

## And the beat goes on

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century a number of halfsiblings of my x2 Great Grandmother emigrated to the USA from County Cavan, Ireland. Their immigration records reveal a number of relationships between these people and others which can be helpful in establishing the parents of earlier generations. I will outline in what follows those relationships and what I believe can be deduced from these links.

Firstly, my x 2 Great-grandmother was Mary Rose Buchanan the daughter of James Buchanan and Rose McMahon. I believe Mary was born circa 1862 in the county of Cavan. Mary left Ireland in 1877 not for the USA but NSW, Australia. It is likely Mary's mother had died before Mary set sail to join her maternal Uncle who had already been in the British colony some 13 years.

Mary's father remarried 2 years after she had left Ireland to a Catherine (Kate) Masterson some 19 years his junior. They married in Killeshandra parish 2 June 1879 and went on to have 10 children between 1880 and 1899. A number of these children emigrated to the USA living mostly in the state of New York.

### **Robert James Buchanan b.1881**

Robert was the eldest son of James and Kate and on 1 June 1900, aged 18 he boarded the *S.S.Ethiopia* at Londonderry bound for New York. He was to join his cousin, but the ship manifest provides no details on who this cousin was. Some 17 years later when Robert completed his draft registration he gave his next of kin as his cousin Annie Corcoran of 624 Third Avenue, NYC. This was also Robert's address at the time.

Looking at the previous New York censuses, 1905 and 1915, Robert can be found residing with Annie Corcoran and her husband and family at various Manhattan addresses. (I've not found a 1910 Federal census record for them)

### **John Edward Buchanan b.1886**

Two years after Robert had emigrated to the U.S. his younger brother set sail for NYC aboard the same ship Robert had travelled on to join his 'Brother Robt J Buchanan' at St John's College, Fordham University in the Bronx, NY.

### **Francis (Frank) Joseph Buchanan b.1888**

In 1907 a third brother, Francis emigrated to the USA aboard the *S.S.Astoria*. The ship's manifest suggests he was travelling with a friend, Mr George Smith aged 19. They are both recorded as joining [Mr Buchanan's] brother at 1156 Third Avenue, NY. I'm not sure which brother this address relates to. However, in 1910 Frank can be found residing at 251 Ninth Avenue, NYC with a John Masterson aged 34 and his 33 yo wife, Mary.

### **Philip Louis Buchanan b.1892**

James and Kate's seventh child Philip travelled to New York aboard the *S.S.Celtic* in 1922 joining his brother Francis who by this time was married and living at 211 East Fifty-eighth Street, NYC. Philip's wife and baby son joined him just 4½ months later.

These four brothers were by no means the only Buchanans to make their way to the Big Apple. In 1947 the daughter of their older sister (Mary Alice McCune née Buchanan b.1880) set sail for the US. Pauline Teresa McCune was born in County Cavan in 1912 and at the age of 34 she boarded the *S.S. Washington* sailing from Cobh, Ireland to join her Uncle Frank (Francis Joseph).

### **Connections**

The documents referenced above provide 2 possible family connections to the Buchanan brothers; the Corcorans who Robert lived with in New York and who he described as his cousins, and the Mastersons who Frank was boarding with in 1910.

From the census records it is revealed that Annie Corcoran was born around 1877 in Ireland and was married to fellow Irishman Michael Corcoran b.1878. They had wed in Manhattan, NY in 1897 and the record of their marriage reveals that Annie's maiden name was Drumm.

The 1910 Federal Census records John Masterson as having been born in Ireland and that he had arrived in the USA in 1905. The same was recorded for his wife Mary however the two had only been married a year. A search of the NY marriage records revealed Mary's maiden name as Drumm. The same maiden name as Anne Corcoran's. Coincidence?

Shipping records revealed a Mary Drum, daughter of Bridget Drum of Drumcary, Co Cavan travelling from Londonderry to New York in 1907. This Mary was already a permanent resident in the US and was returning to 1156 Third Avenue NYC, the home of her sister Mrs Corcoran! In fact these two had arrived together in NY as teenagers in 1895. Despite what was recorded in the 1910 census Mary Masterson née Drum had been in the USA 15 and not 5 years.

### **The Drumm Sisters**

Clearly Mary and Annie, the Drumm sisters were known to the Buchanan brothers of Cavan. But how? Was it through their respective husbands? Probably not; when Robert provided his next of kin for military registration it was Annie's and not her husband's name that he gave. Of course Mary's husband was a Masterson so he can't be ruled out as having his own relationship with the Buchanans, their mother also being a Masterson.

Mary Masterson died in 1937 and her registration records her parents as John and Bridget Drumm. I'm not yet sure what became of her husband, I know from his WWI military registration that his middle name was Philip but I have yet to find a shipping record for his arrival in the USA circa 1906.

Michael Corcoran died in 1938. His NY death registration confirmed he was a widow at death and that his parents were both Irish but no names were given. His place of birth was recorded simply as Ireland. There are further clues that might yet identify who this man was. In the 1825 NY census present in the household was a niece named Anna Corcoran, 5 years of age and born in the USA suggesting Michael had a sibling in America. I haven't got to the bottom of that one yet.

Mrs Annie Corcoran died in 1930 however the online record of her NY death registration provides little additional detail. She is buried at Calvary Cemetery in Woodside, Queens County, NY and the cemetery website records her name as Catherine Anne *Drum* Corcoran with her date of birth as 7 April 1877.

### **What we know**

So, we know from the above Annie and Mary Drumm were sisters (ship's manifest of Mary's 1907 journey from Londonderry to NY) and, assuming they were full sisters, we also know -

- Their mother was named Bridget (1907 ship's manifest and Mary's death record)
- Their father was named John (Mary's death record)
- Annie also went by the name Catherine (website record of Annie's grave)
- Their mother Bridget was living in Drumcory in 1907 (1907 ship's manifest)
- They had a cousin named Robert Buchanan (Robert's WWI military registration)

We also have the following dates of birth –

- [Catherine] Annie – 7 April 1877 (cemetery website)
- Mary abt 1875 (19yo in 1895 ships manifest, 29yo in 1907 ships manifest, 33yo in 1910 census but she was clearly 2 years older than Annie based on the 1895 journey they took together).

### **What more we can find**

Looking at the 1901 Irish census there is a Bridget Drum aged 50 living at 12 Drumcarey, Bruiseshall in county Cavan. She is married to a John Drum aged 60 and they have 5 children aged between 8 and 16 years. In the 1911 census Bridget is now widowed and at 4 Drumcarey with 2 daughters.

Consulting the Catholic Parish Registers for Ireland there is a Catherine Anne Drum baptised in the parish of Killeshandra on 3 April 1877. Her address is given as 'Drumkeary' and her parents are John and Bridget. While this baptism took place 4 days before the birthdate given for Mrs Corcoran I believe this is the same person. The addresses match, albeit with variant spelling, and the parent's names are the same. This record also reveals the surname of Annie's mother – Masterson. I would conclude from this that Annie's mother, Bridget Masterson is the sister of her cousin Robert's mother, Kate Masterson.

On 12 November 1875 there was a baptism of a Maria Drumm of Drumcary. Her parents were 'Joannis' Drumm and 'Brigida' Masterson. This must surely be Mary Drumm.

John and Bridget married in the parish of Killeshandra on 8 October 1871. No name was recorded for John's father however Bridget's father was recorded as James Masterson of Bruce. When Catherine (Kate) Masterson married James Buchanan also in the parish of Killeshandra on 2 June 1879 her father was also recorded as James Buchanan of Bruce. For me this confirms that Kate and Bridget were sisters.

Based on the census records Bridget was born about 1851 while Kate was born around 1856. I have yet to find any baptism records for Bridget and Kate that would reveal the name of their mother. Nor have I been able to find any other marriage records of children of James Masterson of Bruce. There is however a marriage in Killeshandra of a Julia, daughter of

James Masterson of Drumhart in 1876. This is likely a different James as we know the father of Bridget and Kate was in Bruce, certainly in 1871 and in 1879, and I would suggest more than likely throughout that decade. However, it is worth noting that one of the witnesses to this marriage was a 'Catherine Masterson of Bruce' and also that Bridget would go on to name one of her daughters Julia. However, while it is likely that Julia was in some way related to Bridget and Kate more evidence is needed before determining they were all sisters.

As ever I will be grateful for any corrections or additions to the above. Unfortunately, this has not helped me in identifying any Buchanans from James' first marriage before Kate Masterson, so if you can help on that front it will be much appreciated.

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