Family Research Report on the McBride family of county Tyrone
Contents
WHAT WE KNOW: ......................................................................................................................... 2
FOCUS OF REPORT: ....................................................................................................................... 2
INFORMATION ON IRISH GENEALOGICAL RECORDS: ............................................................... 2
SURNAME ORIGIN: ....................................................................................................................... 5
EILEEN BLACK (nee) McBRIEDE: ................................................................................................ 5
LAND RECORDS: .......................................................................................................................... 7
THE McBrides AND THE McSharrys ............................................................................................ 7
FLAX GROWERS: ......................................................................................................................... 9
A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF LOUGHMORE PARISH: .................... 10
CONCLUSION: ............................................................................................................................. 10
FAMILY TREE: ............................................................................................................................ 12
RECOMMENDED READING: ....................................................................................................... 14
RECOMMENDED IRISH RESEARCH AND ANCESTRAL DESTINATIONS: .......................... 14

(ALL NAMES, PLACES AND DATES MENTIONED IN THIS SAMPLE REPORT ARE FICTITIOUS AND IN NO WAY DO THEY CORRESPOND TO THE IMAGES OR HISTORICAL RECORDS MENTIONED HERE.)
WHAT WE KNOW:

Kieran Black of Kent, England contacted Oak Ancestry in March 2013 requesting a research report on his grandmother Eileen (nee) McBride and any other ancestor’s discovered in the course of our research i.e. their occupations, addresses etc. Kieran has provided Oak Ancestry with the following information:

- Eileen was born in Loughmore, county Tyrone around 1905.
- She married an Englishman by the name of Frederick Black in 1928.
- The names of Eileen’s parents is not known but family lore has it that she fell out with her parents when she married Frederick, a British soldier, as her parents had IRA sympathies.

FOCUS OF REPORT:

This research report is focused on adding to our client's knowledge of his Irish ancestry with an emphasis on the McBride family of Loughmore, county Tyrone.

INFORMATION ON IRISH GENEALOGICAL RECORDS:

Before we delve into your family’s history here are some points with regard to Irish historical records which need to be stated. During the Civil War, many Irish records of significant
genealogical value were unfortunately destroyed when the Public Records Office situated in the Four Courts, Dublin (where they were stored) was hit by a shell during warfare in 1922.

Among those records largely destroyed were:

- Irish census returns from 1821-1851. (Irish census records from 1861-1891 were destroyed before this time by Government order.)
- About two-thirds of pre-1870 Church of Ireland parish registers.
- All wills probated in Ireland until the time of destruction.

However, all is not lost as there are many surviving Irish genealogical records which can assist the family historian in adding to our knowledge of our Irish ancestors. These records include:

- Census fragments from 1821 to 1851 (varies from county to county).
- Full official 1901 and 1911 Irish national census records.
- Parish records.
- Civil records of births, marriages and deaths.
- Land/Property records.
- Index of wills probated in Ireland.
- Newspaper records, parish and county annals and court records.
- Various historical and academic sources (where applicable).

Regarding the 1901 and 1911 census returns, please allow for discrepancies with your ancestors ages as it is possible that their given age may vary among corresponding records. This
occurred due to reasons such as illiteracy and the introduction of the pension in 1908, which prompted many to increase their age on public record between 1901 and 1911 in order for them to be eligible to receive the pension payments. Another reason is that people in the early twentieth century were not preoccupied with record keeping and ages.

Regarding the Land/Property records, the two main sources for this research report are the Tithe Applotment Books and the Griffiths Valuation Survey. The Tithe Applotment Books are Irish pre-Famine land/property records which were compiled between 1823 and 1837. The tithe was a tax owed by any tenant on the island of Ireland who occupied more than one acre of agricultural land. Money collected from this tax went towards the upkeep of the Established Church of that time (Church of Ireland) and was payable by people of all religious denominations. In 1831 the country was around 80% Roman Catholic and 8% Presbyterian therefore this tax aroused much resentment on religious grounds. The following information can be found in the Tithe Applotment Books: name of head of family (both forename and surname); county; parish; townland; the amount of land held and the amount of tithe paid.

In the mid nineteenth century, in order to financially support the poor within their poor law union, every landowner had to pay a tax. In order to calculate the amount of tax owed by each landowner, a country wide land survey was carried out by a man called Richard Griffith. This survey called Griffith’s, or the Primary, Valuation of Ireland was published between 1848 and 1864. The valuation was arranged by county; barony; poor law union; civil parish and town land. It lists every landholder and householder in Ireland at the time.¹

¹ Poor Law Union’s were comprised of regional authorities known as the Board of Guardians (the wealthy elite of a given parish) from 1838. Their role was to grant aid and assist in the emigration of paupers from poverty-stricken areas.
² James R. Reilly, Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland, (Baltimore, 2000).
SURNAME ORIGIN:

Many Irish family surnames are derived from Clan names. Over time, family name variants arise in both English and Irish (Gaelic) language. With reference to McBride, surname variations include GilBride, KilBride, Mac Giolla Bhrighde, McIlvreed and MacBride. This is important to know when tracing your family through historical records.

The Surnames of Ireland by Edward MacLysaght is a detailed guide to more than 4,000 Gaelic, Norman and Anglo-Irish surnames giving a wealth on the background of Irish family names. From this, the surname is described as ‘Mac Bride Mac Giolla Bhrighde’ (devotee of St. Bridget- one of Irelands most celebrated patron saints). This name belongs mainly to county Donegal, where it was that of a prominent ecclesiastical family. In east Ulster it is sometimes of Scottish origin.’

According to the Primary Valuation Property Survey 1848-64, there were 158 McBride households in county Tyrone. Looking at the dispersion of households, it is evident that McBride was a common name in the nineteenth century in both rural and urban areas, with the vast dispersion of McBride households throughout the province of Ulster. As detailed in table 1 (see page 18), the number of McBride households varied from county to county ranging from just one McBride household in county Cork to 287 in county Donegal. A table reflecting these findings can be found at the end of this report.

EILEEN BLACK (nee) McBRIDE:

Eileen Sarah McBride was born to parents Michael Thomas and Eliza McBride in the parish of Loughmore, county Tyrone in the North of Ireland on 28 January 1905 sixteen years before

Ireland was partitioned between Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland. This led to tensions within both sides of the border over time. From this time, the Catholic population within Northern Ireland grew and with that, so did political, religious and social unrest. Eileen was born into a large Catholic family being the youngest of eight children (Thomas, Patrick, Michael T, James, Mary, Emer and Monica). The family resided at House 8, in the townland of Furoor, Loughmore, county Tyrone. What is interesting to point out is that it seems Eileen had a pet name given to her by her family and was usually called Lena.

On December 17th 1928, when Eileen was in her mid twenties, she married a man by the name of Frederick Black in the Registrar’s Office in Belfast, county Antrim with witnesses Arthur and Lillian Wall present on the day. At this time, Eileen was living in Sheer Street, Belfast. It is likely the pair met here, as Frederick was a soldier stationed at Edgeworth Barracks in Belfast. In fact his official title was Lieutenant Corporal in the Lancer Dragoons, a British Army regiment. His father was called Richard Black, a miner from Lancashire in England. What is also interesting to note is that Eileen and Frederick came from different religious backgrounds. It states on their marriage record that Eileen was of the Roman Catholic faith and Frederick was of the Church of England faith yet they chose a non-religious marriage ceremony. It was, and still is, an Irish custom to marry in the bride’s home parish, however this marriage took place in Belfast, possibly indicating a strained relationship between Eileen and her parents. True to family lore, this is more than likely due to the family’s reaction to her new husband’s religious affiliation and occupation.

Michael Thomas McBride, Eileen’s father was born into a Roman Catholic family in county Donegal sometime around the 1860’s. His father’s name was Thomas McBride, a farmer, and, as yet, his mother’s name is unknown. Michael Thomas grew up at a time when Ireland, in the wake of the Great Famine, was going through a period of political and social unrest. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, anti-British sentiment was on the rise and a
Nationalistic fervour gripped much of the Irish nation. It is likely that Michael Thomas came from a poor background, as he could neither read nor write. In later years he went to work as a farm labourer in county Tyrone where he most likely met his future wife Eliza McSharry.

Eliza was born in the mid 1860’s. She was born into a farming family in Tullagh, Loughmore, county Tyrone. Her father’s name was Colin McSharry, but her mother’s name is unknown at this time. She, too, was illiterate, which was likely due to a poor background. On June 2nd 1884, at the age of eighteen, she married twenty year-old Michael Thomas in St. Mary’s parish church in Loughmore. Timothy McSharry and Catherine Casey were witnesses to their marriage. It is likely that Timothy was a close relative to Eliza, possibly a brother as it was common for siblings of the bride and groom to stand as marriage witnesses in Ireland at that time.

**LAND RECORDS:**

**THE McBRIDES AND THE McSHARRYS**

Regarding Irish land records pertaining to the surname McBride, the Tithe Applotment Books (1823-35) show forty nine landowners of this name were recorded for the island of Ireland. Of these, forty entries were in county Donegal showing the highest number of McBride landowners in this part of the country in the early nineteenth century. It is highly likely that Eileen’s father Michael Thomas and grand-father Thomas were related to one of these landowners. However without a place of birth for Michael, such as a parish or a townland, it is difficult to confirm which McBride landowner he is related to. In the Griffiths Valuation records (1848-1864), it is clear that county Donegal had the highest concentration of Landlords and tenants with the surname McBride at that time. Again, in order to narrow these
numbers down, it would be necessary to uncover the place of birth for Michael Thomas McBride. If this information can be provided, then further research can be arranged in order to uncover details regarding a possible family address in the above named land records.

However the strong connection of the surname McBride to the Western part of the province of Ulster, chiefly county Donegal, is undoubted.

We have come across one entry for a man by the name of James McSharry owning land in Simeralstown in the parish of Ardraven, county Tyrone, a neighbouring parish to Loughmore. It is worth mentioning that it was customary for many parents in Ireland to name their children after parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. For example, many couples would name their first born son after his father or paternal grandfather, their second son after his maternal grandfather, the third son after his paternal great-grandfather and so on. However, it may not always have been in this order. Therefore, given that Michael and Eliza named one of their sons James, it is possible that he was named after his maternal great-grandfather. This particular familial relationship cannot be fully established without further research being undertaken including a more in-depth look at Ardraven and Loughmore parish and land records. What must also be taken into account is the proximity of the parish of Ardraven to the parish of Loughmore. Thus, it is possible but not proven that James McSharry of Ardraven in the early nineteenth century may have been grandfather to Eliza and great-grandfather to Eileen.

Upon searching the name McSharry in the Griffiths Valuation records, our search results returned 241 entries for the island of Ireland with a majority dispersed throughout the province of Ulster and the highest concentration starting in the eastern part of the province in counties Antrim and Down. Throughout the Western parts of Ulster, the number of landowners and tenants of this name decreased, showing 37 McSharry landowners and tenants mainly in the
Western part of county Tyrone, where there was a Catholic majority in 1911. Of these, we have found 3 entries under this name in these records. The following are details of same:

1. **Name of tenant:** Richard McSharry. **Year:** 1850. **Landlord Representative:** Daniel O'Donnell. **Townland:** Minorstown. **Parish:** Ardraven. **Union:** Clonmel. **Barony:** Tooraneena. **County:** Tyrone.

2. **Name of tenant:** Padraig Casey. **Year:** 1853. **Landlord Representative:** James McSharry. **Townland:** Simeralstown. **Parish:** Ardraven. **Union:** Clonmel. **Barony:** Ballymore. **County:** Tyrone.

3. **Name of tenant:** Anne McSharry. **Year:** 1851. **Landlord Representative:** Lord Barrymore. **Townland:** Furoor. **Parish:** Loughmore. **Union:** Clonmel. **Barony:** Tooraneena. **County:** Tyrone.

**FLAX GROWERS:**

Loughmore Linens was established in 1852 and is now one of Ireland’s leading linen manufacturers employing 180 people. Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the linen industry in Ulster was a vital source of employment for many. The production of linen begins with a plant called flax and, in 1796, the Irish Linen Board listed 60,000 flax growers in the country. Of the flax

An Ulster linen factory. Image courtesy of [www.holycrossparishbelfast.com](http://www.holycrossparishbelfast.com)
growers in county Tyrone in 1842, there were twelve flax growers in the parishes of Ardraven and Loughmore. An index of flax growers of county Tyrone lists two McSharrys:

1. Widow McSharry, Furoor, Loughmore.
2. Thomas McSharry, Crusheen, Ardraven.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF LOUGHMORE PARISH:

The parish of Loughmore is situated between the River Suil and Shrone Mountain range in the barony of Castlenorman of North county Tyrone, Northern Ireland. It covers 212 acres of land and is most noted for being the manufacturing location of Loughmore Linens. Located in this parish is Rathduff, an iron-age fort. This fort, when excavated in the 1970’s, was found to have tunnels (souterrains) underneath it in order for its people to escape danger and store food and treasures.

CONCLUSION:

To conclude, the team at Oak Ancestry have been successful in discovering the names, addresses and occupations of Eileen’s husband, her parents and both her grandfathers. We
have come across flax growers who resided in Loughmore, bearing the same name as Eileen’s maternal ancestors, generations before she was born. From this, it is apparent that the McSharry’s of Loughmore played a key role in the cultivation of flax which ultimately contributed to the ‘industrial revolution’ of north-east Ulster, primarily Belfast, in the early to mid 1800’s. It is likely that Eileen was involved in the linen industry growing up in the flax growing parish of Loughmore which prompted her to move to Belfast where this industry was booming. We have also established Eileen’s strong Donegal roots on her paternal side. In order to uncover further details regarding this branch of the family, further research time will need to be commissioned.
FAMILY TREE:
### McBride Households in Each County in the Primary Valuation Property Survey of 1847-64

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>McBride Households</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>McBride Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>Armagh</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belfast City</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Carlow</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavan</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Cork</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derry</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Donegal</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Down</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin City</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fermanagh</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galway</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kildare</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilkenny</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Laois</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leitrim</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Longford</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louth</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Meath</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaghan</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>Offaly</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roscommon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sligo</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipperary</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tyrone</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wexford</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wicklow</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table courtesy of [www.irishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com)
RECOMMENDED READING:

- *Tyrone’s Rebellion: The Outbreak of the Nine Years War in Tudor Ireland* by Hiriam Morgan, 1993.

RECOMMENDED IRISH RESEARCH AND ANCESTRAL DESTINATIONS:

- Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh, Co. Tyrone.
- Loughmore Linens, Loughmore, Co. Tyrone.