERIOD, I MET LORNE KILBRIDE. HE IS THE SON OF PERCY JAMES KILBRIDE WHO, IN TURN, WAS THE SON OF ANN BULGER AND JOHN KILBRIDE. LORNE STILL LIVES ON THE KILBRIDE PROPERTY AT BAYFIELD, NEAR GRAND RIVER P.E.I. HIS SISTER, ANNA, MARRIED ROBERT BANKS, THE SON OF THAT SAME IRA DAVID BANKS WHO RAN AFOUL OF "IRISH JOHNNY" IN THE DEBATE ABOUT ART AND NATURE. ROBERT BANKS RAN A SERVICE STATION IN SUMMERSIDE, P.E.I. ROBERT AND ANNA HAD ONE SON, TIMOTHY, WHO HAS ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE FAME AS ONE OF P.E.I.'S LAND DEVELOPERS AND A POLITICO OF SORTS.

LORNE'S AUNT, MAUD FLORENCE, MARRIED MARSHALL MACLELLAN. THEY HAD FOUR CHILDREN, THOMAS, ANGUS, MARGARET AND LOUISA. THOMAS IS THE REVEREND THOMAS MACLELLAN, PH.D., ST.D., A RETIRED PRIEST OF THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTETOWN AND A FORMER PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. (HE WAS MY FIRST BOSS.) LOUISA IS SR. LOUISA MACLELLAN OF THE SISTERS OF ST. MARTHA. IN RECENT YEARS, SHE HAS BEEN MAINLY A HOUSEKEEPER FOR

FR. THOMAS.

LORNE WASN'T ABLE TO PROVIDE A GREAT DEAL OF GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION. I KNOW, FROM OTHER SOURCES, THAT SOME OF THE KILBRIDES MAY HAVE SETTLED IN AND AROUND LINCOLN, MAINE, AND WORKED IN THE PAPER MILLS THERE, BUT BEYOND THAT, THIS IS A PART OF THE HISTORY THAT STILL NEEDS SOME FILLING IN.

The Census

WHILE I'VE TRIED TO KEEP TO A CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER IN THIS MEMOIR, THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE ON-GOING. ONE OF THESE IS THE CENSUS, WHICH STILL REMAINS A REFERENCE SOURCE.

I'VE ALREADY MENTIONED THE "BREAKTHROUGH" THAT OCCURRED WHEN I FINALLY LOCATED CATHERINE MCGREGOR IN THE 1891 CENSUS. SHE STATED THAT SHE WAS BORN IN IRELAND (THE SAME INFORMATION IS IN THE 1881 CENSUS), AND, DEPENDING ON WHAT SHE SAYS HER AGE IS, SHE WAS BORN IN 1844 OR 1846 OR 1847.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CENSUS LED ME ASTRAY AS WELL. AT ONE POINT, I HAD CONCLUDED THAT JAMES BULGER AND FAMILY HAD BEEN IN NEWFOUNDLAND IN MAY OF 1847, BEFORE ARRIVING ON P.E.I. BY THE TIME OF ELIZABETH'S BAPTISM IN JUNE OF THAT YEAR. (HER BAPTISM RECORD ALSO PROVIDES A MAY DATE OF BIRTH).

THE CENSUS LED ME TO THIS ABSOLUTELY MISTAKEN CONCLUSION. I FOUND MICHAEL O'MEARA IN THE 1881 OR 1891 CENSUS. HE WAS CERTAINLY MARRIED TO ELIZABETH, AND ELIZABETH'S PLACE OF BIRTH WAS NEWFOUNDLAND. IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT THERE MIGHT BE MORE THAN ONE MICHAEL O'MEARA AND THAT, HEAVEN HELP US, ANOTHER MICHAEL O'MEARA MIGHT HAVE BEEN MARRIED TO A WOMAN NAMED ELIZABETH (BRODERICK), BORN IN NEWFOUNDLAND. CHURCH RECORDS AND THE U.S. CENSUS CORRECTED THE MISTAKE.

THROUGHOUT THE SEARCH, MARYANN AND I USED THE CANADIAN AND US CENSUS RECORDS. EVEN THOUGH THE INFORMATION IS SKETCHY IN PLACES, THERE ARE THINGS THAT CAN BE LEARNED. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE 1861 P.E.I. CENSUS, THE ONLY NAME THAT APPEARS IS JAMES BULGER. THE NAMES OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD WERE NOT RECORDED. EVEN JAMES' AGE IS NOT DIRECTLY SET DOWN, BUT HE HAS TO BE THE "MALE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 45 AND 60" IN THE HOUSEHOLD (HENCE THE CONCLUSION THAT HE WAS BORN BETWEEN 1801 AND 1816.) LIKewise, ELLEN MUST BE THE "FEMALE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 21 AND 45" (BORN BETWEEN 1816 AND 1840—BUT MORE LIKELY 1820, SINCE THERE WOULD BE A BAPTISMAL RECORD IF SHE WERE BORN AFTER, AND THERE IS NONE.) ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS, THERE WERE SIX CHILDREN LIVING IN THE HOUSEHOLD. PRESUMABLY, PETER HAD NOT BEEN BORN AT THE TIME, AND BRIDGET MARRIED MOSES

HUGHES IN 1858 AND HAD MOVED OUT. THAT SHOULD LEAVE EIGHT CHILDREN, NOT SIX. THE BOYS ARE EASY TO IDENTIFY. THE "MALE UNDER 5" IS TIMOTHY, THE "MALES BETWEEN 5 AND 16" ARE JAMES AND JOHN "R". WITH THE GIRLS, IT BECOMES A BIT MORE DIFFICULT. THE "FEMALE UNDER 5" IS MARGARET ELLEN, AND THE "FEMALE BETWEEN 5 AND 16" MUST BE ANN. THE OTHER CHILD IS A "FEMALE BETWEEN 16 AND 21." MOST LIKELY, THIS IS ELIZABETH AND THERE IS AN ERROR AS TO HER AGE (SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN 14 IN 1861), BUT IT COULD ALSO HAVE BEEN EITHER CATHERINE OR MARY. IT MAY HAVE BEEN THAT JAMES SIMPLY LOST COUNT, OR BECAME CONFUSED. OR, IT MAY BE THAT THE GIRLS HAD BEEN "FARMED OUT" AS DOMESTICS IN OTHER HOUSEHOLDS.

THE 1871 CENSUS, THE LAST DONE BEFORE P.E.I. JOINED CONFEDERATION IN 1873, WAS DESTROYED (BY FIRE OR WATER DAMAGE, I DON'T REMEMBER WHICH.) IF NAMES HAD BEEN RECORDED, THIS MIGHT HAVE TOLD US IF ELLEN (OR EVEN JAMES) WAS STILL ALIVE. LIKewise, IT MIGHT HAVE PROVIDED SOME INFORMATION ABOUT MARY BULGER (WHO DIED IN 1879, TWO YEARS BEFORE THE 1881 CENSUS.) BUT IT IS SIMPLY A GAP IN THE INFORMATION SOURCES.

THE 1880 U.S. CENSUS AND THE 1881 CANADIAN CENSUS PROVIDE USEFUL INFORMATION. MOSES AND BRIDGET BULGER HUGHES APPEAR IN THE 1861 P.E.I. CENSUS, AND BAPTISM RECORDS PLACE THEM IN LOT 11 UNTIL 1871. BUT THEY ARE NOT THERE IN 1881. BECAUSE THEY HAD RELOCATED TO JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY, AS MARYANN DISCOVERED IN THE 1880 U.S. CENSUS. MOSES WAS A "SHIP CARPENTER". AT THAT TIME, THEY HAD THE FOLLOWING FAMILY: FRANK J. (20), LIZZIE (19), JOHN (16), JAMES (14), LAWRENCE (13), MARY ANN (10), PETER (8), SEBASTIAN (3) AND LEO (1). THERE ARE BAPTISM RECORDS ON P.E.I. FOR LIZZIE (HELENE ELIZABETH), JAMES, LAWRENCE, MARY ANN AND PETER, BUT NOT, APPARENTLY FOR FRANK AND JOHN (THOUGH MORRISON MUST HAVE SEEN SOME RECORD OF FRANK—WHOM HE IDENTIFIES AS "JOSEPH FRANCIS"—BECAUSE HE PUTS HIS DATE OF BIRTH AT 1860, WHICH ACCORDS WITH THE CENSUS.) ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS, SEBASTIAN AND LEO WERE BORN IN NEW BRUNSWICK, SO THE FAMILY WAS THERE FROM AT LEAST 1877 TO 1879.

THIS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE WHOLE HUGHES FAMILY. IN THE 1900 U.S. CENSUS, ELIZABETH BULGER AND MICHAEL O'MEARA ARE LIVING IN BROOKLYN. MICHAEL IS A "SHIP CARPENTER." AGAIN, THEY HAD NO CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN, BUT LIVING WITH THEM ARE A NIECE, MARY KILBRIDE (27), THE ELDEST CHILD OF ANN BULGER AND JOHN KILBRIDE, AND TWO NEPHEWS, MICHAEL HUGHES (18) AND WILLIAM HUGHES (8).

WILLIAM'S DATE OF BIRTH, MARCH 1892, CREATES A PUZZLE. BRIDGET WAS BORN ON MARCH 19, 1840. THIS WOULD HAVE MADE HER 52 AT THE TIME OF WILLIAM'S BIRTH. THIS SEEMS UNLIKELY, BUT, APPARENTLY, IT ISN'T IMPOSSIBLE. IF IT IS THE CASE, BRIDGET MAY HAVE DIED IN CHILDBEARING, BECAUSE NEITHER SHE NOR MOSES APPEAR IN THE 1900 US CENSUS (NOR IN THE 1901 CANADIAN CENSUS.) SEEMINGLY, THE CHILDLESS O'MEARAS HAD TAKEN IN BRIDGET'S TWO YOUNGEST.

IN THE 1881 CANADIAN CENSUS, TIMOTHY BULGER IS SHOWN AS A FARM LABOURER IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF JOHN BULGER, JR. (SON OF THE FIRST JOHN BULGER TO SETTLE IN LOT 11), AND, ACCORDING TO MORRISON, "NO RELATION" TO JOHN. THE SAME CENSUS SHOWS PETER BULGER LIVING WITH HIS SISTER, ANN KILBRIDE, IN LOT 1 (THAT'S THE TIGNISH AREA OF P.E.I.) LIKewise, JAMES, JR., STILL UNMARRIED, IS SHOWN LIVING WITH JOHN "R" ON THE MURRAY ROAD.

THE 1900 U.S. CENSUS SHOWS PETER BULGER LIVING IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF A PETER "MARA" (O'MEARA). PETER IS IDENTIFIED AS "SON-IN-LAW". BOTH PETER AND HIS FATHER-IN-LAW ARE "SHIP CARPENTERS." PETER'S SONS, CHARLES AND WESLEY LIVE WITH HIM. CHARLES WAS BORN IN MAY, 1892 AND WESLEY WAS BORN IN DECEMBER 1896. BOTH BOYS WERE BORN IN NEW JERSEY.

THE 1920 U.S. CENSUS IS INTERESTING. BOTH TIMOTHY AND PETER ARE SHAVING YEARS OFF THEIR AGE (TIMOTHY SAYS HE IS 59, WHEN IN FACT, HE IS 63, AND PETER SAYS HE'S 54, WHEN HE'S ACTUALLY 59). BUT THE 1920 CENSUS ALSO TELLS US EXACTLY WHEN PETER ENTERED THE U.S. HE CAME IN 1884 AND WAS NATURALIZED IN 1892. HIS SON, CHARLES STILL LIVES AT HOME, AND IT LOOKS AS THOUGH PETER HAS REMARRIED, SINCE THE CENSUS RECORDS A "MARY", AGE 51, WHO HAD BEEN BORN IN IRELAND. WESLEY LIVES AT 371 STATE STREET IN BROOKLYN, WITH HIS WIFE, DOROTHY, AND THEIR SON, GERARD, WHO IS 4 AND ½ YEARS OLD.

ONE FINAL COMMENT ABOUT THE CENSUS. THE CANADIAN CENSUS FOR 1881, 1891, 1901 AND 1911 IS FREELY AVAILABLE ON-LINE VIA THE STATISTICS CANADA WEBSITE. WHILE SOME PARTS OF THE U.S. CENSUS USED TO BE FREELY ACCESSIBLE ON-LINE, IT APPEARS THAT CENSUS RECORDS CAN NOW ONLY BE ACCESSED THROUGH COMMERCIAL AGENCIES, LIKE ANCESTRY.COM. THIS REFLECTS A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. CANADA BELIEVES THAT PUBLIC RECORDS SHOULD BE PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE. THE U.S., UNFORTUNATELY, BELIEVES THAT ANYTHING SHOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MONEY.

Letters

ALONG WITH THE CENSUS, THE OTHER THING THAT WAS ON-GOING WAS AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. THE BULK OF THESE WERE LETTERS BETWEEN MARYANN AND ME (AND, AS I HAVE SAID, I HAVE A STACK OF THOSE). BUT THERE ARE EXCHANGES WITH PEOPLE IN IRELAND, WHICH ARE ALSO INTERESTING.

Maryann

I'VE SELECTED A NUMBER OF LETTERS FROM MARYANN WHICH SHOW THE MIS-STEPS, FALSE STARTS AND FRUSTRATIONS OF OUR SEARCH.

MAY 16, 1991

Dear David,

The reply from Ireland finally arrived today, but the answer is not good. It's all enclosed. I'm beginning to get discouraged. I hope you have some more ideas. There's a few longshots that I'm going to try. If they don't work, I think we may be at a dead end.

JULY 25, 1992

There are four census records enclosed. The 1880 census for Moses and Bridget Hughes, the 1900 census for Peter Bulger, the 1900 census for Timothy Bulger and the 1900 census for Michael and Elizabeth O'Meara. After you look it over, you'll see that so much of the information is inconclusive. Bridget lists her place of birth, as well as her parents', as Ireland. Peter lists his parents' place of birth as Ireland. Elizabeth and Timothy list it as Canada.

AUGUST 11, 1992

I haven't heard from Fr. Fleming in Ballyadams yet. I wrote to him only July 15. I received an answer from Ireland once in three weeks, so I now expect super service. I also received an answer once in 14 months. I've been waiting since March 15th for an answer from Cork. I hope Fr. Fleming doesn't keep us waiting that long.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1992

The day I went to the National Archives, the micro-film printer was broken, so I couldn't make copies of the census records that I found. The machine is in constant use when it is working, so I don't know why they don't have two of them... I figured that, at 25 cents a copy, they could make about \$500 a week, if it were properly maintained. One of the grossly overpaid clerks told me that the machine had been broken for a week... The next time I go there, I'll make copies of the actual census sheets for you. Unfortunately, it's very little. In addition to what you see, I also checked for the Hughes. I checked the 1900 and 1920 census for all of the Hughes in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. It is very strange that I didn't find any of them. It is more than likely that Bridget and Moses were dead by 1900, but where did the children go?...

Now as for our two old ladies, since my phone wasn't broken, I made a few phone calls. I finally caught Mrs. Dorothy Bulger at home. She is definitely not related. When I told my brother Paul about the conversation, he had a good laugh. He said that there is no one left in the Bronx that could be related to us... Now for Lorena. I called information, and there was no Lorena Bulger, or any Bulger at all in the Lock Haven area...

I haven't heard from Rev. Fleming yet. He needs a nudge. It's time to write to another parish,

but I'm giving my check book a rest.

OCTOBER 23, 1992

I gave Fr. Fleming a "nudge." It occurred to me after I left the library that I should have looked up the address of the diocesan office for Ossory. If we had that we could check with them to see if they have church records. If they don't (and probably not) they could at least supply us with an up to date list of the local parish priests and their addresses. I tried that in Cork and the addresses that they sent me were quite different from the addresses that I got from that book I told you about. You have copies of the Queens/Kings pages that pertain to us. Before I pick up the phone and call Rev. Fleming—something I am very tempted to do—I am going to try another parish. Portarlinton would be my next choice but you mentioned that you would be giving that one a shot and there's no point in both of us going in the same direction. The civil parish of Agahboe looks promising. Aghaboe is the name of the civil as well as the Roman Catholic parish. It is in Portlaoise. I wanted to try parishes in Offaly first, since the marriage probably took place in Helen's parish, but it looks like the Family History Society got all the ones along the border for Offaly anyway. So consider Agahboe done.

NOVEMBER 27, 1992

The answers from Fr. Carrigan in Portlaoise are enclosed. I sent my second letter to Fr. Fleming back in September. We are obviously not his priority. When I gave up on him, I sent a letter to the Offaly Historical Society to see if they may have updated their parish registers. That letter was sent Nov 6. If that doesn't work, I'll try the diocesan office. I'm sure they don't have the authority to beat Fr. Fleming over the head, but they may just give him a phone call if I give them a little monetary persuasion. I supposed I could give him a call myself if it's just a case of money. Perhaps I'll look into the international phone rates. If it only costs about \$10, it's worth it... I think I'm developing a vendetta against Fr. Fleming. Fr. Carrigan confirmed he's there and I don't like being ignored.

FEBRUARY 22, 1993

The Heritage Center in Offaly finally replied. There are no new revelations from them. I've been trying to get to the Mormon library since Christmas. Their hours are very limited. March 19th is the feast of St. Joseph and it's also a Friday—one of the few days that the Mormon library is open. The teenager across the street goes to a high school run by St. Joseph nuns (my alma mater), so she will have the day off. I'm going to try to get her to babysit that day... So—barring any snowstorms or illnesses, I'll make it to the library on the 19th.

JUNE 9, 1994

Regarding our "ongoing problem." The records that we want are not indexed. There are four potential solutions. 1) The Offaly historical society will eventually index them. (They haven't as of August 93). 2) The Mormons will eventually index them. (They will probably index them at the same time as the historical society because it's probably a problem with the bishop not giving permission to index.) Fr. Flemming won't be the local parish priest forever, and the next priest couldn't possibly be as uncooperative as Fr. Fleming. 4) A trip to Ireland. Number 4 is my personal favorite, but it would require quite a wait.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1994

The possibility that the Ballyadams church records may have been destroyed was disappointing. I immediately sent a letter to the historical society in Offaly asking them about the fire. My question was quite clear. Was there a fire that destroyed those records? Evidently a politician answered my letter, because they never addressed the issue of the fire. If the records exist at the National Library as they say, then why don't the Mormons have them micro-filmed? I thought that the Mormons went to the National Library to do their micro-filming. It seems unlikely that the Mormons drove around Ireland and went to each parish and set up a micro-film camera. But then again someone had to. From the letter, I would guess the records are in Dublin. I have heard of several research places in Ireland that will not reply to mail or phone inquiries. All research has to be done in person. I don't know if the National Library is one of those places... If there was a fire, it probably was after the records were filmed. If there wasn't a fire, Fr. Flemming gave Darren Bulger quite a story. Anyway, I'm still looking into it...

Your idea about Bridget Bulger Hughes naturalization record is a long shot but we're not going to "leave a stone unturned." There are two reasons why it's a long shot. The first reason why is because of the fact that she's female. The main reason why anyone would become a citizen would be to vote... The other reason is that the spot on the naturalization forms that provide for an entry for the exact town of origin, in the exact county of origin, in the country of origin was rarely used.

Letters from Ireland

WE WROTE LETTERS TO IRELAND, AS IS APPARENT IN THE PASSAGES ABOVE. MARYANN'S FRUSTRATION WITH FR. FLEMMING IS OBVIOUS. BY THE YEAR 2000, HE HAD BEEN SENT TO CLONEGAL IN COUNTY CARLOW, REPLACED AT BALLYADAMS BY THE VERY REV. JAMES DOYLE (WHO, IN TURN, WAS SUCCEEDED BY THE VERY REV. DANIEL DUNN.) BUT BY 2000, WE HAD, TO A LARGE EXTENT, RUN OUT OF STEAM.

MARYANN CONCENTRATED ON PARISHES IN LAOIS. STARTING IN 1989, I BEGAN A CORRESPONDENCE WITH FR. JAMES DEIGNAN AT CLARA, COUNTY OFFALY. I HAD FOUND A JAMES BULGER IN CLARA IN *Griffith's*. I HAD THOUGHT THAT MORRISON'S ASSIGNING "CLARE" AS JAMES BULGER'S PLACE OF ORIGIN IN IRELAND MIGHT HAVE STEMMED FROM A MISTAKING,

OVER THE YEARS, OF THE TOWN "CLARA" FOR THE COUNTY, "CLARE." THIS MADE SO MUCH SENSE TO ME THAT I CONVINCED MYSELF IT HAD TO BE THE CASE. SO MUCH FOR LOGIC.

FR. DEIGNAN'S FIRST REPLY WAS ON MAY 10, 1989

Dear David,

Thanks for your letter, and your queries about the Bulger ancestry. We have three Record Books:- 1). Marriages (dates back to 1821)- contains no reference to Bulger; 2). Deaths (dates back to 1825) - no reference; 3). Baptisms (dates back to 1845). In this the name Bolgar appears (note the O). Ellen Bolgar baptized in 1846 - father James, mother S. McGrain. That is the only reference I can find, and it doesn't look too promising. Sorry to be of so little help.

We will be happy to meet you if you are passing this way.

Sincerely Yours,

James Deignan P.P.

I DIDN'T GET AROUND TO REPLYING IMMEDIATELY. IT WASN'T UNTIL 1992 THAT I FOLLOWED UP ON THIS (PROBABLY THE INFLUENCE OF MARYANN FLAHERTY). ON JULY 1ST, 1992, FR. DEIGNAN SENT ME AN EXTRACT FROM THE PARISH RECORD WHICH SHOWED THAT A BABY NAMED ELLEN HAD BEEN BAPTIZED IN AUGUST OF 1846, THE DAUGHTER OF JAMES BOLGAR AND S. MCGRAIN.

I STILL WASN'T READY TO GIVE UP ON CLARA. I'D HAD A FAIR AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCE WITH ILLEGIBLE WRITING IN RECORDS, BY THAT TIME. THE BABY'S NAME WAS ELLEN. OUR JAMES' WIFE'S NAME WAS ELLEN. I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE SOMEONE LOOKING AT WHAT WAS ACTUALLY A SCRIBBLE OF "ELLEN RUANE" (WHICH IS ONLY ONE LETTER MORE THAN "S. MCGRAIN") HAD MISREAD IT. I EVEN WROTE "ELLEN RUANE" OUT BY HAND. A CAPITAL E COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR AN S, THE CAPITAL M COULD BE A DOUBLE L, ETC. AMAZING WHAT ILLUSIONS DESPAIR CAN PRODUCE. ANOTHER LETTER WENT (WITH YET ANOTHER DONATION), AND THIS PRODUCED AN ACTUAL PHOTOCOPY OF THE REGISTER ITSELF (WHICH HAS SOMEHOW MANAGED TO GET LOST). WHILE THE HANDWRITING WAS, INDEED, HARD TO READ, I PRETTY MUCH HAD TO CONCEDE THAT THE MOTHER'S NAME WAS "S. MCGRAIN."

MARYANN MAKES REFERENCE TO WRITING TO A FR. CARRIGAN. SHE RECEIVED REPLIES DATED NOVEMBER 2, 1992 AND NOVEMBER 16, 1992

Parochial House

Ballacolla

Portlaoise

Dear Mrs. Flaherty,

I received your letter and your offering, 20 dollars. I am very thankful to you. I got out the Old Register 1825-1852. I went through it and I regret that I did not find any James Bulger.

That name is spelled Bolger in this parish. If I can be of any help to you in the future please contact me.

*Yours faithfully,
Fr. James Carrigan P.P.*

*Parochial House
Ballacolla
Portlaoise*

Dear Mrs. Flaherty,

I received your letter and offering for which I am thankful. I am sorry you cannot trace your relatives. Fr. Fleming is parish priest of Ballyadams. Fr. Sean Kelly is P.P. in Stradbally. If you need further help the Bishop's Secretary is Mrs. Mary Sheehy, Bishop's Sec, Bishop's House, Dublin Road, Carlow.

*Yours sincerely,
Fr. James Carrigan P.P.*

IN ADDITION TO WRITING TO PARISH PRIESTS, MARYANN HAD CONTACTED THE OFFALY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WITH NO RESULTS, AND THE WEXFORD HERITAGE RESEARCH CENTRE. LETTER DATED 26TH MAY 1994:

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

We regret that to date we have still been unable to find any information regarding your enquiry—James Bolger/Bulger and Helen Rowen?

We have searched all computerized records to date and conducted a manual search of Ballygarrett (parish bordering Gorey). To present date, we have not yet been granted access to Gorey records, but are still hopeful that this will change in the near future.

Please accept our sincere apologies for the very long delay, but we are constantly checking our computers (updated on a daily basis) and will inform you immediately of any viable information and will conduct a manual search of Gorey records as soon as they arrive at our centre.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick N. Stafford

The Heel of the Hunt

(I'VE BORROWED THE PHRASE FROM THOMAS FLANNIGAN. HE USES IT FREQUENTLY IN HIS BOOKS, *The Tenants of Time* AND *The End of the Hunt*.)

THE "HEAVY" ACTIVITY IN THE SEARCH OCCURRED IN THE EARLY 1990'S. THE EXCERPTS FROM MARYANN'S LETTERS WILL DOCUMENT THE FRUSTRATIONS THAT WE EXPERIENCED AGAIN AND AGAIN. AND, I THINK, BY THE MIDDLE 1990'S, WE HAD REACHED A STAGE OF "QUIET DESPERATION." WE CONTINUED TO WRITE BACK AND FORTH, MANAGED THE ODD VISIT, AND, FROM TIME TO TIME, TURNED OUR ATTENTION TO THE MISSING BRANCHES OF THE FAMILY. ABOUT WHICH, MORE AT THE END.

PROBABLY A BAROMETER OF THE DEPTHS TO WHICH WE HAD SUNK WAS AN ARTICLE WHICH MARYANN SENT ME FROM THE PUBLICATION "TIARA" (THE IRISH ANCESTRAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, SUDBURY, MA) VOLUME 13, NUMBER 4, FALL 1996:

Estate Records

Many Irish genealogists hit a wall around 1800, when the Catholic church registers begin. Their ancestors were too poor to have wills or deeds. But the landlords did keep records of rental rolls, maps, etc. of their estates. Many of these estate records go back into the 18th century, but they are held in a variety of places. Some are still in local custody, others are in county libraries and archives, while others are in the National Archives and the National Library. There is a comprehensive listing in a book called MANUSCRIPT SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF IRISH CIVILIZATION by Richard J. Hayes, and a copy of this book is located in the main reading room of the National Library. But remember that those landlords leased land to middlemen, who would then sublet the land to tenants at will. Access to these records depends on knowing the landlord's name, and Griffith's gives only the immediate lessor.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF ALL ELSE FAILS, THE LANDLORD MIGHT HAVE KEPT A RECORD OF THE LEASEHOLD.

I REMEMBERED THIS ABOUT NINE YEARS LATER. EL AND I WERE PLANNING THE "TRIP OF A LIFETIME," A WEEK IN IRELAND AND PART OF A WEEK IN SCOTLAND. (IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN A ONE TIME THING, BUT WE COULDN'T STAY AWAY. WE WENT BACK FOR THREE WEEKS IN THE SPRING OF 2008.) THE FOURTH OF MARYANN'S SOLUTIONS TO OUR "ONGOING PROBLEM" WAS "A TRIP TO IRELAND." IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GREAT IF WE COULD HAVE COORDINATED A TRIP WITH HER, BUT THAT WASN'T POSSIBLE. AND WE WEREN'T GOING TO WAIT MUCH LONGER. WHEN YOU PASS THE AGE OF 60, YOU BEGIN TO THINK THAT TIME MAY BE GROWING SHORT.

ONE OF THE THINGS I HAD PLANNED WAS A KIND OF "LAST DITCH" EFFORT TO FIND JAMES AND ELLEN. AND, AS PART OF THAT, I RECALLED THE "LAST DITCH" APPEAL TO ESTATE

RECORDS. I THOUGHT THAT THE MOST LIKELY ESTATE WOULD BE THAT OF THE WALSH FAMILY OF BALLYKILCAVAN, STRADBALLY. MY ASSUMPTION—WRONG, AS IT TURNS OUT—WAS THAT THE BULGERS HAD BEEN WALSH TENANTS IN IRELAND, THAT THE WALSHS WERE ENCOURAGING TENANTS ON THEIR IRISH PROPERTIES TO EMIGRATE TO THEIR P.E.I. PROPERTIES AT LOT 11.

I FOUND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEBSITE ON-LINE. THEY DID, INDEED, HAVE AN INDEX OF ESTATE RECORDS HELD BY THEM, BUT THE WALSH ESTATE WAS NOT AMONG THEM. SINCE HOLDINGS OF THAT SORT ARE BEING CONSTANTLY ADDED TO, I WROTE TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY TO INQUIRE. THE RESPONSE CONFIRMED THAT THE WALSH RECORDS WERE NOT HELD THERE.

THE SEARCH OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEBSITE WASN'T A TOTAL LOSS, HOWEVER. FOR EXAMPLE, I LEARNED THE TIMES THAT THE READING ROOM WAS OPEN. AND, MOST IMPORTANT, I DISCOVERED AN ON-LINE INDEX OF PARISH RECORDS HELD AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY. AND FURTHER DISCOVERED THAT PARISHES I MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN, STRADBALLY, BALLYADAMS, ETC., WERE DEFINITELY AMONG THE HOLDINGS. I DOWNLOADED THE INDEX, MADE A LIST OF THE PARISHES I WANTED TO STUDY, AND PLANNED TO BE ON THE DOORSTEP AT 10 A.M., WHEN THE READING ROOM OPENED AND STAY THERE UNTIL IT CLOSED—OR UNTIL I FOUND JAMES AND ELLEN, WHICHEVER CAME FIRST.

BUT MY BACK-UP WAS STILL THE WALSH ESTATE RECORDS, IF I COULD LOCATE THEM.

AS I SAID AT THE BEGINNING, FINDING JAMES AND ELLEN CAME ABOUT LARGELY BY ACCIDENT. THIS IS THE ACCIDENT.

I WROTE TO THE OFFALY HISTORICAL SOCIETY—BY THEN OFFALY-LAOIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY—TO ASK IF, BY CHANCE, THEY HELD THE WALSH ESTATE RECORDS. IN MY E-MAIL, I DID EXPLAIN WHY I WANTED TO ACCESS THE RECORDS, AND DID INCLUDE THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE I WAS LOOKING FOR, JAMES, ELLEN, BRIDGET, MARY AND CATHERINE.

I NO LONGER HAVE THE TEXT OF THE REPLY (ONE OF THE DOWNSIDES OF USING SOMETHING LIKE AOL, IF YOU CHANGE PROVIDERS, YOU LOSE YOUR E-MAILS). BUT I REMEMBER IT ALMOST WORD FOR WORD. THEY TOLD ME THAT, NO, THEY DID NOT HOLD THE WALSH ESTATE RECORDS, THAT, AS FAR AS THEY KNEW, THE RECORDS WERE STILL IN PRIVATE HANDS. THEY DID PROVIDE ME WITH A NAME (THE FAMILY WAS NOW WALSH-KEMMIS) AND A PHONE NUMBER IN BALLYKILCAVAN. THEN, ALMOST AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT, THEY ADDED: “THERE IS A RECORD OF A MARRIAGE BETWEEN JAMES BULGER AND ELLEN RUANE IN A SOUTHERN LAOIS PARISH IN 1838.”

I HAD TWO REACTIONS. FIRST, I WAS FRUSTRATED BECAUSE THIS WAS A CLEAR MONEY-GRAB. FOR 180 EUROS, THEY WOULD PROVIDE ME WITH THE FULL INFORMATION. I WASN'T GOING TO PAY IT, OF COURSE, BECAUSE I ALREADY HAD MONEY INVESTED IN A TRIP TO IRELAND, AND I HAD A DAY SET ASIDE FOR RESEARCH. SECOND, I WAS FRUSTRATED BECAUSE I WAS

CERTAIN THAT MARYANN HAD WRITTEN TO THESE PEOPLE ONCE, AND THEY CERTAINLY DIDN'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION LIKE THIS AT THE TIME.

BUT WHEN I WENT BACK TO HER LETTERS, I SAW THAT THE OFFALY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HADN'T INDEXED A NUMBER OF PARISHES, INCLUDING BALLYADAMS. (HENCE, THE NEED FOR TRYING TO GET A RESPONSE FROM THE UNCOOPERATIVE FR. FLEMING.) SO, OF COURSE, IN 1993 OR 1994, THEY HADN'T HAD THIS INFORMATION. IF THEY HAD IT NOW, THEN MARYANN'S FIRST SOLUTION TO OUR "ONGOING PROBLEM" (1) *The Offaly historical society will eventually index them*) MIGHT HAVE COME TO PASS.

WHETHER OR NOT THE ENTRY WAS FROM THE BALLYADAMS RECORDS, THIS MUCH WAS CLEAR: IN 1993, THERE HAD BEEN NO RECORD OF A MARRIAGE BETWEEN JAMES BULGER AND ELLEN RUANE IN THE OFFALY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND NOW THERE WAS. SO, SOMEWHERE THERE WAS A RECORD AND IT COULD BE FOUND. ALSO, IT WAS A SOUTHERN LAOIS PARISH, WHICH MEANT THAT I COULD JETTISON THE MICROFILM NUMBERS FOR PARISHES ELSEWHERE IN LAOIS (AND IN OFFALY—SINCE THAT OPTION HAD TO REMAIN OPEN UNTIL I KNEW THE ANSWER WAS TO BE FOUND IN LAOIS). WHILE I STILL ANTICIPATED A LONG DAY AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY, THE ACCIDENT OF CONTACTING THE OFFALY-LAOIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY ABOUT ESTATE RECORDS, HAD PRODUCED A DEFINITE NARROWING OF THE GROUND TO BE COVERED, AND AN ASSURANCE THAT THERE WAS DEFINITELY A RECORD TO BE FOUND.

WE FLEW OUT OF LOGAN ON AER LINGUS ON TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 19, 2005. WE LANDED AT SHANNON SOMETIME AROUND 6 A.M., GMT. WE HUNG AROUND THE AIRPORT FOR A WHILE, HAD A COFFEE, GOT SOME CASH OUT OF A BANK MACHINE, AND SO FORTH. WE HAD A RESERVATION AT THE GREAT SOUTHERN SHANNON HOTEL, WHICH IS DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE AIR TERMINAL, BUT IT WAS FOR THAT EVENING, AND WE'D BEEN TOLD THAT WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CHECK IN UNTIL AFTERNOON. (I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE MY FIRST IRISH "DRIVING LESSON" WHEN I WAS HALF-ASLEEP AND JET-LAGGED, SO WE HAD OUR CAR AND COTTAGE RESERVED FOR THE NEXT DAY.)

SO, THE PLAN WAS TO TAKE OUR LUGGAGE OVER THERE AND ASK IF IT COULD BE STORED UNTIL WE CAME BACK. THEN WE WERE GOING TO TAKE THE BUS TO LIMERICK FOR THE MORNING, RETURNING BY 2 TO CHECK IN. THERE WAS A LOVELY IRISH LADY AT THE DESK. I ASKED ABOUT THE LUGGAGE, AND SHE SAID TWO ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL THINGS. "I THINK I HAVE A ROOM AVAILABLE... I DO... SO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHECK IN NOW, WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE YOU." AND THE SECOND THING, ALWAYS DEAR TO MY HEART, "THEY ARE STILL SERVING BREAKFAST IN THE DINING ROOM." (AND WHAT A BREAKFAST.)

WE RENTED A COTTAGE AT PUCKAUNE IN NORTHERN TIPPERARY (NEAR THE TOWN OF NENAGH). IT WAS A GREAT PLACE, WITH A PUB RIGHT ACROSS THE ROAD. (WE RENTED A COTTAGE FROM THE SAME COMPANY IN WEST CORK IN 2008, NOWHERE NEAR AS NICE—AND THERE WERE PROBLEMS—SO I DON'T RECOMMEND...) WE DID SOME TRAVELLING AROUND, INCLUDING, ON THE SATURDAY OF THAT WEEK, A TRIP DOWN TO STRADBALLY AND THE CIVIL

PARISH OF BALLYADAMS. ON SUNDAY, WE WENT TO CONG, THE TOWN WHERE JOHN FORD FILMED "THE QUIET MAN." MONDAY WAS RESERVED FOR DUBLIN.

THERE WAS NO WAY I WAS GOING TO DRIVE IN DUBLIN. NOT THAT I WAS HAVING A PROBLEM WITH DRIVING ON THE LEFT. I WAS USED TO IT BY THEN (THE ONLY REMAINING PROBLEM BEING THE GEAR SHIFT, WHICH YOU HAVE TO "PULL" TOWARD YOURSELF, RATHER THAN "PUSH" AWAY.) I JUST TRY TO AVOID DRIVING IN CITIES AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

SO, WE WERE GOING TO TAKE THE TRAIN. WHICH WAS HOW WE MET THE PHANTOM TICKET AGENT OF BALLYBROPHY. BALLYBROPHY WAS THE NEAREST TRAIN STATION TO OUR COTTAGE. ON THE SATURDAY, ON OUR WAY TO BALLYADAMS, WE PULLED IN TO THE STATION WITH THE INTENT OF BUYING TICKETS FOR MONDAY. NO TICKET AGENT. WE THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE AT LUNCH, SO WE WAITED. STILL NO TICKET AGENT. SO, WE DECIDED THAT WE'D JUST HAVE TO GET OFF EARLY ON MONDAY MORNING, SO THAT WE COULD GET OUR TICKETS IN PLENTY OF TIME.

AS MANY OF MY FRIENDS AND RELATIVES KNOW, I AM NOT AN EARLY RISER. BUT THAT MONDAY MORNING, I WAS AWAKE AT 5 A.M. I HEARD THE AER LINGUS FLIGHT FROM BOSTON MAKING ITS TURN OVER LOCH DERGH, FOR THE APPROACH INTO SHANNON. SO, WE WERE UP AND ON THE ROAD AT WHAT, FOR ME, WAS AN UN-GODLY HOUR.

GOOD THING. THE TICKET AGENT AT BALLYBROPHY WAS STILL A GHOST (WE LEARNED, IN 2008, THAT THERE IS NO TICKET AGENT AT BALLYBROPHY). I THOUGHT THAT, BY THAT HOUR ON MONDAY MORNING, HE OR SHE OUGHT TO BE THERE. BUT WE COULDN'T HANG AROUND ON THE CHANCE, BECAUSE THE NEXT STATION TOWARD DUBLIN WAS PORTLAOISE, AND THAT WAS A BIT OF A RUN DOWN THE LINE. SO, OFF WE WENT.

AND ACTUALLY MANAGED TO FIND PARKING AT PORTLAOISE, WHICH IS A MIRACLE.

THE TRAIN WAS PACKED. THE ONLY FREE SEATS WE COULD FIND WERE IN A CLUB CAR, AND TO OCCUPY THEM, WE HAD TO ORDER BREAKFAST (WE'D ALREADY EATEN AT THE COTTAGE.) BY THAT TIME, THOUGH, WITH THE BALLYBROPHY ADVENTURE BEHIND US AND THE ADDITIONAL MILES, THE TOAST AND COFFEE ACTUALLY HIT THE SPOT.

THE TRAIN WAS DUE AT HEUSTON STATION A LITTLE AFTER TEN. THE READING ROOM WAS SUPPOSED TO OPEN AT TEN, SO I'D BE LOSING A FEW MINUTES OF THE RESEARCH DAY. BUT WE FIGURED THAT, IF WE TOOK A CAB, WE'D PROBABLY BE THERE BETWEEN TEN-THIRTY AND ELEVEN.

WHICH WE WERE. AND DISCOVERED THAT THE READING ROOM WASN'T OPEN. APPARENTLY THEY WERE DOING RENOVATIONS, AND THE READING ROOM HOURS HAD BEEN SHORTENED. IT WOULD OPEN AT ONE P.M. (WE COULD HAVE TAKEN A LATER-AND MAYBE LESS CROWDED-TRAIN.) IT WAS FRUSTRATING, BUT I WAS ABLE TO USE THE TIME. THERE IS A "GENEALOGY" OFFICE, TO WHICH YOU ARE DIRECTED IF YOU'RE DOING FAMILY HISTORY. THE IMPORTANCE

OF IT IS THAT IT IS THE PLACE WHERE YOU GET THE FORMS FOR MICRO-FILM ORDERS.

THE TWO PEOPLE IN THE OFFICE WERE BUSY WITH ANOTHER COUPLE WHEN I ARRIVED, BUT I COULD TELL, FROM THE WAY THE CONVERSATION WAS GOING, THAT A LARGE PART OF THE "SPIEL" HAD TO DO WITH THINGS I ALREADY KNEW (LIKE YOU'D HAVE TO KNOW THE TOWNLAND YOUR ANCESTOR WAS FROM, ETC., ETC.) I MANAGED TO CATCH THE EYE OF ONE OF THEM, AND SHE CAME OVER. "I JUST WANT SOME MICRO-FILM ORDER FORMS," I SAID. "HOW MANY?" "HOW ABOUT FIFTEEN?" (HOPING THAT WOULD COVER THE PARISHES I WANTED TO SEE.)

I FILLED IN THE FORMS IN THE LOBBY, EL AND I WENT FOR A STROLL ALONG GRAFTON STREET. SHE DECIDED TO STAY AND LOOK AT THE STORES. I WENT BACK IN PLENTY OF TIME TO BE FIRST IN LINE WHEN THEY OPENED THE READING ROOM AT ONE P.M.

I HAVE USED ARCHIVES IN TORONTO, HALIFAX AND CHARLOTTETOWN. YOU CAN USUALLY CHECK OUT ALL THE MATERIALS YOU WANT AND LOOK AT THEM AT YOUR LEISURE IN THOSE ARCHIVES. NOT SO IN DUBLIN. THE CLERKS WOULD ONLY TAKE THREE FORMS AT A TIME. SO, FACED WITH THAT LIMIT, I HANDED OVER BALLYADAMS, STRADBALLY, AND ONE OTHER PARISH I THOUGHT MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIKELY, I DON'T REMEMBER WHICH. THEN I WAS TOLD TO GO AND GET A READER, COME BACK AND TELL THEM THE NUMBER ON THE READER.

I DID THOSE THINGS. AND DISCOVERED THAT THEY WOULD BRING ONLY ONE REEL AT A TIME. WHICH ONE DID I WANT? IT HAD TO BE BALLYADAMS. THE FIRST JOHN BULGER HAD COME FROM BALLYADAMS. BALLYADAMS HAD NOT BEEN INDEXED BY THE OFFALY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1993. IT HAD TO BE BALLYADAMS.

SO, I WENT TO THE READER AND DISCOVERED THAT THE LIGHT WAS WEAK. BUT THERE WERE EMPTY READERS ON EITHER SIDE, AND THE LIGHT ON ONE OF THEM WAS BETTER. SO, I WAITED AT MY "CHOSEN" READER FOR THE CLERK, BUT WHEN HIS BACK WAS TURNED, I SHIFTED TO THE BETTER ONE. I HAD CROSSED AN OCEAN FOR THIS. I WASN'T GOING TO BE FRUSTRATED BY IMAGES THAT WEREN'T BRIGHT ENOUGH.

I WAS VERY ANXIOUS ONCE I GOT THE FILM ON. I WAS HOPING THAT I WAS ABOUT TO FIND SOMETHING I'D BEEN LOOKING FOR OVER A PERIOD OF TWENTY YEARS OR BETTER. SO, MY NERVES WEREN'T THE BEST. AND, WHEN I STARTED LOOKING AT THE RECORDS, I JUST HAD A FEELING THAT THESE WEREN'T THE RIGHT ONES. THERE ARE SEVERAL PARISHES ON THAT PARTICULAR REEL, AND I JUST HAD A FEELING THAT WHAT I WAS LOOKING AT WASN'T BALLYADAMS.

I HAVE A TECHNIQUE FOR DEALING WITH MICRO-FILM. IT ISN'T INFALLIBLE, BUT IT WORKS MORE OFTEN THAN IT DOESN'T. IF YOU ARE FAST-FORWARDING (OR REVERSING) A MICRO-FILM, THE DOCUMENTS ARE A BLUR OF WHITE. THEN, SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING GOES BLACK FOR A SPLIT SECOND. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, THE BLACK SIGNALS A NEW SET OF RECORDS. I FAST FORWARDED THE REEL, THERE WAS A BLACK BREAK, SO I STOPPED THE FAST-

FORWARD.

I WAS ALREADY INTO THE NEXT SET OF RECORDS WHEN I GOT THE FILM STOPPED. AGAIN, I HAD NO IDEA IF THESE WERE THE BALLYADAMS RECORDS, BUT, AS IT HAPPENED, THE PLACE WHERE THE FILM STOPPED WAS A SECTION DEVOTED TO MARRIAGES. THE ENTRIES I WAS LOOKING AT WERE FROM THE EARLY 1830'S, SO, I THOUGHT, MAY AS WELL LOOK AT THESE. IF THIS ISN'T BALLYADAMS, I'LL JUST HAVE TO MOVE ON LATER.

SO, I REELED SLOWLY FORWARD. AND THEN I SAW IT:

May 6th, 1838

Luggacurren James Bulger to Ellen Ruan (Ruane)
Witnesses Peter Lyons and Mary Conniford (Comeford)

I ADMIT TO BEING "EMOTIONAL." IT IS AN IRISH CHARACTERISTIC. (ONE OF THE "PUTDOWNS" HEAPED UPON US BY OUR ANGLO-SAXON CONQUERORS.) FOR A LONG MOMENT, MY EYES REFUSED TO FOCUS, MAINLY BECAUSE THEY WERE TEARING UP. THE RECORD WAS THERE. IN FAR LESS TIME THAN I HAD EXPECTED, I HAD FOUND JAMES AND ELLEN. IT WAS APPROXIMATELY 1:20 P.M., GMT, AND THE SEARCH OF BETTER THAN TWENTY YEARS WAS, AT LAST, DONE.

AND THERE WAS AN ELEMENT OF REGRET IN THOSE TEARS, BECAUSE, IN THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS, MARYANN SHOULD HAVE BEEN SITTING THERE BESIDE ME. BUT, THE HUNT WAS OVER.

I LEFT THE FILM ON THE PROJECTOR AND WENT DOWN TO THE LOBBY. EL WAS WAITING FOR ME THERE. I TOLD HER WHAT I HAD FOUND, BUT THAT I WANTED TO GO THROUGH THE RECORDS THOROUGHLY, SO I WAS GOING TO NEED SOME MORE TIME. WE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN THE LOBBY AT 3 P.M. AND I WENT BACK TO THE MICROFILM.

WHEN I GOT BACK, I SHIFTED MY SEARCH TO BAPTISMS. JAMES AND ELLEN HAD THREE DAUGHTERS BORN IN IRELAND (ACTUALLY FOUR, BUT THAT COMES LATER). NOW, EVEN THOUGH MY HEART TOLD ME THAT THIS WAS "MY" JAMES AND ELLEN, MY HEAD TOLD ME THAT IT WOULD ONLY BE CONFIRMED IF THERE WERE RECORDS OF THE GIRLS' BAPTISMS.

I STARTED IN 1838 AND WENT TO 1847. AND I WORKED BACK FROM 1847 TO 1838. I HAD HOPED TO FIND ALL THREE, BUT I ONLY FOUND ONE. THAT ONE WAS ENOUGH, HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT WAS MARY, THE "MIDDLE" GIRL (ACTUALLY THE THIRD GIRL, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THEN.)

Luggacurren

1842

September 16

Mary of James Bolger and Ellen Rowan

Witnesses Rick Rowan and Bridget Comeford

I MISSED BRIDGET COMPLETELY. AND, AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE IS NO RECORD OF CATHERINE AT LUGGACURREN—WHICH IS UNFORTUNATE, SINCE IT WOULD GIVE US A DEFINITE DATE WHEN THEY WERE STILL IN IRELAND, PRIOR TO THE APPEARANCE OF THE FAMILY ON P.E.I. IN 1847 .

BRIDGET’S RECORD WAS THERE. I MISSED IT. THERE WAS ANOTHER RECORD I MIGHT HAVE FOUND, BUT DIDN’T. IN MY DEFENCE, I HAVE TO PLEAD TWO THINGS. FIRST, I GUESS I HADN’T COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM THE EMOTION OF THE DISCOVERY, SO MY POWERS OF CONCENTRATION MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE BEST. SECOND, THE RECORDS ARE HARD TO READ. I HAVE STUDIED RECORDS FROM ISLAND PARISHES. BECAUSE THE POPULATION IS SMALL, THERE ARE A FEW ENTRIES ON EACH PAGE. THE POPULATION OF IRELAND, IN THE 1840'S, WAS HUGE (ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THE FAMINE WAS SO DEVASTATING.) THE PRIESTS TRIED TO CRAM AS MANY ENTRIES AS POSSIBLE ONTO A SINGLE PAGE. THE HANDWRITING IS CRAMPED, THERE ARE INK BLOTCHES, AND IN SOME PLACES THE TOP OR BOTTOM EDGES OF PAGES HAVE BEEN WORN AWAY OR ARE FADED.

BUT FINDING MARY WAS CONFIRMATION ENOUGH. THE CHANGE IN THE SPELLING OF THE NAMES IS NOT SIGNIFICANT, OF COURSE, SINCE THOSE ARE SIMPLY VARIATIONS. FOR THOSE OF US WHO CARRY THE NAME, IT’S PROBABLY WORTH NOTING THAT THE SPELLING “BULGER” IS THE FORM USED IN THE MARRIAGE RECORD.

I USED THE REST OF MY HOUR AND A HALF TO LOOK MORE BROADLY AT THE RECORDS. I WAS LOOKING FOR ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN OF USE TO OTHER PEOPLE, FOR EXAMPLE, DRU BULGER BRETON (OF THE MICHAEL BULGER FAMILY). BUT, AGAIN, THE QUALITY OF THE IMAGE AND MY EMOTIONAL STATE INTERVENED. I KNOW THAT I MISSED ONE ENTRY WHICH MIGHT HAVE RELATED TO DRU.

THE THINGS I DID FIND THAT WERE OF INTEREST WERE THESE:

John of Michael Bulger and Catherine Kelly
Witnesses James Bulger
(DIDN’T GET THE DATE)

1826

Mary of John Ruan and Mary Ramsbottom

THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A YOUNGER SISTER OF ELLEN. IF ELLEN WAS BORN BETWEEN 1816 AND 1820, THEN SHE COULD EASILY HAVE HAD A SISTER TEN OR FEWER YEARS YOUNGER. ELLEN’S FIRST SON WAS NAMED “JOHN”. THE IRISH TRADITION IS TO NAME THE FIRST SON AFTER THE GRANDFATHER (PATERNAL). IT WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE KILLED TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE IF BOTH GRANDFATHERS HAD BEEN NAMED “JOHN.” OR, PERHAPS ELLEN HAD PREVAILED AND NAMED HER SON AFTER HER OWN FATHER—THAT WOULD SOLVE A

NUMBER OF PROBLEMS WITH PEOPLE HAVING THE SAME NAME IN LOT 11.

THE OTHER THING I DISCOVERED WAS THAT NAMES FOUND IN LOT 11 ARE ALSO FOUND IN LUGGACURREN: KILBRIDE, KELLY, HUGHES. KILBRIDE, IN PARTICULAR, IS SIGNIFICANT, SINCE JOHN KILBRIDE, WHO WAS PART OF THE INITIAL GROUP OF IRISH SETTLERS IN LOT 11, ALONG WITH JOHN BULGER, IS SAID TO HAVE COME FROM THE “PARISH OF STRADBALLY.” THAT IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE, BUT, AS I POINTED OUT EARLIER, NAMES LIKE STRADBALLY CAN MEAN A RELIGIOUS PARISH, A CIVIL PARISH OR A BARONY. STRADBALLY IS A BARONY AS WELL AS A CIVIL PARISH, AND THE VILLAGE OF LUGGACURREN IS LOCATED IN THE BARONY OF STRADBALLY.

I MET EL AT 3. WE WALKED UP TO THE LIFFEY AND ALONG IT AS FAR AS THE FOUR COURTS. WE HAD SUPPER AT A PUB AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE FOUR COURTS, CALLED, NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE “LEGAL EAGLE.” I EAVESDROPPED ON A GROUP WHICH HAD GATHERED AT THE BAR. IT WAS THREE SOLICITORS FROM CORK (A SENIOR, WHO MADE A POINT OF SHOWING THE OTHERS A 500 EURO NOTE HE HAD, AND TWO JUNIORS) AND THEIR BARRISTER, A YOUNG WOMAN WE SAW LATER ON THE TRAIN OUT OF DUBLIN. IRISH LAWYERS LOOK PRETTY MUCH LIKE LAWYERS EVERYWHERE.

WHEN WE GOT TO THE PUB AT PUCKAUNE LATER THAT EVENING, I ALLOWED MYSELF A PADDY WHISKEY TO GO WITH MY NIGHTLY GUINNESS. IT HAD BEEN A DAY OF VICTORY AND I WAS ENTITLED TO CELEBRATE. I HAD FOUND JAMES AND ELLEN.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, WE DROVE TO LUGGACURREN. THE MORNING WAS BRILLIANT, CLEAR SKY, A FEW CLOUDS. AS WE WANDERED AROUND STRADBALLY (LOOKING FOR DIRECTIONS TO LUGGACURREN), THE SUN SHONE BRIGHTLY. BUT AS WE STARTED SOUTH, THE CLOUDS BEGAN TO ROLL IN. BY THE TIME WE GOT TO LUGGACURREN, IT WAS RAINING—THE ONLY RAIN WE HAD DURING OUR WEEK IN IRELAND. MAYBE THE RAIN KEPT PEOPLE INDOORS, BUT THE ONLY PEOPLE AROUND WERE A COUPLE OF WOMEN WORKING IN THE CHURCH HALL. WE HAD A BRIEF CONVERSATION (NO BULGERS IN THE AREA, BUT THERE WERE RUANES JUST DOWN THE ROAD.) AS I OBSERVED TO FR. DAN DUNNE, IN 2008, LUGGACURREN HAS TO BE JUST ABOUT THE ONLY VILLAGE IN IRELAND WITHOUT A PUB.

BY THE TIME WE GOT TO THE OLD CEMETERY UP ON THE HILLSIDE, THE RAIN HAD REALLY WHIPPED ITSELF UP. AS I TRAMPED THROUGH THE GROUNDS, LOOKING FOR ANY TRACE OF THE NAME BULGER—KILBRIDE WAS MUCH IN EVIDENCE—I GOT DRENCHED. DRU BRETON PROBABLY PROVIDED THE BEST INTERPRETATION OF THE WEATHER: THE ANCESTORS WANTED ME TO KNOW JUST HOW TERRIBLE BEING WRENCHED FROM THAT PLEASANT VALLEY HAD BEEN.

Afterward

STRICTLY SPEAKING, “LOOKING FOR JAMES AND ELLEN” SHOULD END HERE. BUT THE GENEALOGICAL LOOKING NEVER REALLY STOPS. THERE ARE STILL THE “MISSING” BRANCHES

OF THE FAMILY, AND THERE MAY BE SOME PROGRESS TO REPORT THERE. THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT WE ARE RELATED TO THE OTHER BULGERS IN LOT 11, AND WE HAVE A DEFINITIVE ANSWER ABOUT ONE OF THE FAMILIES.

AND WE WENT BACK TO IRELAND IN 2008. WE WERE THERE FROM THE 17TH OF APRIL TO THE 25TH. FOR THAT PERIOD OF TIME, WE RENTED A COTTAGE IN CORK (WHERE WE THINK EL'S HURLEY ANCESTORS CAME FROM.) WE FLEW TO SCOTLAND ON THE 25TH AND RENTED A COTTAGE ON THE ISLE OF LEWIS (WHERE WE KNOW THAT EL'S MACRAE ANCESTORS CAME FROM) UNTIL THE 2ND OF MAY (WHEN WE FLEW FROM LEWIS TO GLASGOW, TOOK THE TRAIN TO PRESTWICK, FLEW FROM PRESTWICK TO SHANNON, PICKED UP OUR RENTAL CAR AND DROVE TO COOLBALLY, LAOIS.) WE WERE IN LAOIS UNTIL THE 9TH, WHEN WE DROVE TO SHANNON, FLEW TO BOSTON, TOOK THE BUS TO PORTLAND, AND DROVE TO RUMFORD.

WHILE WE WERE IN LAOIS, WE RETURNED TO LUGGACURREN. THIS IS HOW I DESCRIBED IT TO MARYANN IN A LETTER (COPIED TO MARIE YOUNG) SHORTLY AFTER WE RETURNED:

Anyway, there is a tale to be told. Our cousin, Tom Bulger, of Avon, Maine, talks about "Irish ESP," meaning by it that the Irish seem to have a direct line into a world of the spirit. This tale tends to fall into that category. It may "touch" your Celtic soul—it certainly does mine, so here goes. We left West Cork on a Friday morning, April 25th. The day before, Thursday, was essentially set aside for doing laundry and packing. But El had a problem with one of the washing machines at the cottage complex. It wouldn't spin off. Also, the drier wasn't very good. So there we were, on Thursday afternoon, with all these wet clothes which were going to have to be packed.

We went into Glengariff, which was the nearest town. El thought that there was a laundromat there. I didn't think there was—or, at least, I was pretty sure that what she thought was a laundromat actually was a laundry. Which is what it turned out to be. But we could leave the clothes to be dried, which, under the circumstances, we pretty much had to.

I went back to get them—El was cooking supper—at 5 p.m. I did my best not to flinch at the price, but as we were settling up, the woman said to me: "Mr. Bulger, you must have roots in Ireland." "I do." "Whereabouts?" "Laois." "Oh," she said, "I'm from Laois."

Now, the Irish don't move about all that much. There are no Bulgers or Bolgers in the Cork phone book, for example. So, it was a wee bit out of the ordinary for someone from Laois to be living in West Cork. But it gets better.

"Whereabouts in Laois?" she asked. "Luggacurren." I said, "My great-great-grandparents were married there 170 years ago." "You're kidding—I'm from Luggacurren. I was married in the church there 41 years ago. Do you know Fr. Dan Dunne?"

I had tried to reach Fr. (actually "Monsignor") Dan Dunne by e-mail to see if I could arrange to have a look at the church records, but never got a reply. (I think my sympatico e-mail account doesn't work very well overseas. I'm sure that some messages I sent inquiring about cottages, for example, either never reached the recipients or their replies never got back to me—in the case of Fr. Dan, I'm

sure he never got my messages.)

“My name,” she said, “is Anne Donovan—I was Anne Knowles. My first cousin is married to Fr. Dan’s brother. I have Fr. Dan’s mobile number right here.”

Well, the phone number wasn’t going to do me much good—I didn’t have a phone. And, besides, we were off to Scotland in the morning. However, the grand plan had always been to “get Mass,” as the Irish would say, at Luggacurren on the Saturday evening, May 3rd, when we returned to Ireland.

Which we did. But not without difficulty. I had decided to come into Luggacurren from Wolfhill to the south—seemingly easier from where we were staying—and got hopelessly lost. To this day, I have no idea where we were. I’ve looked at my Ordinance Atlas, and I still can’t figure it out. I was on the verge of giving up on the idea of Mass, when we struck a major road which I recognized, and we did make it Luggacurren with ten minutes to spare.

When the Mass began, Fr. Dan announced that the intention was for “Billy and Margaret Knowles.” Anne’s parents? I wondered, that would be too coincidental.

Now, I’m not good at “accosting people.” However, I had worked myself up to hanging back when the congregation exited, assuming that, like many priests these days, he’d go to the door of the church to shake hands with those leaving. I figured that he’d mark us for strangers and ask us who we were and where we were from, and that would allow me to mention the connection... But he didn’t. He went straight back into the sacristy. And this rattled me, since I’d have to intrude.

So, I hemmed and hawed and we hung around, and I finally worked up enough courage to go into the sacristy, only to see him leaving by another door. We left the church. Thank God for the crushed stone on the walkway, because we came out behind him, and he turned at the sound. And, indeed, marked us for strangers. So, we fell into conversation. I mentioned Anne Knowles and told him that she spoke warmly of him. “Well,” he said, “she should. Her first cousin is married to my brother. The Mass tonight was for her parents.” Spooky. Irish ESP.

Then I told him about James Bulger and Ellen Ruan and the fact that they had been married at Luggacurren on May 6, 1838—I assumed in the old church up by the cemetery on the hillside. (He thought that might be the case.) I also explained that, though I hadn’t realized it when I planned the trip, the following Tuesday, May 6, 2008, would be the exact 170th anniversary of that wedding. I said that I believed that there would be morning Mass that day—there would be, he said—so I was planning to attend.

He gave us a better route back to our cottage, and we followed him out as far as Stradbally.

On Tuesday morning, we arrived just before Fr. Dan. He got out of his car and came over to us. “I looked them up in the records,” he said, “James Bulger and Ellen Ruan, married on May 6, 1838, 170 years ago today.” Then, for some reason, he wanted our names. And as soon as Mass began, the reason was obvious: “We are celebrating the Mass this morning, for the memory of James Bulger and Ellen Ruan who were married in this Church on May 6, 1838, 170 years ago. Their great-grandson, David Bulger and his wife Eleanor are with us this morning.”

I nearly lost it. As a matter of fact, even recalling it now brings the tears to my eyes. After Mass, the few people who were in the Church came up and spoke to us—about which more shortly—but I wanted to go back to the sacristy to make an offering for the Mass intention. But when I tried to do that, Fr. Dan’s response was: “Not a bit of it. I was just delighted to be able to do it.”

So, when we came out of the sacristy, we found El talking to Mary Kelly—she’s the tall, spare lady who appears in the videos and the photos I’m sending along with this. As we came out of the sacristy, she said:

“I was just telling Mrs. Bulger, Father, that I live in Dan Bulger’s house.” I nearly lost it again. Of course, we do have the records that place the Bulgers there, but this was something physical—a physical connection. The house was just across the road from the Church and down the hill a little. (The yellow house in the videos and photos.) Dan Bulger and his wife, who was Mrs. Kelly’s husband’s aunt, had no children, so Mrs. Kelly’s husband, James, had inherited the house when his aunt died. He had also inherited Dan Bulger’s job, when Dan had died in the 1940’s or 1950’s. Dan Bulger had been the postmaster. In fact, said Mrs. Kelly, the Bulgers had always been the postmasters. (Dan Bulger’s house is the yellow house in the photos and videos. I’ve outlined the property on the Google Earth photo of Luggacurren which is included.)

Then Fr. Dan asked if I had seen the records. I mentioned that I had seen them at the National Library three years before, and was planning to look at them again the next day, when we went to Dublin. “Would you like to look at the actual thing?” He asked. So, we were off to the rectory for coffee and a look at the actual records. And I learned the following:

- James and Ellen were married in Holy Rosary church—the same church we had been to Mass in, not the ruined church on the hill. I’m enclosing a photocopy of the history of the church which indicates that it was built around 1825—hard to believe looking at the photos.
- Ellen, I’m afraid, was very pregnant at the time of the wedding, since their first child, Sarah, was baptized less than a month later, on June 2, 1838. Sarah, of course, doesn’t appear in any of the known family histories, so, presumably, she died in childhood.
- Bridget, or “Biddy,” as the records have it, was baptized March 19, 1840, and Mary on September 14, 1842. Unfortunately, there was no record for Catherine. It’s too bad, because this would have located them definitely in 1844 or 1845, but Catherine states that she was born in Ireland in both the 1881 and 1891 censuses, and there’s no reason to doubt this. Clearly, she would have known that she was born in Ireland, and that this made her like her older sisters and different from her younger siblings, in that respect.

It was very satisfying. When I left Ireland three years ago, I felt that there was more to know, and, of course, I had found nothing in Luggacurren which provided any evidence that “we” had been there. Now, we have everything the records can tell us. Also, we have “Dan Bulger’s house,” which gives us a kind of physical connection to Luggacurren. But truly, none of this would have come about, I

think, had the washer not failed in West Cork. We would have had no reason to go to the laundry in Glengariff. I would not have met Anne Knowles Donovan. Because I had her name to mention, I got up enough courage to talk to Fr. Dan—I really am very shy about such things—and all these good things came of it. When you throw into the mix the fact that the Saturday evening Mass had been for Anne’s parents, it becomes a very Celtic story indeed—a spiritual dimension only the Celts truly appreciate.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS MENTIONED ARE INCLUDED IN THIS TEXT. THE GOOGLE EARTH IMAGE CAN BE ACCESSED BY TYPING “LUGGACURREN, CO. LAOIS, IRELAND.” WHEN THE IMAGE COMES UP, THE CHURCH APPEARS NEAR THE TOP OF THE FRAME AS A BRIGHT CROSS-SHAPED OBJECT. IF ONE ZOOMS IN, TAKES A LINE ALONG THE “CROSSBAR” OF THE CHURCH TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD, AND THEN MOVES LEFT, DAN BULGER’S HOUSE IS THE THIRD ALONG THE ROAD—OR THE ONE THAT SHOWS UP BRIGHTEST IN THE CURRENT IMAGE.

ASIDE FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING THERE, OF MAKING REAL PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THE PLACE, THE MAIN DISCOVERY WAS SARAH BULGER, BORN LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER HER PARENTS WERE MARRIED (THIS WAS NOT ALL THAT UNUSUAL—A FAIR NUMBER OF BRIDES, IN THE MARRIAGES OF JAMES AND ELLEN’S CHILDREN, WENT TO THE ALTAR PREGNANT.) THERE IS NO OTHER RECORD OF SARAH. SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN UNDER THE AGE OF TEN AT THE TIME OF EMIGRATION, SO THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT SHE DIED IN CHILDHOOD.

DNA

ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY, I RECEIVED E-MAILS FROM MARYANN AND DENNIS BRETON, BOTH DEALING WITH DNA. DENNIS HAD BEEN TO A LECTURE BY A MEMBER OF HIS MOTHER’S CLAN, THE RODERICKS, OR RODERIKUES, OR RODERIGUES. DNA TESTING HAD ALLOWED THE TRACING OF THE FAMILY BACK TO FRANCE, BUT FURTHER BACK TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, AND WAY BACK TO THE AREA OF THE DEAD SEA IN ISRAEL. THERE WAS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT THE RODERICK’S WERE, ORIGINALLY, SEPHARDIC JEWS WHO HAD SETTLED IN IBERIA AND BECAME CATHOLICS.

MARYANN, WHO HAS A SOLID BACKGROUND IN SCIENCE, WAS INTERESTED IN WHAT DNA MIGHT TELL HER ABOUT HER FAMILY BACKGROUND. SHE HAD SAMPLES FROM HER FATHER SENT TO FAMILIY TREE DNA (FTDNA) INC., FOR TESTING AN ANALYSIS. MORE ON THOSE RESULTS SHORTLY.

ANYONE WHO LIVED THROUGH THE 20TH CENTURY WATCHED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT BEYOND THE IMAGININGS OF PEOPLE WHO HAD LIVED ONLY A CENTURY BEFORE. MY GRANDMOTHER WAS BORN BEFORE THE WRIGHT BROTHERS FLEW AT KITTY HAWK AND DIED FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER THE FIRST MOON LANDING.

ONE OF THE MAJOR SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS WAS WATSON AND CRICK’S DISCOVERY OF THE NOW FAMOUS “DOUBLE HELIX,” THE DNA WHICH IS THE BUILDING BLOCK OF LIFE AND THE CARRIER OF GENETIC INFORMATION. WHILE DNA RESEARCH PROMISES MANY GRAND THINGS, ONE OF THE MINOR USES TO WHICH IT HAS BEEN PUT IS GENEALOGY. DNA CAN

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT OUR ANCESTORS AND SOMETHING ABOUT OUR RELATIVES.

IT HAS ITS LIMITS. THERE ARE TWO TESTS. ONE TESTS DNA ON THE "Y" CHROMOSOME, THE CARRIER OF GENETIC INFORMATION FROM FATHER TO SON. ONLY MALES CARRY THIS CHROMOSOME, SO ONLY MALES CAN BE TESTED. THIS CAN BE USEFUL, THOUGH, SINCE FAMILY NAMES NORMALLY TRAVEL THROUGH HISTORY WITH THE MALES.

THE OTHER TEST IS MITOCHONDRIAL. THIS TEST FOCUSES ON WOMEN AND BOTH MALES AND FEMALES CAN BE TESTED FOR MITOCHONDRIAL DNA. A PERSON WHO IS TESTED, WILL SHOW A MITOCHONDRIAL LINE FROM HIM OR HER, TO THE MOTHER, TO HER MOTHER'S MOTHER, AND SO FORTH. THE DIFFICULTY WITH THIS IS THE FACT THAT, AS OUR CULTURE IS LAID OUT, YOU ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING FAMILY NAMES. THIS ISN'T TO SAY THAT IT ISN'T USEFUL. MARYANN HAD HER FATHER'S DNA TESTED FOR BOTH "Y" AND "MITOCHONDRIA." SINCE SHE KNEW THAT HER GRANDMOTHER AND GREAT-GRANDMOTHER WERE IN A DIRECT LINE FROM ELLEN RUANE, SHE WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH ELLEN RUANE'S MITOCHONDRIAL HAPLOGROUP, WHICH IS HAPLOGROUP H.

H - MITOCHONDRIAL HAPLOGROUP H IS A PREDOMINANTLY EUROPEAN HAPLOGROUP THAT PARTICIPATED IN A POPULATION EXPANSION BEGINNING APPROXIMATELY 20,000 YEARS AGO. TODAY, ABOUT 40% OF ALL MITOCHONDRIAL LINEAGES IN EUROPE ARE CLASSIFIED AS HAPLOGROUP H. IT IS RATHER UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT EUROPE SUGGESTING A MAJOR ROLE IN THE PEOPLING OF EUROPE, AND DESCENDANT LINEAGES OF THE ORIGINAL HAPLOGROUP H APPEAR IN THE NEAR EAST AS A RESULT OF MIGRATION. FUTURE WORK WILL BETTER RESOLVE THE DISTRIBUTION AND HISTORICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS HAPLOGROUP.

ONE OF THE VEXING QUESTIONS, MENTIONED AT THE BEGINNING, HAS BEEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE THREE BULGER FAMILIES IN LOT 11. TOM BULGER'S GRANDMOTHER, THE RENOWNED "LIZZIE DAN," STATED THAT "ALL THE BULGERS FELL OUT OF THE SAME TREE." UNFORTUNATELY, THAT VIEW WASN'T SHARED BY PEOPLE HERE ON THE ISLAND. IN FACT, A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, WHEN THE MICHAEL BULGER FAMILY WAS HAVING A REUNION HERE, DRU BULGER BRETON, WHO DESCENDS FROM MICHAEL, MENTIONED MY NAME TO ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS, AND SUGGESTED THAT I BE INVITED AS A "MEMBER" OF THE LARGER BULGER CLAN. THIS WAS RESISTED. INDEED, I SPOKE TO THE WOMAN AND SHE WAS EXTREMELY SKEPTICAL. I TROTTED OUT THE ARGUMENTS I HAD AT THE TIME, BUT SHE DIDN'T FIND THEM CONVINCING. SHE WAS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THERE WAS NO RELATIONSHIP.

THAT QUESTION HAS BEEN SETTLED. IN MARCH 2009, DNA SAMPLES WERE SUBMITTED TO ANCESTRY.COM FOR ANALYSIS. ONE WAS A SAMPLE PROVIDED BY FRANK BULGER OF RUMFORD (MICHAEL) AND THE OTHER WAS PROVIDED BY ME (JAMES). COMPARATIVE FINDINGS SHOW IDENTICAL VALUES FOR 43 OUT OF 46 MARKERS TESTED (FOR THE OTHER THREE THERE WAS EITHER NO TESTING OR THERE WERE NO DATA.) THE ANCESTRY.COM

WEBSITE PROJECTS A COMMON ANCESTOR 1 GENERATION (25 YEARS) BACK, ON THE BASIS OF THE TESTS. WE KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT THE COMMON ANCESTOR IS MUCH FURTHER BACK THAN THAT, BUT THE STRENGTH OF THE EVIDENCE CLEARLY INDICATES THAT JAMES AND MICHAEL WERE RELATED. THIS INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD THAT BOTH WERE ALSO RELATED TO JOHN.

WHICH MEANS THAT BOTH AGATHA EVANS AND “LIZZIE DAN” (BRIDGET ELIZABETH) BULGER WERE RIGHT. ‘GATHA SAID THAT THE ORIGINAL BULGER, JOHN, MICHAEL AND JAMES, WERE ALL “COUSINS” TO ONE ANOTHER. AND OF COURSE, “LIZZIE DAN” TURNS OUT TO BE RIGHT: WE ALL FELL OUT OF THE SAME TREE.

OUR Y-DNA HAPLOGROUP IS R1B. ANCESTRY.COM CALLS THIS GROUP “THE ARTISANS.” THEY ARRIVED IN EUROPE 35,000 TO 40,000 YEARS AGO. THE GROUP IS FOUND TODAY IN SPAIN, PORTUGAL, WALES, SCOTLAND AND, OF COURSE, IRELAND. IT IS A DNA PATTERN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CELTS.

At the End (almost)

JAMES AND ELLEN WERE FOUND. AND WE KNOW A GOOD DEAL MORE ABOUT THEM THAN SOME PEOPLE EVER MANAGE TO DISCOVER ABOUT THEIR ANCESTORS. WE WERE LUCKY, CONSIDERING THE CHAIN OF ACCIDENTS THAT PUT ME IN FRONT OF THAT MICRO-FILM VIEWER ON APRIL 25, 2005.

IN THE YEARS WHEN IT LOOKED AS THOUGH WE WERE NEVER GOING TO FIND THEM, ONE OF THE THINGS I TOLD MYSELF WAS THIS: IN SETTING OUT TO LOOK FOR JAMES AND ELLEN, I FOUND QUITE A NUMBER OF VERY FINE PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY. AND THEY WERE ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM I WAS RELATED. MARYANN, OF COURSE, AND MY DEAR FRIEND LARRY ARSENAULT. HIS AUNTS, VIVIAN AND THELMA. FOSTER MILLIGAN. BELLE LUTTRELL AND FRANK AND GEORGE. MARIE AND CLAIR YOUNG. JUNE HOWARD—EVEN THOUGH OUR MEETING WAS BRIEF. BILL ANDERSON AND JUDY ANDERSON. RITA SHOEMAKER, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE ONLY MET OVER THE PHONE AND BY E-MAIL. HAD JAMES AND ELLEN ALWAYS ELUDED DISCOVERY, KNOWING THESE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH OF A REWARD FOR SETTING OUT ON THE QUEST.

SO, IN A SENSE, IT DOESN'T ENTIRELY END. THERE ARE OTHER COUSINS OUT THERE. PEOPLE WHO DESCEND FROM MOSES AND BRIDGET HUGHES. DESCENDANTS OF MARY AND PATRICK GAIN. PEOPLE WHO DESCEND FROM GERARD AND ROBERT BULGER, THE ONLY GRANDCHILDREN OF PETER BULGER AND FLORA O'MEARA.

AS I SET OUT TO RECORD THIS JOURNEY, MY THOUGHTS TURNED ONCE MORE TO THEM. I ONCE MORE TRIED TO FIND INQUIRIES ABOUT BRIDGET HUGHES ON NEW JERSEY GENEALOGICAL FORUMS. AND, IN THE PROCESS OF GOING BACK OVER MORRISON, I NOTICED SOMETHING I HADN'T PAID ADEQUATE ATTENTION TO PREVIOUSLY.

MARY AND PATRICK GAIN HAD A SON NAMED PETER. ACCORDING TO MORRISON, PETER GAIN SETTLED IN THE NEWCASTLE - BATHURST AREA IN NEW BRUNSWICK. I HAVE USED THE NEW BRUNSWICK ARCHIVES ON-LINE FOR YEARS FOR OTHER PURPOSES (MY MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER WAS BORN IN CHATHAM). I NEVER THOUGHT TO LOOK FOR PETER GAIN UNTIL I RE-READ THAT NOTE IN MORRISON.

I CHECKED THE BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS DATABASE. THERE WAS NO PETER GAIN. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A PETER "GAHAN," WHO MARRIED AN ANNIE MACKINNON AT NEWCASTLE IN 1899. GAIN IS SAID TO BE A VARIANT OF GAHAN. AND THIS PETER NAMED FOUR OF HIS CHILDREN AFTER HIS SIBLINGS, NAMELY BERNARD MATHIAS, AGNES, JAMES ALOYSIUS AND LEO PATRICK. FURTHERMORE, A LATER CHECK OF THE 1901 CENSUS SHOWS PETER AS "PETER GAIN" AND GIVES HIS PLACE OF BIRTH AS P.E.I. I THINK ONE WOULD BE SAFE IN CONCLUDING THAT THIS PETER IS MARY BULGER'S SON.

I DID A 411 SEARCH OF MIRAMICHI, NB (WHICH IS AN AMALGAMATED MUNICIPALITY MADE UP OF NEWCASTLE AND CHATHAM). I FOUND ONLY ONE GAHAN, A RAYMOND GAHAN ON CHAPLIN ISLAND ROAD. I WROTE TO HIM IN HOPES THAT HE WAS A DESCENDANT OF PETER GAHAN. THE LETTER CAME BACK MARKED "DECEASED." I CHECKED FOR AN OBITUARY AND KICKED MYSELF FOR NOT ACTING SOONER. RAYMOND PALLEN GAHAN DIED IN NOVEMBER OF 2008, LESS THAN SIX MONTHS EARLIER.

I'M CERTAIN HE WAS A DESCENDANT. THE CLUE IS HIS MIDDLE NAME, "PALLEN." ONE OF PETER'S DAUGHTERS, SARAH ELIZABETH, MARRIED A PALLEN, AND SO DID HER BROTHER, LEO PATRICK. THERE'S AN EXCELLENT CHANCE THAT RAYMOND PALLEN IS A DESCENDANT OF LEO PATRICK.

THERE WERE CHILDREN, BUT ONE SON, WHO LIVES IN ST. STEPHEN, DOESN'T HAVE A PUBLISHED PHONE NUMBER, AND THE OTHER WAS LISTED SIMPLY AS RAYMOND GAHAN "OF ONTARIO." I DID FIND ONE RAYMOND GAHAN--AND ONLY ONE--IN ONTARIO, SENT A LETTER AND HEARD NOTHING BACK. THE OTHER TWO CHILDREN WERE DAUGHTERS AND DO NOT HAVE TELEPHONE NUMBERS IN THEIR OWN NAMES.

I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON THIS. I HAVE FRIENDS IN THE MIRAMICHI AREA, AND I'M GOING TO CONTACT THEM RE THE GAHANS AND PALLENS. MAYBE THEY CAN TURN UP SOMETHING.

THE OTHER LINE I FOLLOWED OUT--WITH THE HELP OF MARYANN--AS I WAS WRITING THIS WAS GERARD BULGER. GERARD IS NOT A GIVEN NAME ONE RUNS INTO OFTEN IN THE BULGER CLAN, SO IT CAME AS NO SURPRISE THAT THE SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX PRODUCED ONLY ONE ENTRY. IT WAS A GERARD BULGER WHOSE LAST ADDRESS WAS SICKLERVILL, NJ. HIS DATE OF BIRTH WAS 1916. NOW THIS LOOKED PROMISING, BECAUSE, ON THE 1920 CENSUS, WESLEY BULGER GIVES GERARD'S AGE AS FOUR AND A HALF.

ALSO PROMISING, BECAUSE A 411 SEARCH TURNED UP A GERARD BULGER IN SICKLERVILLE,

WITH TWO OTHER PEOPLE LIVING AT THE SAME ADDRESS, AN ELIZABETH BULGER AND A GIRARD BULGER. SINCE I HAD NOT HAD MUCH LUCK WRITING TO PEOPLE, MARYANN CALLED THE NUMBER. SHE SPOKE TO A WOMAN WHO SOUNDED ABOUT 400 YEARS OLD, AND WHO WAS NO HELP AT ALL.

BUT I SUSPECT THAT WE'LL GO ON LOOKING, NOT FOR JAMES AND ELLEN NOW, BUT FOR THEIR DESCENDANTS. WE DO HAVE CONTACT WITH SIX OF THE NINE POSSIBLE BRANCHES OF JAMES AND ELLEN'S FAMILY. IF WE COULD ADD COUSINS FROM THE OTHER THREE BRANCHES, IT WOULD ROUND OUT OUR SEARCHING. BUT WHATEVER THE CASE, WE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO FIND JAMES AND ELLEN. AND THAT WAS WORTH IT.

Afterword

AS I'VE SUGGESTED, THE GENEALOGICAL JOURNEY NEVER QUITE COMES TO AN END. EVEN AS I THOUGHT I HAD FINISHED THIS LITTLE WORK—AS I MENTIONED EARLIER—CLINTON MORRISON REAPPEARED. ON JULY 12, 2009, EL AND I WENT OVER TO LARRY ARSENAULT'S FOR DINNER. HE ASKED ME IF I WAS AWARE OF CLINTON MORRISON'S LATEST BOOK (A TWO VOLUME SET, ENTITLED *A Century of Farewells: A Biographical Dictionary of Prince Edward Island Immigrants, 1800-1900.*) I SAID THAT I WAS, BECAUSE THE BOOK LAUNCH HAD BEEN COVERED IN THE GUARDIAN (THE CHARLOTTETOWN PAPER). LARRY SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN AT THE LAUNCH, HAD SPOKEN WITH MORRISON AND HAD BOUGHT A COPY OF THE BOOK. I ASKED HIM IF THERE WAS ANYTHING ABOUT OUR JAMES IN IT, AND HE SAID THAT THERE WAS.

THE BOOK IS VERY MUCH LIKE *Along the North Shore*, THAT IS, IT CONTAINS INTRODUCTORY HISTORICAL DISCUSSION, BUT THE BULK OF IT IS MADE UP OF OBITUARIES TAKEN FROM ISLAND NEWSPAPERS. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, WHEN DENNIS AND DRU BRETON FOUND AN 1864 OBITUARY FOR DANIEL BULGER (FATHER OF MICHAEL) IN A NEWSPAPER CALLED THE VINDICATOR, I WAS EXCITED BECAUSE I WAS CONVINCED THAT JAMES HAD DIED IN 1865, WHICH WAS ONLY A YEAR LATER, AND THAT, IF DANIEL'S OBIT WAS THERE, JAMES' MIGHT BE AS WELL. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ONLY A YEAR LATER. HOWEVER, THE VINDICATOR CEASED PUBLISHING IN 1864. SO, I DIDN'T FOLLOW UP.

AND IN THAT THERE IS A LESSON. IN ANY GENEALOGICAL SEARCH, IT IS USEFUL TO KNOW YOUR TERRITORY, AND I DIDN'T KNOW MINE WELL ENOUGH. THE CHARLOTTETOWN HERALD STARTED PUBLISHING JUST AFTER THE VINDICATOR STOPPED—IN OCTOBER OF 1864. FOR GOOD REASON. THE HERALD WAS STARTED BY THE SAME PEOPLE WHO HAD PUBLISHED THE VINDICATOR. AND BOTH PAPERS WERE DIRECTED TO A CATHOLIC AUDIENCE, ESPECIALLY TO IRISH CATHOLICS. THIS WOULD BE THE REASON WHY THE OBITS OF RELATIVELY POOR AND UNIMPORTANT PEOPLE, LIKE DANIEL AND JAMES BULGER, APPEARED IN THOSE PAPERS.

MORRISON'S ENTRY FOR JAMES BULGER (TAKEN FROM THE CHARLOTTETOWN HERALD, 10 MAY 1865) IS AS FOLLOWS:

BULGER, JAMES. D. LOT 11, 1 MAY 1865, AGED 64TH YEAR. HE WAS A NATIVE OF QUEEN'S COUNTY IRELAND AND EMIGRATED TO THIS ISLAND IN 1843 WITH A WIFE

AND THREE SMALL CHILDREN. HE SETTLED IN THE LOCALITY AND WAS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE AND TEN CHILDREN. BY 1861 HE AND HIS WIFE, HELEN ROWEN (OR ROWAN) WERE RESIDING IN LOT 11, ALONG MURRAY ROAD.

THIS IS NOT THE OBIT. IT IS MORRISON'S REWORKING OF IT WITH INFORMATION TAKEN FROM HIS *Along the North Shore*. IT'S A BIT IRRITATING BECAUSE, IN 2005, I WROTE TO MORRISON GIVING HIM THE INFORMATION I HAD ACQUIRED IN IRELAND, ESPECIALLY ELLEN'S CORRECT NAME. BUT IN 2009, HE'S STILL CALLING HER "HELEN ROWEN (OR ROWAN)".

THE ACTUAL OBITUARY READS AS FOLLOWS:

DIED

AT LOT 11, ON MONDAY, THE 1ST INST., AFTER A LONG AND PAINFUL ILLNESS WHICH HE BORE WITH CHRISTIAN FORTITUDE TO THE DIVINE WILL OF HIS HEAVENLY FATHER, MR. JAMES BULGER, IN THE 64TH YEAR OF HIS AGE. HE WAS A NATIVE OF QUEEN'S COUNTY, IRELAND, AND EMIGRATED TO THIS ISLAND IN 1843, WITH A WIFE AND THREE SMALL CHILDREN. THE DECEASED SETTLED IN THIS LOCALITY, WHERE HE WAS EVER READY TO FULFIL THE DUTIES OF A NEIGHBOR AND A CHRISTIAN; AND BY THE MANY GOOD QUALITIES WHICH HE POSSESSED, HE GAINED FOR HIMSELF THE GOOD WILL OF ALL WHO HAD THE PLEASURE OF HIS ACQUAINTANCE. HE WAS A KIND FATHER AND A LOVING HUSBAND; HE LEFT A WIFE AND TEN CHILDREN TO LAMENT HIS LOSS. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

CERTAIN THINGS ARE CONFIRMED BY THIS OBITUARY, SOME OF WHICH WERE ISSUES RAISED BY MORRISON'S *Along the North Shore*. FIRST OFF, LARRY ARSENAULT IS CLEARLY CORRECT. THE 1873 DATE GIVEN FOR JAMES' DEATH IS WRONG AND, AGAIN, IS PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH ELLEN'S PASSING. JAMES DIED FOUR DAYS AFTER HIS WILL WAS EXECUTED ON APRIL 27TH.

SECOND, WE KNOW THAT JAMES BULGER CAME FROM QUEEN'S COUNTY (LAOIS), NOT CLARE. THIS CONFIRMS THAT HE WAS BORN THERE. LIKewise, WE HAVE ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT HE HAD TEN CHILDREN WHO SURVIVED HIM, AND THIS IS CONFIRMED AS WELL.

HE IS SAID TO BE IN HIS 64TH YEAR, WHICH WOULD PUT HIS BIRTH IN 1801. THIS ACCORDS WITH THE 1861 CENSUS RECORDS, BUT THESE PEOPLE WERE RARELY COMPLETELY SURE OF THEIR AGES.

THE ARRIVAL IN 1843 NOW RAISES QUESTIONS. IF THIS DATE IS CORRECT, THEN THE FAMILY TRADITION WHICH HAS JAMES AND ELLEN FLEEING THE FAMINE IS SIMPLY WRONG. THE FAMINE DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL 1845, AND, AS ALREADY MENTIONED, DID NOT REACH THE MIDLAND COUNTIES UNTIL 1846. IF THEY ARRIVED IN 1843, THEY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN FLEEING THE FAMINE. IF THEY WERE FLEEING THE FAMINE, THEY COULD NOT HAVE ARRIVED IN 1843.

THE PHRASE “THREE YOUNG CHILDREN” DOESN’T HELP. PRIOR TO OUR 2008 TRIP, I WOULD HAVE SAID THAT THESE THREE WERE CLEARLY BRIDGET, MARY AND CATHERINE. HOWEVER, AS WE NOW KNOW, THERE WAS A SARAH, BORN IN 1838, WHO COULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF “THREE YOUNG CHILDREN”.

1843 MAY BE WRONG. AS WITH AGES, THESE PEOPLE PLAYED FAST AND LOOSE WITH DATES. AGAIN, THE KEY MAY LIE WITH CATHERINE MCGREGOR. IN BOTH THE 1881 AND 1891 CENSUSES, SHE STATES THAT SHE WAS BORN IN IRELAND. AS I SUGGESTED EARLIER, ONE WOULD TEND TO KNOW ONE’S BIRTHPLACE EVEN MORE THAN ONE’S BIRTH YEAR. ESPECIALLY SINCE BIRTH IN IRELAND WOULD DISTINGUISH CATHERINE FROM HER YOUNGER SIBLINGS.

IF THIS IS CORRECT, THEN THE YEAR OF HER BIRTH BECOMES IMPORTANT. IT COULD HAVE BEEN 1843. MARY WAS BAPTIZED IN SEPTEMBER OF 1842, SO IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A CHILD BORN SOMETIME IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR. (MY GREAT-UNCLE GUS WAS BORN IN 1880 AND MY GRANDFATHER WAS BORN IN 1881.) HOWEVER, THE PATTERN WHICH TENDS TO REPEAT ITSELF APPEARS TO BE A TWO-YEAR INTERVAL BETWEEN BIRTHS. WHETHER THIS MEANS THAT THERE IS SOMETHING TO THE OLD-WIVES’ TALE OF “NO CONCEPTION DURING LACTATION” OR WHETHER FOR SOME OTHER REASON, I CAN’T GUESS, OBVIOUSLY. BUT ANYTHING LIKE “IRISH TWINS” SEEMS TO BE HIGHLY EXCEPTIONAL.

IN THE 1881 CENSUS, CATHERINE STATES THAT SHE IS 35 YEARS OF AGE. NOW, AGAIN, AGES AND DATES WERE NOT THESE PEOPLE’S STRONG SUITS, SO SHE COULD BE MISTAKEN. IN 1891, HER AGE INCREASES BY TWO YEARS—SHE SAYS SHE IS 47. FURTHER, IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CENSUS OF 1890, CATHERINE PUTS HER AGE AT 43. SO, VARIOUSLY, SHE COULD HAVE BEEN BORN IN 1844, 1846 OR 1847. AGAIN, THIS DOESN’T EXCLUDE A POSSIBLE BIRTH DATE OF 1843, BUT IT DOES AT LEAST ALLOW FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE 1843 DATE IS WRONG. COUPLED WITH THE FAMILY TRADITION—AND FAMILY TRADITIONS CAN BE SHAKY—WE HAVE TO AT LEAST CONCEDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT JAMES AND ELLEN CAME “FLEEING THE FAMINE” AND THE MOST LIKELY DATE FOR THAT FLIGHT IS 1846-47.

ON THE NEXT PAGE, I’M GOING TO REPRODUCE THE ACTUAL OBITUARY. THE MAIN INTERNATIONAL NEWS OF THE DAY WAS THE CAPTURE AND KILLING OF JOHN WILKES BOOTH. THERE ARE OTHER CIVIL WAR ITEMS ON THIS PAGE WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST.

THE DESCENDANTS OF JAMES BULGER AND ELLEN RUANE HAVE NOT, BY AND LARGE, BEEN CELEBRATED. GEORGE BULGER OF RUMFORD MADE IT INTO *Who’s Who* BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE NEW ENGLAND FIRE CHIEFS’ ASSOCIATION, BUT OTHERWISE WE HAVE BEEN ORDINARY FOLKS. WITH ONE EXCEPTION, NAMELY CHESTER (“CHET”) BULGER, WHOSE OBITUARY, BELOW, WAS CARRIED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHET BULGER, 91; HELPED CARDINALS WIN THE N.F.L. TITLE

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUBLISHED: FEBRUARY 22, 2009

CHET BULGER, A TOP LINEMAN ON THE ONLY CARDINALS TEAM TO WIN THE N.F.L. CHAMPIONSHIP, DIED THURSDAY. HE WAS 91.

HIS DEATH WAS CONFIRMED BY THE DE LA SALLE INSTITUTE, THE SCHOOL IN CHICAGO WHERE HE COACHED AND TAUGHT FOR THREE DECADES.

BULGER PLAYED IN THE N.F.L. FROM 1942 TO 1950, STARTING WITH THE CHICAGO CARDINALS AND SPENDING HIS FINAL SEASON WITH THE DETROIT LIONS.

IN 1947, HE HELPED THE CARDINALS BEAT THE PHILADELPHIA EAGLES, 28-21, FOR THE N.F.L. CHAMPIONSHIP. THE CARDINALS LOST THE 1948 TITLE GAME TO THE EAGLES, 7-0, THEN DID NOT PLAY FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP AGAIN UNTIL REACHING THIS YEAR'S SUPER BOWL.

"I'M STILL A CARDINAL, ALWAYS A CARDINAL," BULGER TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE SUPER BOWL. "I CAN'T SEE TOO WELL ANYMORE, BUT I'M GOING TO GET UP REAL CLOSE TO THE TV TO WATCH THAT GAME. MAYBE WE'LL WIN THAT SUPER BOWL. WOULDN'T THAT BE SOMETHING?"

THE ARIZONA CARDINALS LOST TO THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS, 27-23.

BULGER WAS BORN IN MAINE AND WENT TO AUBURN AS A TRACK STAR. HE WALKED ON TO THE UNIVERSITY'S FOOTBALL TEAM AND LATER JOINED THE CARDINALS.

IN 1944, THE CARDINALS AND THE STEELERS MERGED THEIR FRANCHISES FOR ONE YEAR, SPLITTING HOME GAMES IN CHICAGO AND PITTSBURGH. THE COMBINED TEAM WENT 0-10, AND DREW THE NICKNAME THE CAR-PITTS -- AS IN, EVERY OPPONENT WALKED ON THEM.

"WE WERE TERRIBLE," BULGER SAID LAST MONTH. "YOU'D GET BEAT SO BAD, YOU'D CRY."

BULGER SCORED 7 POINTS IN HIS N.F.L. CAREER, KICKING AN EXTRA POINT IN 1943 AND RETURNING A FUMBLE FOR A TOUCHDOWN IN 1945.

BULGER STAYED IN CHICAGO AFTER HIS PLAYING DAYS AND TAUGHT AND COACHED AT DE LA SALLE, WHERE HE STAYED THROUGH 1982. HE BECAME THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, AND THE SCHOOL NAMED ITS MAIN ATHLETIC FIELD FOR HIM. IN LATER YEARS, HE HELPED RAISE

MONEY FOR DE LA SALLE.

Descendants of James Bulger

28 Jun 2009

1. James Bulger (d.1865)

sp: Ellen Ruane (m.1838 d.1872)

-2. Sarah Bulger (a.1838)

-2. Bridget Bulger (a.1840)

| sp: Moses Hughes (b.1840 m.1859)

| |-3. Joseph Francis Hughes (b.1860)

| |-3. Helene Elizabeth Hughes Hughes (b.1862)

| |-3. James Hughes (b.1866)

| |-3. Lawrence Patrick Hughes (b.1868)

| |-3. Mary Ann Hughes (b.1870)

| |-3. Peter William Hughes (b.1871)

| |-3. Sebastian Hughes (b.1877)

| |-3. Leo Hughes (b.1879)

| |-3. Michael Hughes (b.1881)

| +-3. William Hughes (b.1892)

-2. Mary Bulger (a.1842 d.1879)

sp: Patrick Gain (b.1843 m.1866)

| |-3. Agnes Gain (b.1866)

| |-3. James A. Gain (b.1869 d.1911)

| |-3. Matthias Gain (b.1870 d.1940)

| |-3. Peter Gahan (b.1873)

| sp: Annie MacKinnon (m.1899)

| | |-4. Mathias Bernard Gahan (b.1900)

| | sp: Mary Winifred Dobson (m.1932)

| | |-4. Mark Gahan (b.1902)

| | sp: Katherine Rubina Williston (m.1930)

| | |-4. Agnes Estella Gahan (b.1905 d.1905)

| | |-4. Leo Patrick Gahan (b.1906)

| | sp: Mary Pallen (m.1929)

| | |-4. William Francis Gahan (b.1908)

| | |-4. James Aloysius Gahan (b.1909)

| | sp: Edith Gallant (m.1940)

| | |-4. Agnes Cecilia Gahan (b.1911 d.1947)

| | sp: Fred Arnold Hyslop (m.1932)

| | +-4. Sarah Elizabeth Gahan (b.1913 d.2004)

| | sp: John Nicholas Pallen (m.1931)

| +-3. Patrick Pius Gain (b.1877)

-2. Catherine Bulger (b.1845 d.1896)

sp: John McGregor (m.1869)

| |-3. James McGregor (b.1869)

| |-3. Margaret McGregor (b.1870)

| |-3. John Ernest McGregor (b.1872 d.1953)

| | sp: Bridget Dalton
| | |-4. E. Melvin McGregor
| | | sp: Geraldine Corcoran
| | | |-5. Bobby McGregor
| | | |-5. Frank McGregor
| | | |-5. Mary Clement McGregor
| | | +-5. June McGregor
| | |-4. Harold McGregor
| | | sp: Yvonne Corcoran
| | | |-5. Joseph McGregor
| | | +-5. Bonnie McGregor
| | |-4. Mae McGregor
| | | sp: James Riley
| | | |-5. Martha Riley
| | | |-5. Melvin Riley
| | | +-5. Marjory Riley
| | |-4. Ethel McGregor
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | +-5. Dorothy Lacey
| | |-4. Bernice McGregor
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | |-5. Danny Rogers
| | | |-5. Eva Rogers
| | | +-5. Shirley Rogers
| | +-4. Eva McGregor
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | +-5. Jackie Ryan
| |-3. Charles McGregor (b.1874)
| |-3. Bridget Truphena McGregor (b.1876 d.1957)
| | sp: Joseph Griffin
| | | |-4. Belle Griffin
| | | sp: Albert Luttrell
| | | |-5. George Luttrell
| | | |-5. Bernard Luttrell
| | | |-5. Frank Luttrell
| | | +-5. Gary Luttrell
| | +-4. Helen Griffin
| | | sp: George O'Neil
| |-3. Jane McGregor (b.1878)
| |-3. Emilia McGregor (b.1879)
| |-3. George Colman McGregor (b.1880)
| |-3. Elizabeth McGregor (b.1882)
| | sp: John Albert Griffin
| | | +-4. Jackie Griffin
| |-3. Mary Anne McGregor (b.1883)
| |-3. Louisa McGregor (b.1885)

|-7. Melissa K. Godin
+-7. Michelle Godin
|-6. Daniel Godin (b.1958)
|-6. Joyce Godin (b.1961)
|-6. Donna Godin (b.1964)
|-6. Sharon Godin (b.1966)
sp: UNKNOWN
+-7. Dana Gross
sp: Lawrence McKenna
+-5. Margaret Louise Bulger (b.1935 d.2008)
sp: Howard G. Thurston (b.1931)
|-6. Howard G. Thurston Jr. (b.1954)
sp: Janet Anli Fei
|-6. Mark Leo Thurston (b.1956)
sp: UNKNOWN
|-7. Shannon Allen Thurston (b.1976)
+-7. Mark Leo Thurston Jr. (b.1979)
+-6. Scott Ashley Thurston (b.1963)
sp: April E. Marcue
+-7. Scotty Thurston (b.1986)
-4. Agnes Serena Mary Bulger (b.1909 d.1973)
sp: Joseph Tierney (b.1903)
|-5. Katheryn Mae Tierney (b.1942)
sp: Major
|-6. Marlene Mae Major (b.1965)
|-6. Maureen Ann Major (b.1966)
+-6. Mark Robert Major (b.1971)
-5. Michael James Tierney (b.1943)
sp: UNKNOWN
|-6. Michael J. Tierney Jr. (b.1974)
|-6. Michaëlle Tierney (b.1975)
+-6. Karen Tierney (b.1978)
+-5. Patricia Ann Tierney (b.1946)
sp: Donald R. Guy (b.1940)
|-6. Donald Guy Jr. (b.1969)
|-6. Chery Ann Guy (b.1971)
+-6. Mary Ellen Guy (b.1974)
-4. James Leroy Bulger (b.1910 d.1968)
sp: Marion P. Stevens (b.1912 d.1991)
|-5. Patricia Ann Bulger (b.1930)
sp: Fred Rullman
|-6. Deborah Rullman (b.1953)
sp: Kingvey
+-7. Thomas Jeff Kingvey (b.1980)
|-6. Jeff Rullman (b.1956)
+-6. Steven Rullman (b.1960)

| | | -5. Maurice David Bulger (b.1932 d.1977)
| | | sp: Barbara Presby (b.1934)
| | | -6. Lisa Ann Bulger (b.1958)
| | | sp: Terry Horne
| | | +-7. Christopher Lee Horne (b.1979)
| | | -6. Lurie J. Bulger (b.1959)
| | | sp: David Blake
| | | +-7. Erin Elizabeth Blake (b.1980)
| | | -6. David E. Bulger (b.1960)
| | | +6. Andrew Bulger (b.1964)
| | | +-5. Shirley Mae Bulger (b.1933 d.1963)
| | | sp: Walter Bagster
| | | -6. Barbara Bagster (b.1948)
| | | sp: Arthur Conran
| | | -7. Arthur Conran Jr. (b.1966)
| | | +-7. Amanda J. Conran
| | | -6. Karan Ann Bagster (b.1950)
| | | sp: Alan Ricker
| | | +-6. Susan Colleen Bagster (b.1952)
| | | sp: Jacob Charezenko
| | | -7. Katyra Mae Charezenko (b.1981)
| | | +-7. Joshua Charezenko (b.1984)
| | | -4. Evelyn Bulger (b.1912 d.1965)
| | | sp: Arnold Dunn
| | | +-5. James Dunn (b.1938)
| | | -4. Frederick Bulger (b.1914 d.1982)
| | | sp: Helen Holleron
| | | -5. Terrance F. Bulger (b.1947)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | -6. Cherelyn Bulger
| | | +-6. Thomas Bulger
| | | -5. Marylin Bulger (b.1952)
| | | +-5. Kevin Bulger (b.1957)
| | | -4. Clara Bernice Bulger (b.1916 d.1997)
| | | sp: John Gannon (b.1915 d.1968)
| | | -5. Charlotte Gannon (b.1941 d.2002)
| | | sp: Thomas Dayton
| | | -5. M. Louise Gannon (b.1943)
| | | sp: Robert Clark
| | | +-6. Amy Clark
| | | -5. John Nolan Gannon (b.1945 d.1984)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | +-6. Joanne Gannon
| | | +-5. Thomas Gannon (b.1948 d.2001)
| | | -4. George Arnold Bulger (b.1919 d.1999)
| | | sp: Marguerite Esther Coombs (b.1918 m.1940 d.1989)

| | | -5. David Michael Bulger (b.1944)
 | | | sp: Eleanor Jean Hurley (b.1944 m.1965)
 | | | | -6. Jean Marie Bulger (b.1966)
 | | | | sp: Donald Shortreed (m.1990)
 | | | | | -7. Conor James Shortreed (b.1997)
 | | | | | +-7. Emma Jane Shortreed (b.1999)
 | | | | -6. Maureen Margaret Bulger (b.1968)
 | | | | sp: Jason Kinder (m.2001)
 | | | +-6. Michael George Edward Bulger (b.1972)
 | | | sp: Denise Gallant (m.1999)
 | | | | -7. Meaghan Kathleen Bulger (b.2001)
 | | | | +-7. Grace Marguerite Bulger (b.2004)
 | | | -5. Thomas James Bulger (b.1947)
 | | | sp: Cindy Wright (m.1966(div))
 | | | | -6. Jacqueline Elaine Bulger (b.1969)
 | | | | sp: Gary Child (m.(nm))
 | | | | | +-7. Kathryn Leigh Child (b.1991)
 | | | | sp: Marta Orth (m.(div))
 | | | -5. Stephen Andrew Bulger (b.1950)
 | | | sp: Linda Luz (m.(div))
 | | | | -6. Lisa Dawn Bulger (b.1971)
 | | | | -6. Shannon April Bulger (b.1974)
 | | | | sp: Sharion
 | | | | sp: Debbie Minor (m.2000)
 | | | -5. Martha Jane Bulger (b.1952)
 | | | sp: R. Daniel O'Leary (b.1948 m.1969)
 | | | | -6. Stacey Lynn O'Leary (b.1970)
 | | | | sp: Kevin T. Michaud (m.1991)
 | | | | | +-7. Jacob Daniel Michaud (b.1997)
 | | | | +-6. Heather Nolan O'Leary (b.1972)
 | | | | sp: Todd Barter (m.2001)
 | | | | | +-7. Hali O'Leary (b.1996)
 | | | +-5. Timothy Joseph Bulger (b.1958)
 | | | sp: Nanette Haskins (m.1985)
 | | | | -6. Kristen Marguerite Bulger (b.1989)
 | | | | +-6. Shauna Anderson Bulger
 | | +-4. Richard Howard Bulger (b.1930 d.1965)
 | | sp: Vivian Sassi (b.1933 m.1953)
 | | | -5. Richard Howard Bulger Jr. (b.1954)
 | | | -5. Bruce Bulger (b.1956)
 | | | sp: Brenda Zadakis
 | | | | -6. Ryan Bulger
 | | | | -6. Alicia Bulger
 | | | | +-6. Desiree Bulger (b.1991)
 | | +-5. Linda Jean Bulger (b.1960)
 | | sp: John Gaskill

| -3. Mary Gertrude Bulger (b.1883 d.1949)
| | sp: William J. Foran (b.1872 d.1948)
| | -4. James P. Foran (b.1902)
| | -4. Lena M. Foran (b.1903 d.1983)
| | | sp: John H. Marston (b.1898)
| | | -5. John E. Marston (b.1933)
| | | -5. Joan M. Marston (b.1938)
| | | +-5. William H. Marston (b.1943)
| | -4. Thelma A. Foran (b.1908 d.1984)
| | | sp: Albert E. LeVesso (b.1911 d.1944)
| | | -5. William A. LeVesso (b.1933 d.1990)
| | | -5. James C. LeVesso (b.1934 d.1943)
| | | sp: James Robinson (b.1904 d.1981)
| | -4. Patrick E. Foran (b.1911 d.1961)
| | -4. Ann Claraetta Foran (b.1913)
| | | sp: John J. Boyle (b.1904 d.1943)
| | | +-5. John R. Boyle (b.1934)
| | -4. George Allen Foran (b.1915)
| | | sp: Hazel Fletcher (b.1914 d.1986)
| | | +-5. Patricia Ann Foran (b.1943)
| | | | sp: O'Dette
| | | | +-6. Joe Michael Foran (b.1960)
| | | | | sp: Barbara McManus
| | | | | -7. Valerie A. Foran (b.1987)
| | | | +-7. Lorraine C. Foran (b.1988)
| | +-4. Dorothy Jeannette Foran (b.1922 d.1985)
| | | sp: Louis V. Toghayelli (b.1919)
| -3. Annie Laura Bulger (b.1885 d.1968)
| | sp: John C. Dowick (b.1883 d.1941)
| -3. Clarinda Bulger (b.1887)
| | sp: Edward James Morey (b.1888)
| | -4. Arletta Agnes Morey (b.1908)
| | | sp: George W. Skanes (b.1898 m.1927)
| | | -5. Fletcher Skanes (b.1928)
| | | -5. Robert James Skanes (b.1929)
| | | -5. Jack E. Skanes (b.1931)
| | | -5. Jean E. Skanes
| | | +-5. George T. Skanes (b.1943)
| | -4. Dorothy C. Morey (b.1910)
| | | sp: Walter Grassman (b.1906 m.1929)
| | | -5. Gale Jean Grassman (b.1934)
| | | -5. Michael Joseph Grassman (b.1938)
| | | +-5. Daniel James Grassman (b.1945)
| | -4. Marilla Ann Morey (b.1915)
| | | sp: William J. Handley
| | | -5. Thomas Joseph Handley (b.1931)

| | sp: Benjamin Tipton
| | |-5. Patricia Ann Tipton (b.1941)
| | +-5. Charles Tipton
| | +4. Harriet Kathleen Morey (b.1922)
| | sp: Andrew L. Simonson (b.1914 m.1944)
| | |-5. Kathleen Ann Simonson (b.1946)
| | |-5. Barbara Clare Simonson (b.1947)
| | +-5. Donna Jean Simonson (b.1948)
| |-3. Minnie Alice Bulger (b.1888 d.1928)
| sp: Edmund G. Billings (b.1890)
| | +-4. Natalie Mae Billings (b.1912)
| |-3. Francis Guy Bulger (b.1890 d.1983)
| sp: Nancy Green (d.1977)
| |-3. John Archibald Bulger (b.1891)
| sp: Teresa (m.1922)
| |-3. Timothy William Bulger (b.1893 d.1950)
| sp: Emma Moyes (b.1918)
| |-3. Sophia Bulger (b.1895 d.1964)
| sp: Dougal Gillis (b.1883 m.1920)
| |-3. Jarvis Wilfred Bulger (b.1897 d.1971)
| sp: Mary Margaret Lory (b.1903 m.1923)
| | +-4. Frances Louise Bulger (b.1924)
| | sp: Robert Cruzan (b.1922)
| | |-5. Karen Lynn Cruzan (b.1947)
| | | sp: Barry Silvenis (b.1947 m.1973)
| | | +-6. Sara Silvenis (b.1978)
| | +-5. Kathleen Louise Cruzan (b.1949)
| | sp: Don Taylar (b.1949 m.1972)
| | |-6. Gabriel Michael Taylar (b.1977)
| | +-6. Matthew Robert Taylar (b.1980)
| |-3. Agatha Ann Bulger (b.1898 d.1981)
| sp: Thomas Evans (m.1921)
| | |-4. Dr. Francis Joseph Evans (b.1922)
| | sp: Rita McIntyre (m.1945)
| | +-5. Mary Kathleen Evans
| | |-4. John Irvin Evans (b.1944 d.1944)
| | |-4. Mary Alice Evans (b.1925)
| | sp: John James McDonald (m.1947)
| | |-5. Kathleen M. McDonald (b.1948)
| | |-5. Rose Marie McDonald (b.1950)
| | |-5. John W. McDonald (b.1956)
| | +-5. Teresa Ann McDonald (b.1958)
| | |-4. Laura Jean Evans (b.1927)
| | sp: Charles McGeoghan (m.1949)
| | |-4. William Thomas Evans (b.1928)
| | sp: Anita Owen

| | | -5. Maureen Evans
| | | -5. Gary Evans (b.1960)
| | | -5. Brian Evans
| | | +-5. John Evans
| | | -4. Leo Patrick Evans (b.1930)
| | | -4. Gerald Basil Evans (b.1932)
| | | sp: Esther Tallis
| | | -5. Joan Evans
| | | -5. Barry Evans
| | | -5. Dr. Michael Evans
| | | +-5. Marilyn Evans (b.1970)
| | | -4. Peter Roy Evans (b.1933)
| | | sp: Reine Arsenault
| | | +-5. Lynne Evans
| | | -4. Agatha Ann Evans (b.1936)
| | | sp: Gerald Clarkin (m.(div))
| | | -5. Geraldine Clarkin
| | | -5. Ann Marie Clarkin
| | | -5. Mary Clarkin
| | | -5. James Clarkin
| | | +-5. Robert Clarkin
| | +-4. Rita Kathleen Evans (b.1940 d.1947)
| -3. Margaret Helena Bulger (b.1900 d.1975)
| sp: Cyril M. Bulger (b.1899 d.1968)
| | -4. Alice Bulger
| | sp: Campana
| | -4. Eileen Bulger
| | sp: O'Neil
| | +-4. Helen Bulger
| | sp: Lawson
| -3. Rita Celia Bulger (b.1902 d.1991)
| sp: Arthur MacDougal (b.1898 m.1942 d.1980)
| | +-4. Judith Ann MacDougal (b.1943)
| | sp: John Pagliuca (m.1964)
| | | -5. Stephen John Pagliuca (b.1967)
| | | +-5. David Vincent Pagliuca (b.1972)
| +-3. Ronald S. Bulger (b.1905 d.1970)
| sp: Mary Cantwell (b.1895 d.1955)
| | -4. Ronald Edward Bulger (b.1930 d.1992)
| | sp: Nellie
| | | +-5. Stephen Bulger (b.1975)
| | -4. Robert Bulger (b.1932)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | -5. Edward Bulger
| | | -5. Mary Ann Bulger
| | | -5. Geraldine Bulger

| | -5. Susan Bulger
| | -5. Karen Bulger
| | +-5. Amy Bulger
| +-4. James Bulger (b.1933)
| | sp: UNKNOWN
| | -5. Judith Bulger
| | +-5. Mary Beth Bulger
| -2. **Margaret Bulger (b.1851)**
| -2. **Ann Bulger (b.1852 d.1953)**
| sp: John Kilbride (m.1873)
| | -3. Margaret Ann Kilbride (b.1873)
| | -3. Louisa Jane Kilbride (b.1875)
| | -3. Agnes Josephie Kilbride (b.1881)
| | -3. Margaret Louella Kilbride (b.1884)
| | -3. Thomas Leo Kilbride (b.1886)
| | -3. Maud Florence Kilbride (b.1888 d.1976)
| | sp: Marshall MacLellan
| | | -4. Rev. Thomas MacLellan
| | | -4. Angus MacLellan
| | | -4. Margaret MacLellan
| | | +-4. Sr. Louisa MacLellan
| | -3. Percy James Kilbride (b.1890)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | -4. Lorne Kilbride
| | | +-4. Anna Kilbride
| | | sp: Robert Banks
| | | +-5. Timothy Banks
| | -3. Lillian Josina Kilbride (b.1893 d.1979)
| | sp: Herman MacIntyre
| | -3. Ernest Raymond Kilbride (b.1896)
| | +-3. Mary Evelyn Kilbride (b.1900)
| -2. **Ellen Bulger (b.1853)**
| -2. **James Bulger (b.1855 d.1945)**
| sp: Agnes Blanchard (m.1883 d.1944)
| | -3. Josephine Bulger (b.1883)
| | sp: Phillip Gain
| | | -4. Mary Gain (b.1902)
| | | sp: Frank Hogan
| | | | -5. Phillip Hogan (b.1925)
| | | | -5. Clifford Hogan (b.1926)
| | | | -5. Willard Hogan (b.1929)
| | | | -5. Pauline Hogan (b.1931)
| | | | -5. Kevin Hogan (b.1933)
| | | | -5. Marina Hogan (b.1935)
| | | | -5. Gerard Hogan (b.1939)
| | | sp: James Dowling

| | +-5. Patricia Dowling (b.1944)
| | -4. Lillian Gain (b.1905)
| | sp: William Milligan
| | -5. Foster Milligan (b.1924)
| | sp: Etta Smith
| | -5. Bernice Milligan (b.1925)
| | sp: Ernest Ramsay
| | -5. Sterling Milligan (b.1927)
| | sp: Jean Wagner
| | -5. Elmer Milligan (b.1929)
| | sp: Shirley Grigg
| | -5. Wyman Milligan (b.1930)
| | sp: Valda Smith
| | -5. Charles Milligan (b.1932)
| | sp: Edna MacKinnon
| | -5. Frank Milligan (b.1938)
| | sp: Josephine Doyle
| | +-5. Joyce Milligan (b.1940)
| | sp: Reginald MacKinnon
| | -4. Clara Gain (b.1907 d.1981)
| | sp: Joseph P. Smith
| | -4. James Gain (b.1910)
| | sp: Dorothy Malone (b.1919)
| | -5. Thomas J. Gain
| | -5. Helen J. Gain
| | +-5. Anthony P. Gain
| | -4. Pius Gain (b.1912 d.1943)
| | -4. Joseph C. Gain (b.1914)
| | -4. Joseph L. Gain (b.1915)
| | sp: Helen Walsh
| | -4. Thomas Gain (b.1918 d.1944)
| | -4. A. Bernice Gain (b.1922 d.1971)
| | sp: Ernest A. Bennett
| | +-4. Laughlin Gain
| | -3. Mary Ellen Bulger (b.1884 d.1971)
| | sp: Ernest Arsenault (b.1882 d.1972)
| | -4. Eileen Arsenault (b.1905 d.1991)
| | sp: Roy Blackbird
| | -5. Ernest Blackbird
| | +-5. Evelyn Blackbird
| | -4. Bernard Arsenault (b.1906)
| | sp: Kilda Gauthier
| | -5. Vivian Arsenault (b.1940)
| | -5. Kenneth Arsenault (b.1942)
| | -5. Patsy Arsenault
| | -5. Estella Arsenault

| | | -5. Janette Arsenault
| | | -5. Nancy Arsenault
| | | +-5. Ann Arsenault
| | | -4. Thelma Arsenault (b.1908)
| | | sp: James MacNeil
| | | +-5. Kenneth Arsenault
| | | -4. Josephine Arsenault (b.1910 d.1990)
| | | sp: Edward Arsenault
| | | -5. Ronald Arsenault
| | | -5. Irene Arsenault
| | | -5. Doreen Arsenault
| | | -5. Patricia Arsenault
| | | +-5. Jean Arsenault
| | | -4. Francis Sylvair Arsenault (b.1913 d.1993)
| | | sp: Margaret Hayne
| | | -5. Larry Arsenault (b.1952)
| | | sp: Mary Henniger (b.1955)
| | | | -6. Ernest Arsenault (b.1975)
| | | | -6. Larry Wayne Arsenault (b.1977)
| | | | +-6. James Arsenault (b.1982)
| | | +-5. James Arsenault (b.1954)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | +-6. Charity Arsenault
| | | -4. Leo J. Arsenault (b.1916 d.1976)
| | | -4. Helen Arsenault (b.1922)
| | | sp: Harold Davidson
| | | +4. Vivian Arsenault (b.1924)
| | | sp: Jack Milligan (b.1919 m.1943)
| | | +-5. John Wayne Milligan
| | | -3. Annie Lucilla Bulger (b.1889 d.1993)
| | | sp: Joseph Pineau
| | | -4. Stanley Pineau (b.1914)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | -5. Stanley Paul Pineau (b.1943)
| | | -5. Mary Jeannine Pineau (b.1946)
| | | -5. Anthony Pineau
| | | -5. James Pineau
| | | -5. Maureen Pineau
| | | -5. Mary Anne Pineau
| | | +-5. Daniel Pineau
| | | -4. Larry Pineau (b.1916)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | -5. Kit Pineau
| | | -5. Larry Pineau
| | | -5. Michael Pineau
| | | +-5. Margot Pineau

| | -4. Vivian Pineau (d.1981)
| | sp: UNKNOWN
| | -5. Jeffrey Effnert
| | -5. Shelley Effnert
| | +-5. Jocelyn Effnert
| | -4. Joseph Pineau (b.1920)
| | sp: UNKNOWN
| | -5. Joseph Pineau (b.1942)
| | +-5. Lorraine Pineau
| | -4. Lillian Pineau
| | sp: Biloski
| | -5. Bruce Biloski
| | -5. Brian Biloski
| | -5. Catherine Biloski
| | +-5. Timothy Biloski
| | +-4. Jean Pineau
| | sp: Kelly
| | -5. Betty Jo Kelly
| | -5. Randy Kelly
| | -5. Richard Kelly
| | +-5. Colleen Kelly
| | -3. James Edward Bulger (b.1891)
| | sp: Bridget Elizabeth Bulger (b.1889)
| | -4. Agnes Bulger
| | sp: FNU Thurston
| | -5. Frances Thurston
| | +-5. James Thurston
| | -4. Chester Bulger
| | sp: Harriet Cutter
| | -5. Dana Bulger
| | -5. Gordon Bulger
| | -5. Cathy Bulger
| | -5. Wendy Bulger
| | +-5. Kevin Bulger
| | -4. Marjorie Bulger (d.2000)
| | sp: FNU Fergola
| | -5. Paula Fergola
| | -5. Gregory Fergola
| | +-5. Victor Fergola
| | -4. Raymond Bulger (d.2001)
| | sp: UNKNOWN
| | -5. Patricia Bulger
| | -5. Ernest Bulger
| | -5. Jean Bulger
| | -5. Daniel Bulger
| | +-5. Marjorie Bulger

| | -4. Edward Bulger (d.2001)
| | sp: Mary Lawlor
| | -5. Jean Marie Bulger (b.1942)
| | -5. Lois Ann Bulger (b.1944)
| | -5. Thomas Edward Bulger (b.1948)
| | sp: Linda Hebert (b.1950)
| | | -6. David Bulger
| | | +-6. Luke Bulger
| | -5. James Gregory Bulger (b.1950)
| | -5. Robert Stephen Bulger (b.1954)
| | -5. Harry Timothy Bulger (b.1956)
| | -5. Edward Douglas Bulger (b.1958)
| | +-5. Joseph Patrick Bulger (b.1960)
| | -4. Frances Bulger
| | sp: Robert Miller
| | -5. Brian Miller
| | -5. Barry Miller
| | -5. Barbara Jean Miller
| | -5. Bruce Miller
| | +-5. Bennett Miller
| | +-4. Charles Bulger
| | sp: UNKNOWN
| | -5. Donna Bulger
| | -5. Cathy Bulger
| | +-5. Karen Bulger
| | -3. Michael Austen Bulger (b.1894)
| | -3. Charles Bulger (b.1899 d.1924)
| | sp: Amy MacPherson
| | +-3. Peter Ernest Bulger (b.1902 d.1973)
| | sp: Florence Gallant
| | -4. Bruce J. Bulger
| | -4. Linda S. Bulger
| | +-4. Lou Ann Bulger
| | **-2. Timothy Bulger (b.1857 d.1936)**
| | sp: Margaret Louney (b.1866 m.1892 d.1955)
| | -3. John L. Bulger (b.1894 d.1988)
| | sp: Elizabeth Rohe (b.1891 m.1919 d.1973)
| | -4. Margaret Marie Bulger (b.1924)
| | sp: Clair Young (m.1949)
| | +-5. John W. Young (b.1951)
| | sp: Marina Murphy
| | | -6. Mariel Young (b.1983)
| | | +-6. Paul W. Young (b.1989)
| | +-4. Rita J. Bulger (b.1933)
| | sp: Ronald T. Shoemaker (b.1934)
| | -5. Ronald Terrance Shoemaker (b.1956)

| | | sp: Melody Lane
| | | -5. Christina M. Shoemaker (b.1957)
| | | sp: Jack Magasko Jr.
| | | | -6. Brian Magasko (b.1987)
| | | | +-6. Loren Magasko (b.1989)
| | | -5. Frances A. Shoemaker (b.1959)
| | | sp: Joseph Ciccone
| | | +-5. Michael Shoemaker (b.1960)
| | | sp: Debbie Megan
| | -3. Anna Lorena Bulger (b.1896 d.1989)
| | -3. Mary E. Bulger (b.1899 d.1967)
| | -3. Willie Bulger
| | -3. Rosella Bulger
| | +-3. Francis Bulger
-2. Margaret Ellen Bulger (b.1859 d.1913)
| | sp: Ronald Grosscup
| | -3. Ronald Grosscup (b.1887 d.1893)
| | -3. Mary Grosscup (b.1889 d.1889)
| | -3. Margaret Theresa Grosscup (b.1890 d.1974)
| | sp: Bernard Lynch (b.1865)
| | -3. Mary Lynch (b.1894 d.1937)
| | sp: Edward Carroll (b.1890 d.1959)
| | | -4. Edward Carroll (b.1925)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | | -5. Gregory Carroll (b.1956)
| | | | +-5. Kathleen Carroll (b.1959)
| | | -4. Robert Carroll (b.1928)
| | | sp: Mary McCormick (b.1928 d.1991)
| | | | -5. Maryann Carroll (b.1953)
| | | | sp: William Flaherty
| | | | | -6. Kathleen Flaherty
| | | | | -6. Mary Flaherty
| | | | | +-6. Matthew Flaherty
| | | | -5. Elizabeth Carroll (b.1955)
| | | | -5. Robert Carroll (b.1958)
| | | | +-5. Paul Carroll (b.1960)
| | | -4. Donald Carroll (b.1931 d.1985)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | | -5. Stephen Carroll (b.1964)
| | | | -5. Michael Carroll (b.1964)
| | | | +-5. John Carroll (b.1968)
| | | +-4. Charles Carroll (b.1934)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | | | -5. Edward Carroll (b.1959)
| | | | +-5. Lorraine Carroll (b.1961)
| | -3. Bernard Lynch (b.1895 d.1973)

| | sp: Marion Kiernan
| | |-4. Bernard Lynch (b.1916)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | +5. Bernard Lynch (b.1940)
| | |-4. Alma Lynch (b.1919)
| | +4. Virginia Lynch (b.1921)
| | | sp: UNKNOWN
| | +5. M. Kiley
| |-3. Thomas Lynch (b.1897 d.1899)
| |-3. Francis Lynch (b.1899 d.1972)
| | sp: UNKNOWN
| | +4. Robert Lynch (b.1944)
| |-3. Helen Lynch (b.1901 d.1960)
| +3. George Lynch (b.1904)
| | sp: Edna Morrill
| | +4. Patricia Lynch (b.1940)
| **+2. Peter Bulger (b.1861)**
| sp: Flora O'Meara (b.1872)
| |-3. Charles Bulger (b.1892)
| +3. Wesley Bulger (b.1896)
| | sp: Dorothy (b.1899)
| | |-4. Gerard Bulger (b.1916 d.1986)
| | +4. Robert Bulger
