The Knox Family and their Journey to New South Wales, Australia

THE STORY OF JOSEPH KNOX, HIS ROOTS AND HIS DESCENDANTS



THE KNOX CHRONICLES BOOK 1

Drumquin, County Tyrone - Ireland

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"Montargis" Knox Home Sydney

BASED ON THE ORIGINAL WORK
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Joseph Knox

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THE KNOX CHRONICLES - BOOK 1

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WITH THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO BOOK 1

H special thanks to my beloved husband Marjan Kiepura whose generosity has known no bounds. He has contributed greatly to the production of this booklet, and has lent support and encouragement throughout this historical journey. Most of all I want to thank him for his enthusiasm in the search for our Knox ancestors. Jane Knox



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FOREWARD

In telling the story of Joseph Knox and his journey to Australia we have to first look to his roots. The very title of this story is paradoxical as we have not yet established how Joseph Knox did arrive in Australia. We are now closer than ever - please see updated note at the end of these chronicles.

This enormous gap in information might have, in itself, ended the search and it would have been another case of a young man arriving in New South Wales to find a new life to escape the poverty and famine of Northern Ireland in the 1860s'. Indeed, there are no letters or memorabilia passed down to any of his living descendants about his Scottish or Northern Irish roots.

However, thanks to the enormous amount of information available from the NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages certificates, not to mention the Passenger Lists, we have been able to put together the most likely background to this enigmatic person who certainly arrived a free man and made a successful life for himself in New South Wales. In doing so, he enabled his descendants to live free and fruitful lives.

The descendants of Joseph Knox, including the Grigg family, Fearby family, O'Connor family, Steel family, Margaret Alexander, and of course, the Knox Family have all persevered over the years to put together every scrap of information. The excitement of finding the correct marriage or death certificate of one of Joseph's siblings has given us all the impetus to "never give up" on the search for Joseph's roots.

Peter Knox, Joseph's grandson, went to great lengths to write to the churches in Drumquin, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland in an attempt to establish the origin of his Knox forebears. These attempts were always met with the sad reply that all records had been destroyed.

It is very strange and even sadder that despite the fact that the Knoxes and other friends and relatives from this small Presbyterian enclave in Northern Ireland all settled close to each other in the Forest Lodge - Glebe area, there does not appear to be any first-hand account of Joseph's life. We hope the following pages will identify everything we do know through written documentation gleaned from a variety of sources. Before we get to the documented facts, we have attempted to put together all the material currently at our disposal regarding his place of birth in Northern Ireland.

This is an open-ended story and it is hoped that through diligent research in Northern Ireland we will have a clearer picture of his place in history as a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian finding a new life. To this extent Robert Williams - of Ulster Ancestry in Londonderry has gone to every possible length to help us trace the roots of Samuel Knox and Margaret Frame, Joseph's parents. We are especially grateful for the wonderful photographs that appear in the following pages of the magnificent Drumquin region where the Knoxes must have struggled to eke out a living from the harsh realities of being "over-taxed, over-tithed and over-tired" amid the ravages of the Irish Potato Famine.

The following pages will also attempt to unlock the secret of our ancestors from Northern Ireland and their Scottish roots. A general geographic and historical perspective may help us all understand Joseph Knox and his heritage.

KNOX CHRONICLES BOOK 1

We know that Joseph Knox was born in Drumquin, near Omagh, Co. Tyrone to Samuel Knox and Margaret Frame. We also know from his death certificate that he died on 6th February 1919 as a man of "independent means". This was signed by his son, Joseph Milton Hosking Knox of Rochester Street, Homebush. At the time, Joseph was living in his house "Montargis", Binalong Road Wentworthville Shire of Blacktown, Sydney, New South Wales. It clearly stated he had been living fifty-four years in New South Wales and he was seventy-three years old. This is all the information we had to go on.

When setting out to search for Joseph's roots, we first had to confront Ireland in the mid-19th century and its great complexities. The greatest of these is to understand place names. It is certainly not enough to locate a county or town; the names are divided up into parishes, and then further divided up into townlands. I quote from Robert William's Ulster Ancestry webpage: "This ancient method of land measurement is found only in Ireland and is very important in genealogical research. These small areas of land can vary in size from a few acres upwards and are the basis of the most important of all Irish Genealogical Records, Sir Richard Griffith's Valuation of 1848-1865. There are approximately 62,000 townlands in Ireland and anything from perhaps five to thirty can be grouped together to form a Parish."

When searching for any form of records a number of strange names come up all with multiple spellings and led us to believe that it would be impossible to ever locate any Knox without understanding that Langfield, Longfield, Drumquin, Kirlish, Tullyard, Bomacatall, Castlesesagh, Curraghamulkin were all in close walking distance of each other because they either represented the names of townlands, parishes or towns. Not wanting to hold up these Chronicles while further study and research is made to ensure that no errors are made on this front, I have attached the valuation maps as well as some more general maps of County Tyrone.

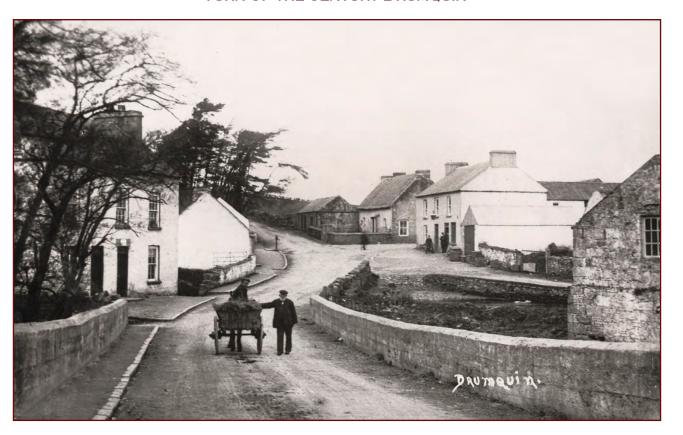
In this research, I was reminded that Northern Ireland is divided up into six Counties: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone. The term Ulster is properly applied to the nine-county province comprising the six counties of Northern Ireland plus Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan. The most northerly county Donegal, is in the Republic of Ireland. It appears that there were a great many Knoxes in Donegal and even though the name Frame is rare in Ireland it also appears there. It was important, however, to concentrate on the Knoxes in the Drumquin/Kirlish area, as clearly every NSW death certificate gave these two locations as the place of birth. When researching all the NSW immigration records, it was clear that our Knoxes and the "cousins" all gave names including Longfield, Langfield, Kirlish (spelt in a variety of ways).

However, because both Samuel and Margaret were dead by 1863, we were unable to verify that they were living there at time of the emigration of their four children. This was clearer with the cousins, as Jane Knox, wife of Joseph Knox, Samuel's brother, was still alive, so a place name was given. The greatest clue was still the fact that John Frame Knox, son of Samuel Knox of Kirlish, was married in 1862 in the Drumquin Presbyterian Meeting House.

There are, for instance, many Knoxes from Mullanroddy, sometimes also written as Mullinroddy or Mulanrody (a townland of some 217 acres in the Parish of Magheraculmoney in the County of Fermanagh), but these are not necessarily cousins. However, some of them did end up in Glebe Sydney, in exactly the same area as our Knoxes. In fact, Magheraculmoney is only 12 miles south of Drumquin. In Drumsawna, two miles away, there are also many, many records of Knoxes.



TURN OF THE CENTURY DRUMQUIN



Pictures of Drumquin,





ABANDONED 1 9TH CENTURY COTTAGE
This is a typical dwelling at the time on the Knox Kirlish Farm.



KNOX HOUSE PROPERTY
Photo taken where Knox house property stood in Kirlish, looking down into the valley towards Drumquin.

THE DRUMQUIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Drumquin Presbyterian Church was rebuilt between 1860 and 1863. John Frame Knox, Joseph's brother, married Elizabeth Mellon in this church on October 21st, 1862.





Trying to stay on the right path is always the challenge in these circumstances and here I will confess that sometimes not having a true strategy can be lethal.

If I had gone to the Passenger Lists first and not to the Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates in New South Wales, we could have dealt with far fewer Knoxes and identified only those from County Tyrone. It wasn't until identifying three gt gt aunts and uncles, whom we never knew existed, heretofore, that we discovered how to restart the search.

Now in October 2005, we can more or less confirm that the John Knox coming out on the Ironside and arriving in NSW on 9th May 1863, aged 18, Presbyterian from Kirlish, County Tyrone, Shoemaker, with a sister Mary in the Colonies and sponsored by cousin Andrew Knox, was indeed our Joseph Knox. These chronicles will explain how we arrived at this conclusion.

Country road in Kirlish

THE KNOXES AND FRAMES

To start at the beginning, it is believed the family name Knox originated in Renfrewshire, Scotland. The word "Cnoc" is the Gaelic word meaning rock or mountain. However, it can also mean hill.

Joseph's Knox ancestors may well have been among the Scotch settlers who came to Ireland at the time of the "Plantation of Ulster" in 1610 during the reign of James 1 of England who was, of course, also James VI of Scotland. There were many Knox families among the settlers. The first Bishop of Raphoe appointed in 1611 was Bishop Andrew Knox. His church still stands today. He continued in this office until 1633 and during this time brought many Knox families over from Scotland and placed them as tenants on church land. Hence, the name is particularly prevalent in County Tyrone and the Raphoe district of Donegal. Some early records prove that. In 1666, in the Barony of Strabane, there was William Knox in Drumenny and George Knox in Liskinbewee Camus Strabane, each taxed on one hearth (i.e. each house had one fireplace). In the Religious Census of 1766 in Strabane, among the List of Protestants and Dissenters there featured the following names:

Moses McCrea, James Knox, John Knox, James Knox, William McCrea and Thomas Knox

It has been difficult to link Joseph to these early settlers as there was no civil registration of birth until 1st January 1864. Protestant marriages were registered from 1st January 1845, but Joseph did not marry in Ireland. An extensive search was made for the marriage of his parents, Samuel Knox and Margaret Frame, at the GRO but none was found, confirming that they were married before 1845 with all children being born before that date. This is confirmed by the marriage and death certificates of Samuel and Margaret's children.

To understand 18th and 19th century Irish genealogy, it is essential to understand the prevailing social system. Lives were controlled by the class system to a point where destiny was more or less established at birth. People married within their own class in the hope of acquiring more wealth and property. If you were born into the "tenant farming" community then, in turn, you stayed within this community almost without exception. The best way out of this cycle was to learn a trade which relieved total dependence on the land as a source of income. Living off the land in early 19th century Ulster was, for the tenant farmer, a very hard and unpredictable life. It is perhaps because of this that we see many of our Knoxes as "shoemakers".

However, we did identify the marriage of John Frame Knox, son of Samuel, Farmer of Kirlish in 1862. This John Frame was a shoemaker but Samuel appears to have been a farmer. We therefore know that Joseph's older brother learnt a trade. We also know from the immigration documentation that he could read and write.

A 19th century Irishman tended not to travel far from his own immediate neighbourhood and townland. There was no transportation to speak of, except by foot. Only the wealthy had horses. Socializing normally took place within the Parish. No wonder the same family names keep reappearing!



As a result of the <u>Composition Act</u> every holder of land, no matter how little, was obliged by law to pay a "tithe" or tax of ten per cent of their income to support the clergyman of the Established Church (Church of Ireland). This tax was applied to all irrespective of whether that person was a Member of the Established Church or not. Since our Knoxes were Presbyterian this must have been a very unpopular tax for them.

A Joseph Knox, with fourteen arable acres and six acres of bog, who had to pay a tithe of fourteen shillings and eleven pence, was identified in the Townland of Kirlish in the Tithe Collection Book for Longfield West ref Fin/5a/204A dated 21st September 1826. This is undoubtedly one of our Knoxes. However, it is not clear whether this is Samuel's father or brother.

Because the name "Knox" is quite common in the region in question, our research concentrated more on the name of "Frame", as per Samuel's wife.

In the research carried out from the Register of Donegal Freeholders, there was a William Fream of "Corcullen" 1768 – this is "Cullion" just outside Strabane, with a James Fream in the same town.

From the Abercorn Estate Papers Ref D/633

on 9th January 1768 Letter from James, Earl of Abercorn to James Hamilton Esq., Newtonstewart

..."Frame's widow may have the lease to the place if she is the person entitled"....

on 20th May 1768 – there is a letter from James Hamilton of Strabane to the Earl of Abercorn.

..."There is a lease for Frame's tenement now I have given it to Samuel Magill of St. Johnstown....



View of the Knox House Property

Having exhausted all the resources to find any more Frames that might match ours, Robert Williams of Ulster Ancestry embarked on a field trip to Drumquin. He made enquiries in the townland and was directed to Nan Irwin (nee Netherly) of Bomackatal. Nan Netherly's grandfather James Henry Netherly had come into the possession of the Knoxes' old farm in 1926. Nan directed Robert to Oliver McCrea of Killeen



OLIVER MCCREA'S STORY

Oliver McCrea was born on 6th May 1917, the son of Samuel McCrea and Sarah McCann of Kirlish. Samuel lived from 1893 to 1970 and died aged 77. Oliver's grandfather, Samuel, was the son of William (Billy) McCrea and Mary Spier. Billy McCrea was a shoemaker in Kirlish.

Brief McCrea Tree: 1. John McCrea of Billany m. Ann? (possibly Knox) and had at least three children: Samuel McCrea born c 1830, Anne who married Joseph Knox, and Andrew born c 1838 (goes to Australia 1863) 2. Samuel McCrea marries? and has son William 3. William McCrea marries Mary Spier and has son Samuel 4. Samuel McCrea marries Sarah McCann and has son Oliver born 1917

It appears that Oliver's great grandfather Samuel McCrea is the one who appears in the Griffiths Valuation of 1860 as tenant of property 20b. His co-tenant at 20a was James Knox. James Knox has not yet been fitted into our family tree but there is clear evidence that he could well be a cousin of our Joseph. Both McCrea and Knox rented from Nan Netherly's great grandfather James Netherly. The latter in turn rented from Henry Echlin.

Across the road from the Knox and McCrea houses in Bomackatall was the home of George Mellon. These Chronicles will show how our Joseph's brother, John Frame Knox, married Elizabeth Mellon, daughter of William Mellon and Sarah Knox.

"Old Oliver" had heard of the Knoxes, probably through his father, and he told Robert: "those old Knoxes, I think had some connection with Castlefin". Castlefin is a small town just beyond Castlederg and Strabane over in County Donegal.

Armed with this new information, Robert embarked on a church register search in the Parish of Donaghmore the Parish in which Castlefin lies. There Robert looked for references to Knoxes. Not finding any, he examined the records that were extant of records with the name "Frame". Here he came across what might well be the families of our gt gt grandmother, Margaret Frame, who married Samuel Knox.

Between 1825 and 1842, there were several baptisms including that of Thomas Frame – 1825, son of Joseph Frame and Margaret Lowther. This couple baptized a daughter, Margaret Frame, in 1833. However, this would have been the wrong date for our gt gt grandmother, Margaret Frame, as possible dates for her birth would range from 1805 to 1822. We believe her firstborn was Mary (1839-40) and Joseph was probably her youngest born c 1845. However, it could well be a cousin. In 1828, Anne Frame, daughter of William Frame and Ann Frame was baptized. He was apparently a "shoemaker" of "Caronmagra". There are no Frame marriages in the registers searched to 1870, nor are there any Frame burials recorded in Donaghmore Parish searched to 1879.

This could well mean that "Old Oliver" knew that Kirlish Knoxes had some connection to Castlefin, perhaps because of the marriage between Samuel and Margaret Frame. It is more than likely that Margaret Frame was from Carrickmagrath, Castlefin. It is interesting to find quite a few "Frames" living in NSW Australia close to the Knoxes. There was no further mention of Frames in the land valuations in which the 1830 Tithe books were being recorded. By the Griffiths Valuation of 1860, all the Frames were gone from Carricknagrath.

In looking at Joseph's birthplace, we researched Drumquin, (Droim Caoin or "Pleasant Ridge"). Drumquin village nestles on the banks of the Fairywater and is close to the borders of County Fermanagh. The following is a good description of Drumquin albeit written a decade before the birth of our Joseph Knox.

A DESCRIPTION OF DRUMQUIN WRITTEN BY LIEUTENANT WILLIAM LANCY IN A LETTER TO J. R. WARD IN 1834.

This survey carried out by a young English army officer in 1834 paints a picture of Drumquin as a very poor and poverty stricken place. This was of course before the terrible potato famine of the 1840s so one can only imagine the plight of the poor inhabitants by the time of Joseph's birth in 1845.

"The northern, southern and western parts of the Parish are wild and mountainous dominated by a mountain range known locally simply as the Longfield Hills. There are several picturesque and wild glens, the principal one being Carrich-a-ness which is situated 2 miles to the west of the town of Drumquin. The other glen is situated 3 miles to the west of Drumquin and is called Slevin glen. There are numerous water falls which combined with the ruined bridge and the wildness of the glen, have a very picturesque effect.

Two streams run through the parish, namely the Fairy Water and the Drumquin Water. The Parish is well served by fresh springs and if anything has too much water. The principal lakes in the Parish are Lough Bradan, Lough Lee and Lough Corr. The shores of these lakes are soft and boggy. Local tradition has it that these lakes are inhabited by wild horses.

The only road of consequence passing through Longfield West is the road from Londonderry to Enniskillen which passes through the town of Drumquin.

Drumquin is a poor looking place, the houses mean and out of repair. It has a weekly market on Thursdays and a daily foot post but has no trade of any kind to enrich it.

The dress worn by the inhabitants differs in no way from that of the surrounding Parishes. Their diet consists principally of potatoes and porridge made of oatmeal and sometimes a dinner is varied by the addition of a little bacon or greens. Their manners are generally civil and obliging. They complain much of the short leases and high rents and with justice (or the lack of it), if we may judge from the squalid and poverty stricken appearance of many of them."

This is a quote from a historical document. It might give us the background of a life which was not filled with hope.

In trying to establish any kind of family tree, we have to optimize our few leads, which are pathetically few. These clues are based on records, land valuations, names in the area, and names given to the Knox children in our lines. We may still be able to link Joseph's parents to the following Knoxes, so we will start with some possibilities of Joseph's ancestors. However, we must emphasize there is no proven link, only circumstantial evidence - this part of the research is still work in progress:

1722 - Thomas Knox marries Hester Echlin of Strabane Ireland. An interesting note here is that the Echlins were the Knox family landlords in Kirlish, County Tyrone.

1734 - John Knox was born to Thomas Knox and Mary Echlin (not sure if this was a misspelling or perhaps sister)

1804 – 29th January - John Henderson Knox was born to Joseph Knox and Isabella of Camus, Strabane

We know that Joseph's parents were Samuel Knox of Kirlish and Margaret Frame, and we know that Samuel and Margaret had at least four children, who emigrated to New South Wales. We also believe that Samuel had a brother, also called Joseph Knox. This information is established by the birth, marriage and death certificates, where Andrew and Samuel list themselves as cousins.



INFORMATION GLEANED ON THE FAMILY OF JOSEPH KNOX (GREAT GRANDFATHER)

SAMUEL KNOX - Joseph's Father. At the time of his eldest son's marriage (John Frame) on 21st October 1862, Samuel Knox was listed as "Farmer from Kirlish". At some point Samuel married Margaret Frame, probably from the Strabane, Camus or even more likely from the Castlefin area of County Donegal. It can only be assumed they were married by 1839/40, as their daughter Mary was born around this time. Beyond this, we know that Samuel and Margaret had both died by 1863 when they were listed on the Passenger Ships by their children. Earliest evidence was recorded by Mary Knox, who emigrated to New South Wales on the Fairlie, arriving on 29th April 1863. She listed her parents, Samuel and Margaret Knox as dead.

As indicated, we do not know when Samuel married Margaret Frame but have established the likelihood is they married in Drumquin.

Sadly, the life and lifestyle of our great great grandparents will have to be left to our imagination. We do not know when they were born or when and how they died. We know they had at least four children, Mary, John Frame, Sarah and Joseph. We are not even sure where Samuel farmed or whether he also took up a trade as shoemaker. Their two sons were apparently taught to read and write and their daughters at least how to read – this information was gleaned from the Immigration Data. However, it is quite possible they could write as well. Here we have to look at the prevailing system of education and here, once again, I can thank Robert Williams for enlightening me.

Before 1840 and the introduction of the Irish National Schools system for children up to age 14, education was provided by the churches. There is evidence of the Drumquin National School existing by 1850, it was attached to the Presbyterian Church. This was in keeping with the other National Schools in the County.(Ref SCH/1392/1 Build c 1850.)

Joseph and his siblings would all have been in the right age group to have been eligible for the national system. However, it must be borne in mind that the distance by foot might have taken an hour an a half on very rough roads. Today, the journey by car from Drumquin to the Knox Farm at Kirlish is a 15-20 minute drive. It is hard to imagine six year old Joseph, with no waterproof clothing trudging off on a cold winter's day to make this long journey. However, he did learn to read and write. Children were often required to stay at home to help with the farm, especially during the harvest. The closer you lived to a school, the better your chances of receiving an education. The greatest chance no doubt was to have been blessed with very good health to be able to withstand the harsh conditions.

The Knox family presumably attended the Drumquin Church as John Frame, their son got married there. It is very likely, though, that through further research we will find Samuel and Margaret's ancestors. As we know, Samuel and Margaret had at least four children, the eldest being Mary and the



ABANDONED 19TH CENTURY COTTAGE This is a typical dwelling at the time on the Knox Kirlish Farm.



It was joined to Castleberg Castle by a straight causeway seven miles Long.



ABANDONED KIRLISH CORN MILL



Side view of Kirlish Corn Mill

We do know that Samuel and Margaret had the following Children.

MARY KNOX (GT GT AUNT) 1839 - 1896

Mary was born c.1839 in County Tyrone per emigration, marriage and death records. She emigrated to Australia on the Fairlie arriving in NSW on 29th April 1863 - see Reel 2139, 2481 showing her age as 23 - a "house servant" from Kirlish, County Tyrone - her religion is shown as Church of England and not Presbyterian like her siblings and cousins. Her "state of bodily health, strength and probable usefulness" was listed as "good" which was really the only category. It is stated she could "read" only. She is assigned to Andrew Knox - we assume this is a cousin Andrew. She lists her parents Samuel and Margaret Knox as "both dead". This is the second time we see their names listed.

Andrew Knox was living on Charles Street, Sydney. Andrew Knox paid £3.00 as sponsor; this appeared to be the prevailing rate for passengers on this ship. Interestingly enough, on the Passenger List received, the names appeared to be predominantly "female". While there were other young women from County Tyrone, it is unclear whether Mary came over with any close relatives. There was a young woman sponsored by a McBaron, who may have been related to her future husband.

Mary married John Baron (note spelling) a bachelor, on 4th February 1873, at Elizabeth Street, Sydney according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church. The officiating Minister was James Fullerton. She shows her age as 33 at the time of marriage and her birthplace as Ireland. No occupation is shown. John Baron was a farmer aged 39 also from Ireland. The witnesses were Hugh McBaron and Margaret J. Bell. Mary and John had no children.

Mary died on 31st December 1896, aged 57 at "Fern Vale" near Robertson. Parents are shown as Samuel Knox – Farmer - and Margaret Fraim. It also shows that she had been 31 years in NSW and had been 35 years old at time of marriage (note age shown on marriage certificate as 33). Here the name Baron is shown as McBarron. The cause of death was shown as enteric fever. Mary was buried at the Church of England Cemetery in Robertson by Gustavus Thompson a Wesleyan Minister.

It is not really known how close Mary might have been to her siblings. She seemed to have had an independent streak on matters of religion. We are not sure how much more information can be found about her early days in Australia, but more research remains to be done.

JOHN FRAME KNOX (OUR GT GT UNCLE) 1841-1895

John Frame Knox was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, between c. 1841 to Samuel and Margaret Knox (née Frame). He married Elizabeth Mellon, daughter of William Mellon of Tullyard and Sarah Knox at the Drumquin Presbyterian Meeting House on 21st October 1862 (copy of marriage certificate available) Ref: Omagh Book 1 Page 58. At time of his marriage he is listed as "Shoemaker" per:

"John Knox full age, bachelor, shoemaker of Kirlish Son of Samuel Knox farmer of Kirlish...in the presence of Andrew McCrea and William Watson". An interesting observation is that Ann McCrea had married Joseph Knox, farmer. Son of Joseph Knox of Slevin. - Later on, we see that Andrew McCrea was close to Andrew Knox in New South Wales - see Notes on McCrea.

John and Elizabeth emigrated to Australia on the "Peerless" in 1866, arriving in New South Wales on 6th June 1866. He travelled with two infants - Isabella, aged 2. I believe Isabella (later on became Eliza B or Lizzie B) and Margaret who was born on 16th June 1865 in Drumquin, Ireland His calling was listed as "Shoemaker" and native place, Drumquin, County Tyrone, religion: Presbyterian. He could read and write. His wife Elizabeth could "read" only. They were both listed as aged 25. His parents, Samuel and Margaret Knox, were both listed as dead. Elizabeth listed her mother as dead and her father, William Mellon, as living in Tyrone. What is really interesting in obtaining the information from the Passenger List is that he was sponsored by Joseph Knox, of 31 Charles Street, Sydney. It is

interesting to see that Joseph was no doubt already living in Sydney. Charles Street was also the address given by Andrew Knox when sponsoring Mary and appears to be where the Knoxes flourished. Joseph Knox would later invest in real estate in this area.

The Children of John and Elizabeth were:

Isabella - (born 1864 in County Tyrone) was aged 2 when her parents emigrated on the Peerless in 1866 (see reels 2140, 2484) see Lizzie B or Eliza B in d/cs.

Margaret - born on 16th June 1865 - this is the first of many sad stories. According to the d/c "On 6th January 1886 - at Hawlong Station - Margaret Knox - Servant - Female 20 years accidentally drowned. Her father was John Knox Shoe Maker - this was certified by Joseph Lenox - no relation (Carrathurs!! Magisterial Inquiry held - Particulars of Registration 9th January 1886 Hay - Buried 9th January 1886 - Hay Cemetery by Geo. H. Harrison Undertakers - Name and religion of Minister B.E. Loughlin Joseph Lenox Where born: Ireland - 14 years in the Australian colonies - Unmarried."

The above information was obtained from the official death certificate Registration No 1886/006781. It is sad that she seems to have died without any family around her. When Peter Knox was in communication with Heather Fearby, granddaughter of Joseph Knox, she related the story of Margaret drowning at Hay, believing Margaret to have been a sister of Joseph, not niece. However, the evidence is now clear she was the second daughter of John Frame Knox and Elizabeth Mellon Knox.

Sarah Knox - born 1867 - died aged 9 months on 1st April 1868 at Campbell Street. Informant was Andrew Knox - Uncle, of Charles Street. This is peculiar as we now know that Andrew Knox was a cousin, not an uncle and he was still living at Charles Street in 1867. As mentioned earlier this street seemed to be the Knox family headquarters.

Edith Rebecca - born 1869 - she married Charles Alfred Weston on 1st June 1893 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Balmain and had five children- a witness was our great-aunt Aurora Myrtle Knox, daughter of Joseph Knox and Elizabeth Jane Drew Knox.

Charles - b. 1894 Gladys - b. 1896 Stanley A b. 1897 Milton - b. 1898 Jean - b. 1902

Edith died in on 30th September 1943 at 36 Morrison Road - Gladesville.

Their other children were:

Emily - born 1871 - died aged 16 months on 27th August 1872 at Belvoir Street, Strawberry Hills. Samuel Joseph - born June 1873 - died on 21st August 1873 at Belvoir Street, Strawberry Hills Louisa Jane - born June 1873 - died 1873 (twin of Samuel Joseph)

Emil - born 1874 - died 1875 Amy - born 1876 - died 1882

John Frame Knox died on 25th November 1895 at Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown of diseases including Periocarditis as well as Peritonitis. - his occupation is listed as "Bootmaker" and age given as 55 years -living 28 years in NSW- both dates confirming approximate date of birth as 1840. At time of death only two surviving children: Lizzie B aged 31 - see Isabella on the Peerless in 1866 and Edith Rebecca - born in NSW in 1869. Informant of his death was his brother Joseph Knox (our great-grandfather). At time of death, he shows he married aged 22 - Elizabeth Melon (see below) - with one "I'. He shows 1 male, 6 females deceased - this is probably wrong as Margaret may not have been included and should read 7 females deceased. However, there could also be a wrong entry and one Surname: Knox should read: Frame.

ELIZABETH KNOX (née Mellon) wife of John Frame Knox was the daughter of William Mellon of Tullyard and Sarah Knox. Her d/c states that she was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, and that she had been in the Colonies 53 years - A curious entry it states she was 30 at time of marriage making her 8 years older than John Frame. However, age given on the Peerless in 1866 is 25 years - same age as her husband. Elizabeth Knox died on 16th December 1918 at the home of her granddaughter Edith P. Weston at Reigate in Ross Street, Gladesville. She is buried at the Presbyterian Rookwood Cemetery.

The Third Child of Samuel and Margaret was

SARAH KNOX (AUNT TARE-OUR GT GT AUNT) (1843-1918)

Sarah Knox was born in Drumquin, County Tyrone, c.1843 to Samuel Knox and Margaret Frame - no record exists of her birth. She embarked on the Hornet, Passenger Ship, that arrived on 25th January 1865 in NSW. This is a very curious situation as there were two Sarah Knoxes from Drumquin travelling together. Both were "house servants" and show their native place as near Drumquin. Sarah Knox aged 19 - House Servant - from Nr. Drumquin, County Tyrone, Ireland, daughter of Joseph and Jane Knox - father dead, mother living Nr. Drumquin - religion Presbyterian - could read - relative in Australia - sister Isabella Knox in Service at Sydney.

They were both sponsored, it appears by sister Isabella of Sydney.

Sarah Knox aged 20 - ditto for everything - except that she could read and write. This scant information creates a problem - obviously one of the Sarahs is the daughter of Samuel and Margaret - sister of Mary, John and Joseph - and is remembered by the family as "Aunt Tare" who lived with Joseph Knox our great grandfather. It is interesting that different rules were applied according to ships. It didn't seem to bother anybody that there could be two sisters one year apart with the same name. The other Sarah, sister of Isabella and daughter of Joseph and Jane Knox (née Thompson) is also sister of Andrew and Samuel - showing same parents. An interesting note is that here again all the passengers on the Hornet appeared to be female. No mention is made of sponsorship fee.

Sarah - died on 22nd September 1918 aged 75 years - indicating dob 1843. Her d/c states she had been in the Colonies 52 years, confirming the 1864/1865 passage.

Aunt Tare never married but no doubt worked hard as she lived with her brother Joseph and one assumes helped her sister-in-law Elizabeth Jane bring up the eight children (see Joseph Knox) including our grandfather Errol. In 1884, Sarah is undoubtedly the "Miss Knox" who is the informant of her nephew's birth, along with her brother's mother-in-law, Mrs. Drew.

Later, they were living in Hereford Street, Glebe, where Errol was born. Soon afterwards the family moved to "Montargis" at Binalong Road, Wentworthville Shire of Blacktown where Sarah died. Her brother Joseph certified the death certificate. Sarah is buried at the Presbyterian Cemetery, in Parramatta - in Western Road. Unfortunately we do not have any photos of her that we know of. Cousin Margaret Alexander who is daughter of Joseph Milton H. Knox, son of Joseph Knox was our source of information about the existence of Aunt Tare. This was only after we had discovered this Sarah. Up until then we had misidentified the witness on Joseph's wedding certificate as "Frank" and it was a while before we realised there was no brother Frank but a sister Sarah.

We do not know why Sarah is buried at the Presbyterian Cemetery in Parramatta and not at Rookwood with her brother and cousins.

Before we get to Joseph Knox, it is important to mention the Knox cousins who seem to have all been so close and who were responsible for sponsoring many Knox cousins.

The most significant of these Knox cousins appears to be Andrew Knox. We can only assume that

Andrew's father, Joseph, was the older brother of our Samuel Knox. This is a very strong probability, but it is dangerous to jump to too many conclusions when there is such a gaggle of Josephs to deal with.

ANDREW KNOX (1827-1872)

Andrew Knox was born in County Tyrone, Ireland in approximately 1827 to Joseph Knox, Farmer and Jane Thompson. It is believed he came over on the Daphne in 1859, arriving in Sydney on the 16th day of January. A cursory glance at the page submitted where his name appears shows his calling was "labour", which applied to everyone under 30 on that particular listing. He could read and write and he shows his "native place and county" as Tyrone. However, the age shown on Passenger list is 26 years of age (DOB would therefore be 1833). It may have been advantageous to be under 30 to get an assisted passage. Only one reel is available so we do not know if this was an "Assisted Passage" or if he had any sponsorship. According to our records available as of this date he was the first identifiable Knox in our particular line present in New South Wales.

Andrew Knox sponsored gt gt aunt Mary Knox, the mysterious Edward McAleen, a John Knox, and presumably Samuel and Isabella Knox.

Assuming we are following the life of the same Andrew Knox, he married Mary Humphreys – spinster, on 20th September 1864 at Roslyn Terrace, Sydney, according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church. No age is shown on his m/c. His occupation is listed as "shoemaker" and Mary's as "domestic servant". The witnesses were Samuel Knox (we assume his brother – see below) and Robert Mitchell.

Andrew died on 16th October 1872 at 6 Campbell Street, Haymarket aged 45 years (hence DOB 1827). At the time of his death his occupation was listed as "Publican". It shows there were four children from the marriage, 1 male and 1 female living and 1 male and 1 female deceased. On his d/c it shows he was married aged 37 – again confirming his DOB in 1827. Andrew is buried at the Presbyterian Cemetery - in Haslem Street, which is a street in the Rookwood Cemetery. It also shows his parents as Joseph Knox and Jane nee Thompson.

What is interesting is that the informant of his death was Andrew McCrea – cousin (see below) who also gives his address as Campbell Street.

Children of Andrew and Mary:

Eliza J. born 1865 - died 1867

Samuel born 1867 - probably the Samuel who married Ann Kerstin in 1898

Andrew J. born 1869 - died 1871

Mary J. born 1871 - married William Maher in 1897

It is very possible that the Andrew Knox who came over on the Daphne is another Andrew Knox as there is one listed in 1914 in the bdms who passed away aged 78 years old in Petersham (indicating an 1833/34 DOB). However, we do know that "cousin" Andrew was in Australia early on. On further examination we note that the Andrew Knox born in 1827 who died in Petersham was in fact born in Scotland, so we can only assume that the age was incorrect on the Passenger list which was very common.

SAMUEL KNOX (1840-1921)

Samuel Knox was born in County Tyrone Ireland in 1840 to Joseph Knox and Jane Thompson. On 28th December 1860, Samuel and who we believe was his sister Isabella embarked on the Bounty Immigrant Ship the Queen Bee. The records show that he listed himself as "farm labourer" and "shoemaker" from Kirlish, County Tyrone. Samuel arrived in Australia on 31st March 1861. We do not have any confirmation as to who sponsored him, but we must assume it was Andrew Knox, his brother.

It appears he never married so all we have to go on definitively is his d/c which miraculously confirms

ages and dates in other documents. His d/c confirms he was born in County Tyrone and parents listed are Joseph Knox, labourer and Jane Thompson. The informant was M. J. Maher, niece of 21 Elger Street, Glebe. We have concluded that this must be Mary Jane daughter of his brother Andrew Knox above. Samuel died on 29th October 1921 aged 81 years. It shows he had been about 60 years in New South Wales, which corresponds neatly to the Samuel on the Passenger Lists for the Queen Bee. At the time of his death it states his profession as "Bootmaker", a common profession among the Knoxes.

Because Samuel lived to be 81 it is a shame that not more is known about him. It is interesting that the Knoxes were still in Glebe in 1921. Samuel is buried in the Presbyterian Section of Rookwood, along with his cousins and brother, Andrew.

ISABELLA KNOX (1842-?)

Isabella Knox is a little bit more of a mystery. Her name has only recently come up in the "Fearby-Knox" research. She first appears on the Queen Bee in 1861 passenger list aged 19 as a Farm Servant from Longfield, County Tyrone. This is all part of the Drumquin, Kirlish region.

Isabella's name comes up again, as a domestic servant in Sydney when the two Sarahs from Drumquin who embarked on the Hornet, (arriving in January 1865) list their sister Isabella as the "relative in the colonies". Since we know that one of the Sarahs was our Aunt Tare we conclude the other Sarah was a cousin with a sister Isabella. There is, of course, the chance that this Isabella is sister to our Joseph but unlikely as the parents listed on the Hornet were Joseph and Jane Thompson Knox (same as Andrew and Samuel above). By 1865 this Joseph Knox was dead but Jane Thompson Knox was living in Drumquin.

It is not clear what happened to Isabella Knox. There was an Isabella Knox who married Alexander Coulter on 23rd February 1876 in Balmain.. Her birthplace is listed as Ireland. However, her age shown at the time of marriage is 29 - which doesn't match the Isabella aged 19 in 1865. Although a two-year discrepancy is basically what we have been working with all along with the other Knoxes. She may have made herself a year older for the passage over and keeping herself "under thirty" for the marriage. The witnesses at the wedding were Sarah Dunbar and Joseph Hosingham(?). It states: Married at Petersham according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church. There is no indication of parent's name. Neither are the names of her parents shown on the d/c of Isabella Coulter when she died in 1891. Whereas one would imagine it would have been usual for a brother or sister to be an informant there does not appear to be any set pattern. Certainly when our gt gt aunt Mary Knox got married to John Baron, there were no Knox witnesses.

SARAH KNOX (1844/45-1887)

Sarah Knox is another recently discovered cousin. Her name came to light as she and her cousin Sarah (our Aunt Tare) came over together on the Hornet in January 1865 aged 19 or 20. One of the Sarah's lists her parents as Joseph and Jane Knox, and the relative in the Colony was a sister Isabella Knox (see above).

It is most likely that this Sarah Knox was the same Sarah who married Alexander Adair in 1871. There was a Sarah Adair, daughter of Joseph and Jane T. who died in 1887. We do not have the certificates to hand. But it looks like she died very young aged 42.

ANDREW McCrea (1838-1875)

We are not sure whether Andrew McCrea is a close cousin or a cousin by marriage. There are so many marriages between McCreas and Knoxes in the Drumquin area that it does get very confusing. They were also closely linked through their farmlands. By going back to the Strabane, Camus area it is clear

these families would all have known each other very well. (see Valuations of Tenements - Parish of West Longfield - 1860).

Andrew McCrea set out for Australia on board the Severn arriving in New South Wales on 10th October 1863. On the shipping documents it shows he was 25 years of age - his calling was "Laborer" that he was from Longfield, County Tyrone and that both his parents, John and Ann McCrea from Longfield, County Tyrone. He lists his religion as C of E. He could read and write. He was sponsored by Samuel Knox cousin, (see Samuel above). Remember also that on 21st October 1862, three years earlier, it was Andrew McCrea who was a witness at the wedding of John Frame Knox (our gt gt uncle) and Elizabeth Mellon held at the Drumquin Presbyterian Church.

Andrew McCrea was most probably the brother of Ann McCrea, daughter of John McCrea of Billany who had married a Joseph Knox, farmer, the son of Joseph Knox of Slevin. Here we get into the "Joseph Knox" syndrome where we fear there are far too many Joseph Knoxes.

This is really the Sad Story of Andrew McCrea -. We don't know what Andrew McCrea did when he got to Australia. His name reappears on the death certificate of his cousin Andrew Knox - they appeared to be living together at 6 Campbell Street -Haymarket. Andrew had died in 1872.

Andrew McCrea was only 34/35 years when he died in 1875 of a spinal disease. He died in Castlereagh St. South. His profession at the time was Inn Keeper. He seems to have been a very lonely figure - no brothers or sisters, just cousins and no doubt his closest cousin had died 3 years before.

Andrew McCrea never married and when his cousin Samuel signed off as informant - it says "no relation". It is such a pathetic and sad story. Andrew McCrea is buried in Necropolis, which we understand to be at the Rookwood Cemetery. At the time, Samuel Knox was living at Belvoir St. Strawberry Hills. This was the same street where Joseph's brother, John Frame Knox, his cousin, was living.

However, we shouldn't forget Andrew McCrea. In fact, if we can find out who his grandparents were now that we know his mother might be Ann Knox who married John McCrea, we shall be all set in knowing who our gt gt gt grandparents are. It is much easier to trace McCreas than Knoxes, as the name is not so common.

There are a number of other Knoxes who are most probably cousins, particularly as they all seemed to settle in the Glebe area. However, in order to get to the main part of this thesis, we will conclude the names of uncles, aunts and cousins to get back to the main line of Joseph Knox. Before doing that, I will add one more person that has come to our attention, although this is probably a total non-sequitur.

EDWARD MCALEEN -

When glancing at the passenger records for Andrew McCrea who was sponsored by Samuel Knox - on the Severne in 1863 - the name Knox jumped out under a Edward McAleen-aged 18 (that is the official name on the Passenger ship) with the sponsor for five pounds being an Andrew Knox - friend. The name should no doubt read McAleer.

Just above the name Edward there was a James McAleen -(21) but it stated they were both alone not relatives and he was being sponsored by a cousin Funston. They both gave their address as Newton-stewart, County Tyrone. In the case of James, he said his parents were Pat? and ?? still living. In the case of Edward - it said that both were dead.

If you go to the Griffiths Valuations, there is a James McAleer and an Edward McAleer in 1859 - There is no question that the McAleers, Knoxes, McCreas were all close neighbours, friends and relatives. The other relevant link is that this Edward was on the same ship as Andrew McCrea and they were both being sponsored by Knox brothers, Samuel sponsored Andrew McCrea, and Andrew Knox sponsored Edward - they all lived together at that time. Whether the McAleers were related to the Knoxes has not yet been established, but this is an interesting footnote.

JOSEPH KNOX - OUR GREAT GRANDFATHER - 1845-1919

Joseph Knox was indeed a very enigmatic person. In looking at his date of birth, it is clear he was born to a sad world. 1845 was the year of the potato famine that affected the whole of Ireland. He was at least the fourth child of Samuel and Margaret Frame Knox. Absolutely nothing is known about his birth as all the records were destroyed for those years. Joseph was born into a world of strife and famine. How he survived his early years can only be imagined. It is clear that the Knoxes eked out a living from the farmland they rented, some of them becoming shoemakers. Undoubtedly, Joseph would only have had thoughts of leaving Ireland. We know that by 1863 both his parents were dead, as stated by his older sister Mary who left for Australia that year. The only other entry that pertains to his family, is the marriage of his brother John Frame Knox in Drumquin to Elizabeth Mellon. Here it states, son of Samuel Knox, farmer of Kirlish.

The first sighting of Joseph Knox in Australia is in 1866 when he sponsored his brother John Knox and his family, including two little girls, Isabella (Eliza B.) and Margaret. At that time, he was living at 31 Charles Street in Sydney. This is the region he never strayed far from and where he worked and prospered. Trying to pinpoint when Joseph Knox actually came to Australia has been very frustrating. Here are the possibilities.

- 1) He was a stowaway
- 2) He jumped ship
- 3) He came under an assumed name
- 4) He travelled to the USA or another country first.

However, just as we were concluding these chronicles, along comes what is probably the answer. On a further examination of the records of a John Knox, on the Ironside, arriving in New South Wales on 9th May 1863, aged 22, shoemaker from Kirlish, we came across an amazing discovery. We find the second reel showing a John Knox, aged 18, with a sister Mary already in NSW, and sponsored by cousin Andrew Knox. This, of course, must be our Joseph. All he did, perhaps, was to assume his brother's name, age and trade or quite simply the name was misinterpreted by the English clerk. Alternatively, his middle name or first name could well be John. None of the Knox boys were ever called by their first name, it seems, except perhaps Errol. This matches the records exactly on the death certificate and makes perfect sense. Initially, we concluded it could not be John Frame Knox as he came over on the Peerless in 1866 and furthermore, knowing he had just got married in 1862, it was unlikely he would be coming over alone. We did not think it could be Joseph because the age and name was wrong. However, now knowing that the age is right, we now feel confident that our Joseph came over on the Ironside on 9th May 1863. Whether he knowingly assumed the trade, age and name of his brother, or whether this was all an error will never be known. He went on to sponsor his older brother in 1866 and his wife and two daughters.

In coming to the end of Book 1 - the journey to Australia - we will leave Joseph Knox with his Knox cousins in Charles Street in order to prepare for Book 2, which will chronicle his success in his adopted country and include as much information as possible on his wife, Elizabeth Jane Drew, and her fascinating Australian family background. Many of you who have been participating in the saga of the Hillases, Drews and Reeces - not to mention McArthurs, Magaurans and Brinkleys - already know that nothing in family history can be conclusive, but theories abound and a great deal more research has to be made before jumping to any conclusions.

The following, however, gives a brief synopsis of what will be included in Volume II. This is taken from Peter Knox's account.

Joseph appears to have started work as an upholsterer when he arrived in Sydney and then switched to working in the grocery section of a department shop called Civil Service Stores in central Sydney. On 13 June 1870, aged 25, he married Elizabeth Jane Drew. On the Drew's side the links with Australia go back, through marriage, to the very early days of settlement there.

It was in Surry Hills that Joseph and Elizabeth set up home after their marriage in 1870. Grandfather Joseph seems to have prospered as the colony of New South Wales grew in importance and Sydney asserted itself as the main town in Australia. He used his knowledge acquired in the Civil Service Stores to set up his own grocery shop in Forest Lodge, still close to the city centre. Miss Fearby reports "he must have done very well, as he bought seven houses in the locality and rented them."

Grandfather Joseph had ambitions beyond the grocery trade and in the 1890s bought nine acres of land at a place called Wentworthville, close to Parramatta, 15 or 20 miles west of Sydney. He planted an orange orchard and a vineyard and had an eight room house built on the property which he and Elizabeth called Montargis. This was no classic Australian weatherboard house with a tin top. It was built of bricks and boasted a slate roof. Joseph had done well. He farmed the land for a time and, according to Miss Fearby, made grape and orange wine which he sold in bulk to a wine merchant. As he grew older he worked the property less and lived off the rent of the shop and of the houses in Sydney. He died in 1919. Elizabeth went on living there until 1925 when she too died. The house and land were then sold for £1,000, a handsome price for that time.

Joseph and Elizabeth Knox had raised a large family-three sons and four daughters. (One son - Leslie Haldane H. Knox was born in 1879 and died a year later.)

The sons were:

John Calvin (1874-1935)

Haldane Leslie Hilles (1879- died September 29th 1880)

Joseph Milton Hosking (1884-1921)Born Hereford St. Glebe

Errol Aubrey Galbraith (1889-1949) Born June 25th 1889 died October 17th 1949

The daughters were:

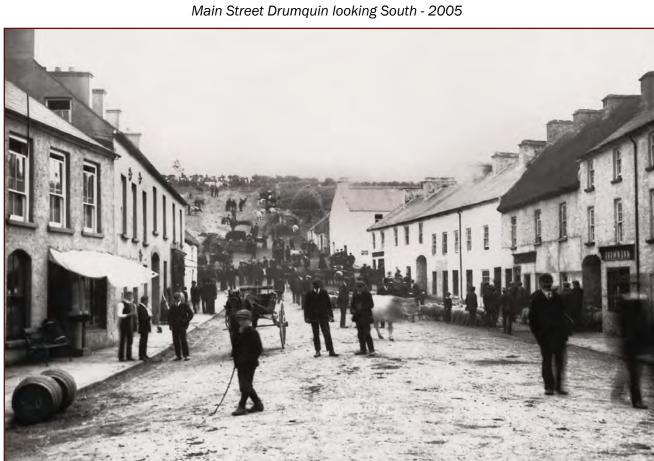
Lilian Violet (1871-1933)- born Rose Lane off Campbell Street, married John T. Fearby Aurora Myrtle-1876-1944) married Harold Walker Acacia Renee (1881-1942)

lvy Gwendoline Jasmine(1886-1959).



View of the Knox House Property



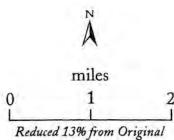


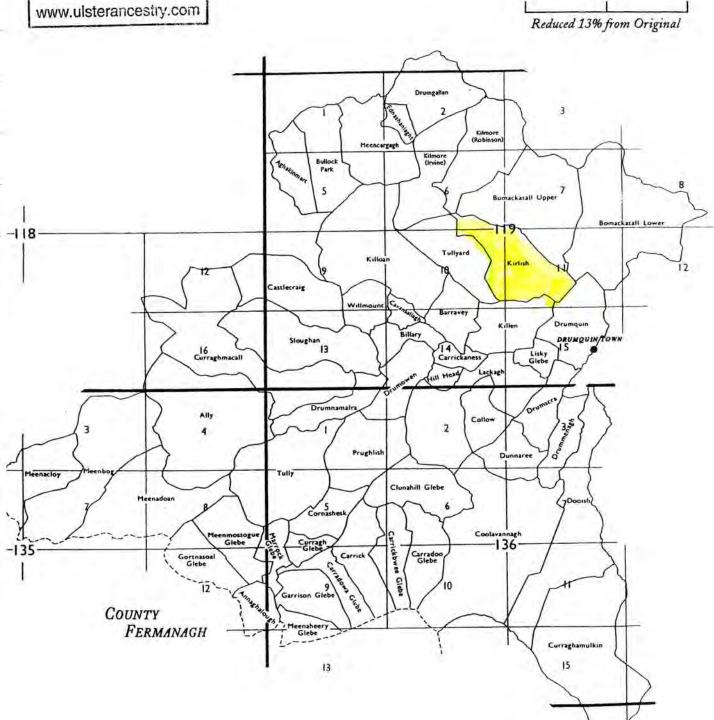
Turn of the Century Drumquin Market Day

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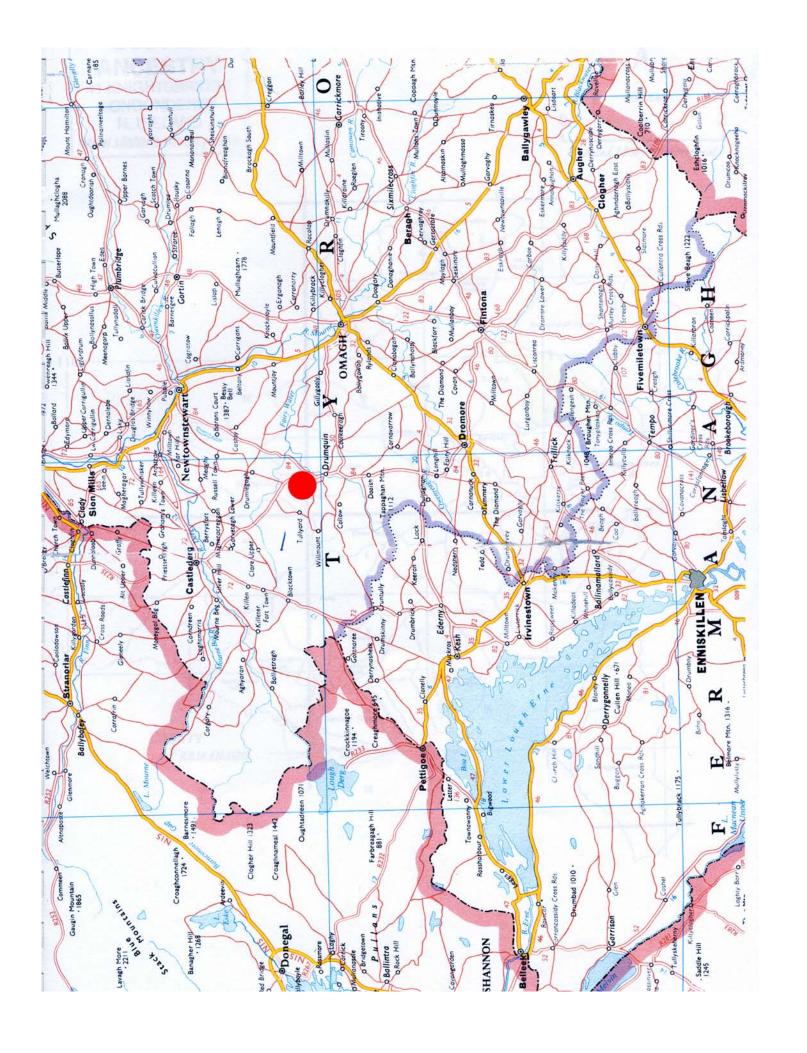
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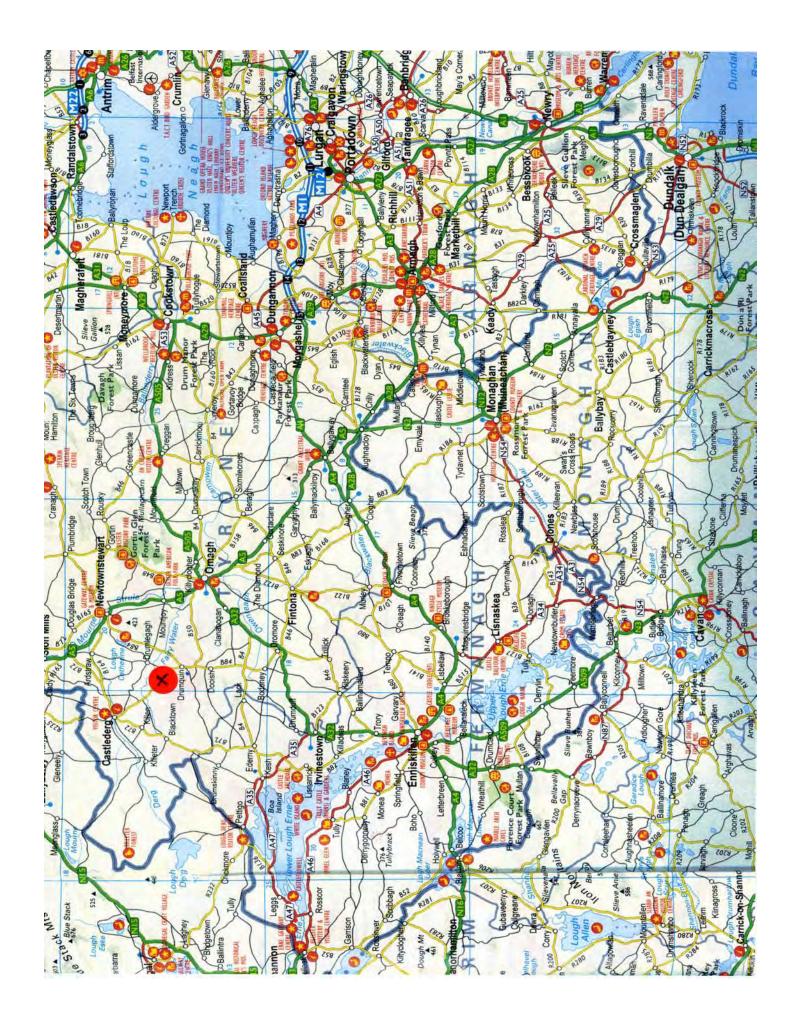






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VALUATION OF THE SEVERAL TENEMENTS

COMPRISED IN THE ABOVE-NAMED UNION.

SITUATE IN THE

COUNTY OF TYRONE.

RICHARD GRIFFITH,

Commissioner of Valuation.

DATED AT THE GENERAL VALUATION OFFICE, DUBLIN, this 27th day of July, 1859.

To the Treasurer of the County of Tyrone,

And to the Clerk of the Board of Guardians of the Union of Castlederg.

Notices of intention to Appeal are to be addressed to the Clerk of the Board of Guardians of the Union of Castlederg.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY ALEX. THOM AND SONS, 87 & 88, ABBEY-STREET, FOR HER MAJESTI'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1859.

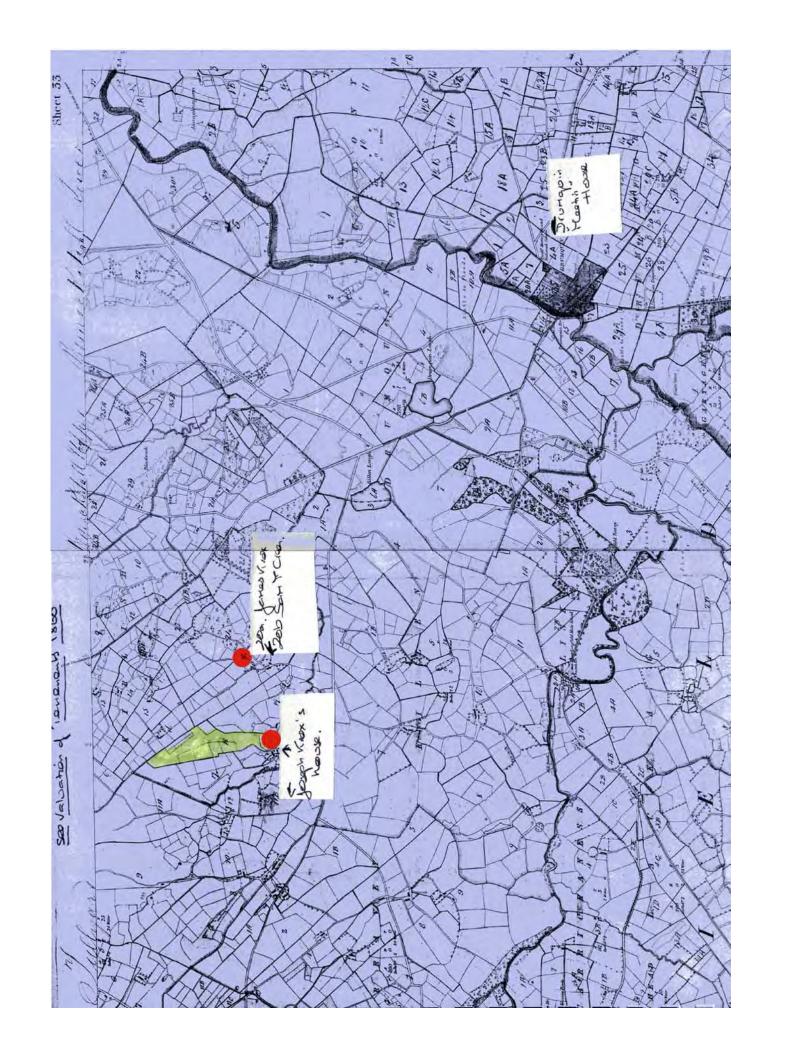


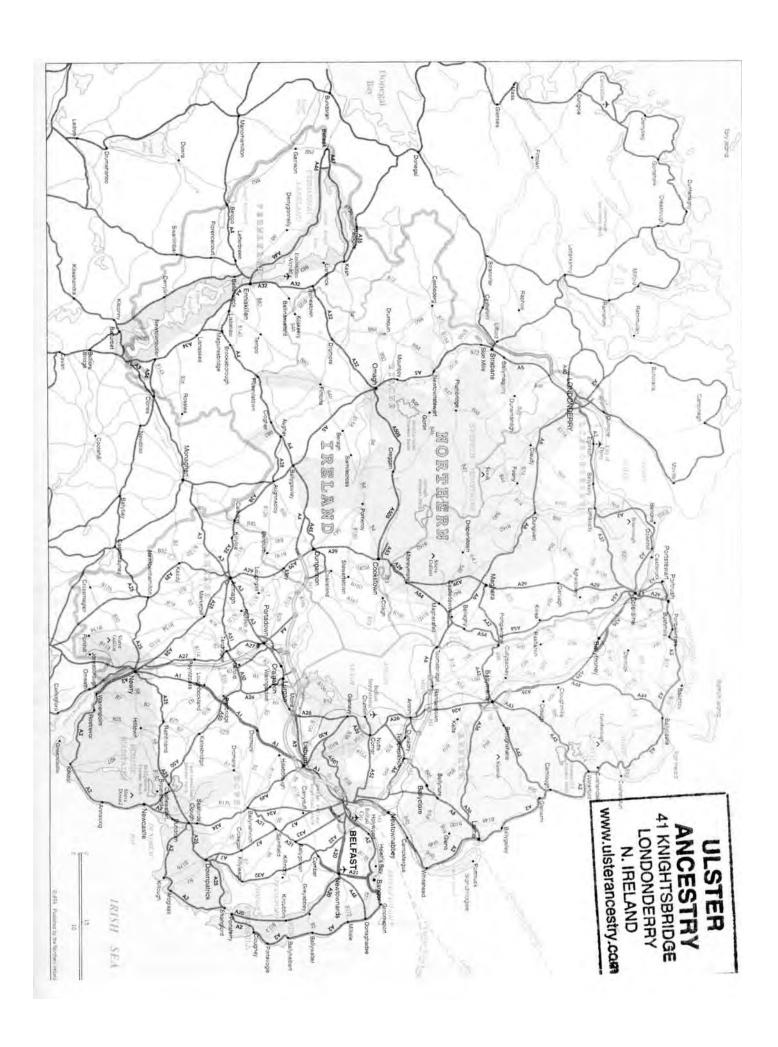
VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.

PARISH OF WEST LONGFIELD.

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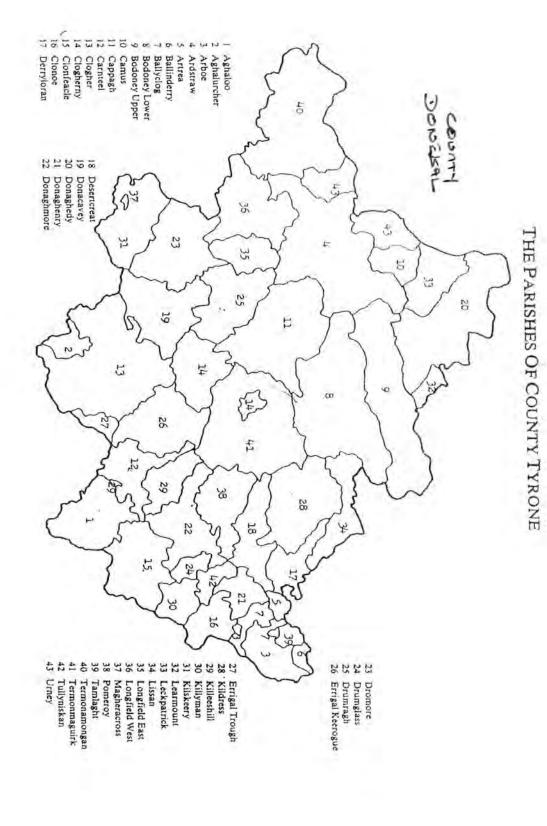
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THE KNOX CHRONICLES

BOOK 1 - 1 ST EDITION OCTOBER 2005

This is a family history document on the Knox family from the
Kirlish | Drumquin region of County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

It is based on research and information from records in

New South Wales and Northern Ireland.

This document details events to the best of our knowledge.

We have tried to be as accurate as possible.

We welcome any comments or additional information.



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