

The Keane Family of County Waterford

Prepared for: [redacted]

Prepared by: Lisa Buckner, Roam Your Roots

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Introduction

This report details research conducted on the Keane family of County Waterford; specifically, it aims to shed light on the geographic origins of the client's ancestor Anastasia Keane, born 1857 in County Waterford, and her parents James Keane and Ellen Power, as well as where James and Ellen are buried. This report is accompanied by a Google Map of geographic locations, where relevant.

Information provided by Client

James Keane and Ellen (Ellenor, Eleanor) Power were married on 1 December 1838 in St. John's Parish with Richard Condon and Joan Flehivan as witnesses.¹ They had the following children:

- 1) Patrick Keane, baptized 24 April 1840 in St. John's Parish, with John Kent and Mary (surname not given) as sponsors.²
- 2) Mary Keane, baptized 2 January 1842 in St. John's Parish, with James Hacket and Catherine Power as sponsors.³
- 3) Ellen Keane, baptized 6 September 1843 in St. John's Parish, with Edmund Keane and Catherine Fleming as sponsors.⁴
- 4) Catherine Keane, baptized 25 May 1854 in St. John's Parish, with Nicholas Power and Bridget Shehan as sponsors.⁵
- 5) Anastasia Keane, born 31 July 1857 and baptized 2 August 1857 in St. John's Parish at the church of St. John's/Ballygunner, with Richard Breen and Joan Looby as sponsors. The address listed for the family is Ballytruckle.⁶

Anastasia married James Morrissey in 1881 at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Holy Trinity Without.⁷ At the time of their marriage, they were both listed as living at Gracedieu; James worked as a laborer and Anastasia (or Stasia) as a servant. Anastasia and James had the following children:

- 1) James Morrissey, born 7 December 1882 at Gracedieu; Margaret Tobin of Gracedieu present at birth.⁸ Baptized 10 December 1882 in the parish of Ballybricken with Thomas Phelan and Margaret Meagher as sponsors.⁹
- 2) Patrick Morrissey, born 28 March 1884 at Gracedieu, baptized 30 March 1884 in the parish of Ballybricken with Nicholas Phelan and Catherine Flynn as sponsors.¹⁰

¹ From research by Waterford Heritage Services; register MARRIAGES 1829-5P. 52.

² From research by Waterford Heritage Services; register B/1837-56, p. 33

³ From research by Waterford Heritage Services; register B/1837-56, p. 54

⁴ From research by Waterford Heritage Services; register B/1837-56, p. 81

⁵ From research by Waterford Heritage Services; register B/1837-1856, p. 236

⁶ From research by Waterford Heritage Services; register B/1857-66, p. 9

⁷ Record provided by client

⁸ Birth record provided by client

⁹ From research by Waterford Heritage Services; register B/1875-83, p. 158

¹⁰ From research by Waterford Heritage Services; register B/1883-91, p. 17

- 3) Andrew Morrissey, born 16 December 1885 at Gracedieu.¹¹ Baptized 20 December 1885 in the parish of Ballybricken Edmund Meagher and Ellen Curran as sponsors.¹²
- 4) Michael Morrissey, born 28 August 1887 at Gracedieu; Ellen Phelan of Barrack Street present at birth.¹³ Baptized 4 September 1887 in the parish of Ballybricken with Michael Walsh and Ellen Conway as sponsors.¹⁴

In 1888, Anastasia's father James Keane died at Gracedieu at age 77.¹⁵ He was listed as a widow, indicating that Ellen (née Power) had died previously.

Locating the Keanes in Ballytruckle

Griffith's Valuation

The first opportunity in geographically placing the Keane family presents itself with the location of 'Ballytruckle' listed on Anastasia's baptismal record. This is where Anastasia's parents, James Keane and Ellen Power, were living at the time of Anastasia's baptism in 1857. Griffith's Valuation was completed in County Waterford by 1853, and as such is the pertinent record set to consult in this case. Three searches were conducted in this instance.

First, a search was conducted in County Waterford for 'James Keane' and results were filtered for the parish of St. John's (Without), where all the baptisms of James Keane's children occurred. Three James Keane's were listed in St. John's (Without):

- 1) James Keane living in the townland of Grange Lower¹⁶
- 2) James Keane living at Wilkins' Street in the townland of Newtown¹⁷
- 3) James Keane living at John's Hill (east side) in the townland of Newtown¹⁸

None of these James Keanes were living in Ballytruckle, the townland given on Anastasia's baptism record, but they are possibilities given their proximity to Ballytruckle, and considering the gap in time: these James were documented between 1848 and 1851; Anastasia was

¹¹ There is a discrepancy with Andrew's date of birth; the civil registration provided by client lists 12 January 1886 as his date of birth, while the research by Waterford Heritage Service lists 16 December 1885 as his date of birth.

¹² From research by Waterford Heritage Services; register B/1883-91, p. 50.

¹³ Birth record provided by client

¹⁴ From research by Waterford Heritage Services; register BAPTISMAL 1883, p. 83

¹⁵ Death record provided by client

¹⁶ "Griffith's Valuation, 1847-1864," database, *Ask About Ireland* (<http://www.askaboutireland.ie> : accessed 4 May 2022), transcribed "details" for James Keane, occupier, Grange Lower (place name), Grange Lower (townland), St John (Without) (parish), County Waterford; citing "barony of Decies Without Drum, union of Waterford, page 50".

¹⁷ "Griffith's Valuation, 1847-1864," database, *Ask About Ireland* (<http://www.askaboutireland.ie> : accessed 4 May 2022), transcribed "details" for James Keane, occupier, Wilkins' Street (place name), Newtown, (townland), St John (Without) (parish), County Waterford; citing "barony of County of the City of Waterford, union of Waterford, page 24".

¹⁸ "Griffith's Valuation, 1847-1864," database, *Ask About Ireland* (<http://www.askaboutireland.ie> : accessed 4 May 2022), transcribed "details" for James Keane, occupier, John's Hill (place name), Newtown, (townland), St John (Without) (parish), County Waterford; citing "barony of County of the City of Waterford, union of Waterford, page 4".

baptized in 1857, leaving at least six years for James Keane to move and/or for borders to change. It is important to note, however, that Griffith's Valuation was not a census and did not document every person living in Ireland at the time; as such, it is a possibility that James Keane did live in Ballytruckle but was not listed in Griffith's Valuation.

Second, a search was conducted for the place name 'Ballytruckle' to see what names were listed as living there during the time Griffith's Valuation was taken. No James Keanes were listed, although there was one John Keane and a number of Powers.

Third, a search was conducted in County Waterford for the male witness to James Keane and Ellen Power's marriage, Richard Condon, as well as the male sponsors to the baptisms of James Keane and Ellen Power's children: John Kent, James Hacket, Edmund Keane, Nicholas Power, Richard Breen, and Thomas Phelan. Oftentimes witnesses and sponsors were siblings, first cousins, or close friends to the family; geographically placing these men would assist in narrowing down the locations of where James Keane and Ellen Power may have lived. Although these relations might very well have lived within a different parish than James and Ellen, results were filtered by those living in the same parish - St. John's (Without) - so as to compare proximity to the search results for James Keane. Only one of these relations was found in the parish of St. John's (Without) - a Nicholas Power, living at Water Street - although it is not certain that this is the same Nicholas Power listed as the sponsor for Catherine Keane's baptism.

None of the searches in Griffith's Valuation produced any familiar name listed in the townland of Ballytruckle. This does not negate the possibility that James Keane and Ellen Power did live in Ballytruckle, as Griffith's Valuation was not all-inclusive, but it does leave the possibility that perhaps one of the other James Keane's listed as living nearby was the correct James Keane.

Civil Registration Records

In order to glean more information about the James Keanes who were located in Griffith's Valuation, and to search for more James Keanes, a search was conducted for Keane marriage records in the Civil Registration Records; specifically, any party to a marriage who had a father named James Keane were recorded. The findings allow for deductive reasoning when evaluating whether or not any of the James Keanes listed in Griffith's Valuation are the correct man.

The James Keane on Wilkins Street had a daughter Ellen, who married Francis Hayes in March 1878.¹⁹ James Keane and Ellen Power did in fact have a daughter named Ellen, born in 1843. That date of birth would have made her 35 at this marriage - slightly older than the average bride's age at this point in history - making it unlikely that the James Keane living on Wilkins Street is the correct James Keane. This James Keane appears again, still living at Wilkin's

¹⁹ Waterford District, Ireland, Marriage Records, 1878, vol. [unknown]: 832, no. 109, Ellen Keane and Francis Hayes; General Register Office, Dublin.

Street, as father to Mary Ann Keane, who married Michael Ryan in 1882.²⁰ Mary Ann was not one of the children found by the Waterford Heritage Services, although this does not negate the possibility that she was a sibling of Anastasia Keane. No baptismal record for Mary Ann could be located; further research is needed in this instance to discover whether Ellen Power was the mother of this Mary Ann Keane.

Another James Keane appears on a marriage record for Ellen Keane, who married Mark O'Grady in 1871.²¹ This James Keane was listed as living in 'Lower Grange' - perhaps the James Keane listed in Griffith's Valuation in the townland of Grange Lower. The Ellen in this marriage was 17, putting her birth date at 1854: nearly a decade later than the Ellen born to James Keane and Ellen Power. Thus it can be assumed that the James Keane at Lower Grange is not the correct James Keane.

Research in the Civil Registration produced a new James Keane not documented in Griffith's Valuation, living in the townland of Upper Grange. This James Keane appears on a marriage record for his son Robert, who was married in 1873.²² Previous research by the Waterford Heritage Services did not list a Robert as one of the children of James and Ellen, but this remains a possibility.

Another James Keane was listed as the father for a Mary Keane, who married Michael Walsh in 1869.²³ His place of residence was listed as Ballytruckle, and James Keane and Ellen Power did in fact have a daughter named Mary. The date of birth on her baptism record only differs from the date of birth of Mary on the marriage certificate by five years, which is an inconsequential age gap in 19th century Irish genealogical research. In addition, a Michael Walsh is listed as a sponsor on the baptism record of one of Anastasia's sons, Michael. Michael Walsh would have been Anastasia's brother-in-law. This is a strong indication of the same family.

Another James Keane was listed as the father for a John Keane, married in 1871 to Margaret Flynn.²⁴ John was not one of the children found by Waterford Heritage Services; in addition, James Keane in this marriage record is listed as living at John Street, and working as a pig dealer, which differs from the previous James Keane who lived at Ballytruckle and worked as a laborer.

²⁰ Waterford District, Ireland, Marriage Records, 1882, vol. [unknown]: 640, no. 86, Michael Ryan and Mary Ann Keane; General Register Office, Dublin.

²¹ Waterford District, Ireland, Marriage Records, 1871, vol. [unknown]: 141, no. 23, Mark O'Grady and Ellen Keane; General Register Office, Dublin.

²² Waterford District, Ireland, Marriage Records, 1873, vol. [unknown]: 933, no. 26, Robert Keane and Hannah Boyle; General Register Office, Dublin.

²³ Waterford District, Ireland, Marriage Records, 1869, vol. [unknown]: 482, no. 166, Michael Walsh and Mary Keane; General Register Office, Dublin. See supporting documentation.

²⁴ Waterford District, Ireland, Marriage Records, 1871, vol. [unknown]: 1131, no. 49, John Keane and Margaret Flynn; General Register Office, Dublin.

Finally, another James Keane is found in the Civil Registration as the father for a Catherine Keane, married 1880 to Henry White.²⁵ This James Keane is listed as living at the Quay in Waterford, working as a laborer. James Keane and Ellen Power did have a daughter named Catherine, and the age between her and the Catherine in this marriage record is only off by three years - again, an inconsequential gap for 19th century Irish genealogical records - rendering it possible that this could be the correct James Keane.

Directories

While researching the Civil Registration provides more insight into the various James Keanes living in the area at the time, further research was needed to provide more information about these various men. Directories could provide further information about the locations and professions of each James; as such, searches were conducted in the trade directories collated on the Waterford City and County Council website. These trade directories include the following:

- Piggott, 1824
- Shearman, 1839
- Slater, 1846, 1856 and 1881
- Harvey, 1877
- Egan, 1894
- Thoms, 1909-1910

A search was first conducted for 'Ballytruckle' to see the names listed in the directories in that location. The search returned no Keanes or Powers, nor any other familiar names from marriage or baptismal records, living in Ballytruckle in the 19th century. Two Keanes were listed in Ballytruckle in Thom's Directory, taken in 1909-1910, who may be of relation.

A search was then conducted for Keanes listed in Slater's Directories of 1846 and 1856. One James Keane was listed in 1846 as a spirit dealer and publican on Henrietta Street in Waterford City, but no Keanes were listed in or around Ballytruckle. In Harvey's 1877 Directory, there is one James Keane listed on Beresford Street (modern day Parnell Street) working as a coachman - likely not the correct James Keane.

Conclusion

It seems most probable that the James Keane listed in Ballytruckle as the father of Mary Keane is indeed the client's James Keane, but without more specific geographic information from trade directories, the Keanes' geographic location in Ballytruckle cannot be narrowed down any further.

²⁵ Waterford District, Ireland, Marriage Records, 1880, vol. [unknown]: 532, no. 198, Henry White and Catherine Keane; General Register Office, Dublin.

Locating the Keanes in Gracedieu

In 1881, Anastasia Keane married James Morrissey at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Holy Trinity Without (today, the Church of the Most Holy Trinity Without, near Ballybricken Green). They were both listed as living at Gracedieu, James working as a labourer and Anastasia as a servant. This likely refers to the townland of Gracedieu, just northeast of Waterford city, rather than Gracedieu Road. On marriage certificates and baptismal records, city center addresses will typically include 'road' or 'street'; on Anastasia and James' marriage certificate and the baptismal records of their children, only Gracedieu, rather than Gracedieu Road, is written, indicating that they likely lived somewhere in the broader townland of Gracedieu rather than on the specific street.

Similarly to researching James Keane, searches in this instance were conducted in the trade directories collated on the Waterford City and County Council website in an attempt to narrow down the geographic location of where in Gracedieu Anastasia and James may have lived, but they did not appear in any search results.

Locating Death Details and Burial Places

James Keane died at Gracedieu in 1888 at age 77. At the time of his death, he was listed as a widow, indicating his wife Ellen had died prior to 1888. Searches were conducted in the Will Registers and Will Calendars available online by the National Library of Ireland, both for 'Keane' as the decedent and 'Keane' as a beneficiary, but no records of James Keane nor Ellen Keane appeared in the results.

Searches were also conducted in the Civil Registration in an attempt to find a death record for Ellen, between 1857 (Anastasia's birth year) and 1888, James' death year. A number of possible matches appeared across County Waterford, but photocopies of the certificates should be ordered from the General Register Office for further analysis. Possible matches are:

- Ellen Keane, died 1864 at age 48²⁶
- Ellen Keane, died 1865 at age 65²⁷
- Ellen Keane, died 1866 at age 61²⁸
- Ellen Keane, died 1866 at age 50²⁹
- Ellen Keane, died 1866 at age 61³⁰

²⁶ Waterford District, Ireland, Death Records, 1864, vol. 509: 14, Ellen Keane; General Register Office, Dublin.

²⁷ Waterford District, Ireland, Death Records, 1865, vol. 19: 551, Ellen Keane; General Register Office, Dublin.

²⁸ Waterford District, Ireland, Death Records, 1866, vol. 14: 514, Ellen Keane; General Register Office, Dublin.

²⁹ Waterford District, Ireland, Death Records, 1866, vol. 9: 639, Ellen Keane; General Register Office, Dublin

³⁰ Waterford District, Ireland, Death Records, 1866, vol. 9: 637, Ellen Keane; General Register Office, Dublin

Finally, searches were conducted for Keane headstones in the following cemeteries, but were unsuccessful in locating James and Ellen Keane:

- Ballygunner, St. Mary's Cemetery
- Butlerstown, Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Ferrybank Graveyard
- Johns Hill Cemetery
- Patrick Street Graveyard
- St. John's Catholic Church
- Ballybricken, Holy Trinity Without Graveyard

Further research is needed in locating James' and Ellen's burial sites - discussion with a local historian is recommended as they would be able to provide insight into burial practices at the time and answer questions such as how far away someone might be buried from their home, whether tombstones were ever removed in local cemeteries, etc.

Conclusion

While exact addresses cannot be provided, it seems certain that James Keane did live in Ballytruckle; the townland of Ballytruckle is mapped out on the accompanying Google Map. The townland of Gracedieu is also mapped, where James Morrissey and Anastasia lived and had their children, and where James Keane died.

Further research is needed to determine Ellen Power's death date, as well as James and Ellen's burial locations.