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Dear Cousin,

I hope you will forgive the long gap since the last Teskey Newsletter, which was mailed in June 2000. The fact that you have received this Newsletter means that you gave the "correct" answer to my request for confirmation of your continued interest. For several years I have been adding names, gleaned from various sources, to the distribution list, but some folk don't bother to tell me if they are not interested. The net effect of the recent "cull" has been to reduce the number of recipients from 260 to 220. It is very encouraging to know how many are genuinely interested.

I hope I have learned a lesson from one correspondent who asked to be removed from the mailing list because I rarely mentioned the English Teskeys. I am conscious too that I tend to focus on the 90% of Teskeys who have Irish Palatine origins, and on the 53% of my correspondents who have e-mail. I hope the "minorities" (the English, the non-Irish Palatine and the computer-free) will be patient with me. I am very happy to feature any of the non-Irish Palatine Teskey families, or any branch whose origin has not yet been determined. Please remind me if you think I have overlooked your part of our global family.

Janice and I thank everyone who sent a Christmas or New Year greeting. We enjoy hearing from everyone, although, with so many contacts, we don't usually finish replying or updating trees, records, etc before the next festive season comes around !

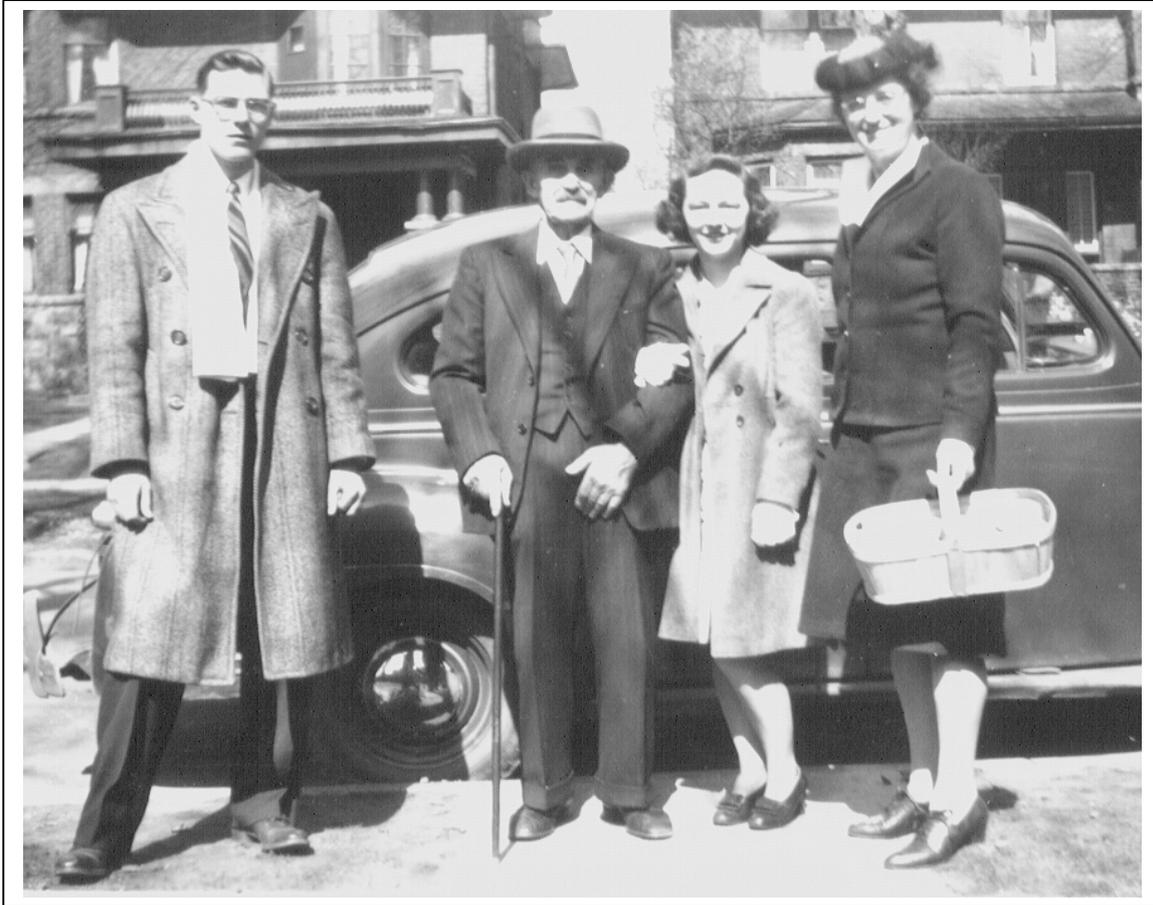
You may already have recorded the date of our 2001 Stansted Teskey Reunion as July 22, and I can now tell you that there will be another Teskey gathering in Toronto on Sunday 20 May 2001. I will give you more details later in this letter, and you should find a booking form enclosed.

In this Newsletter, I will combine some older family history; reports of events within the wider Teskey family since the last Newsletter; news of recent contacts; an Internet update; and a progress report on my research activities. I am very pleased to include contributions from two good friends, Dianne 1953 and Bob 1946. I am happy to take a rest from writing this all by myself, and would like to discuss anyone's ideas for contributing an article for a future edition.

CORRECTION FROM JUNE 2000 NEWSLETTER

I was very disappointed with the quality of photo reproduction in the last Newsletter, and I hope I have now solved the technical problem that caused it. Not only that, but I wrongly identified the people in the photo on page 10. I am grateful to Geraldine 1929 Lorenz, now a resident of Australia, for putting me straight. My story had related to Mary 1894 Isobel Teskey, who became Dr Isobel Ayer, a well-known Toronto gynaecologist and a keen family historian. I included a photo which I understood showed Isobel with her husband Horace, standing behind her father Benjamin 1856. I failed to record the source of my information, but now Geraldine, who is Isobel's niece, tells me that the photo was actually of Isobel's sister Mabel 1886 and husband Eldon Branscombe. The young people were their children Margaret and Art Branscombe. At least I identified Benjamin 1856 correctly! I apologize for spreading incorrect information.

Now, I will try again. . . .



The photo above, from Geraldine 1929, shows her as a teenager with her grandfather Benjamin 1856, aunt Isobel Ayer, and Isobel's son Doug. Geraldine is the daughter of Peter (known as Donald) 1906 Teskey. Donald and Isobel had another 11 siblings. Their sister, Christina 1889, is reported in Isobel Ayer's papers to have attended the coronation of the UK's King George V in Westminster Abbey in 1911.



The second picture is of Geraldine's parents, Donald and Evelyn Teskey.

SOME ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER

My thanks go to both Ben 1913 and Lionel 1924 for advice that Bellefontain is near Erin, 10kms north of Brampton, Ontario, and is now spelt Belfountain. This is where Isobel and Horace Ayer ran a 100 acre farm.

My thanks to Kay Bryant, whose map shows that Ardcanny is around 7 miles North of Adare, and about 2 miles North East of Pallaskerry. Three Teskeys were baptized there between 1817 and

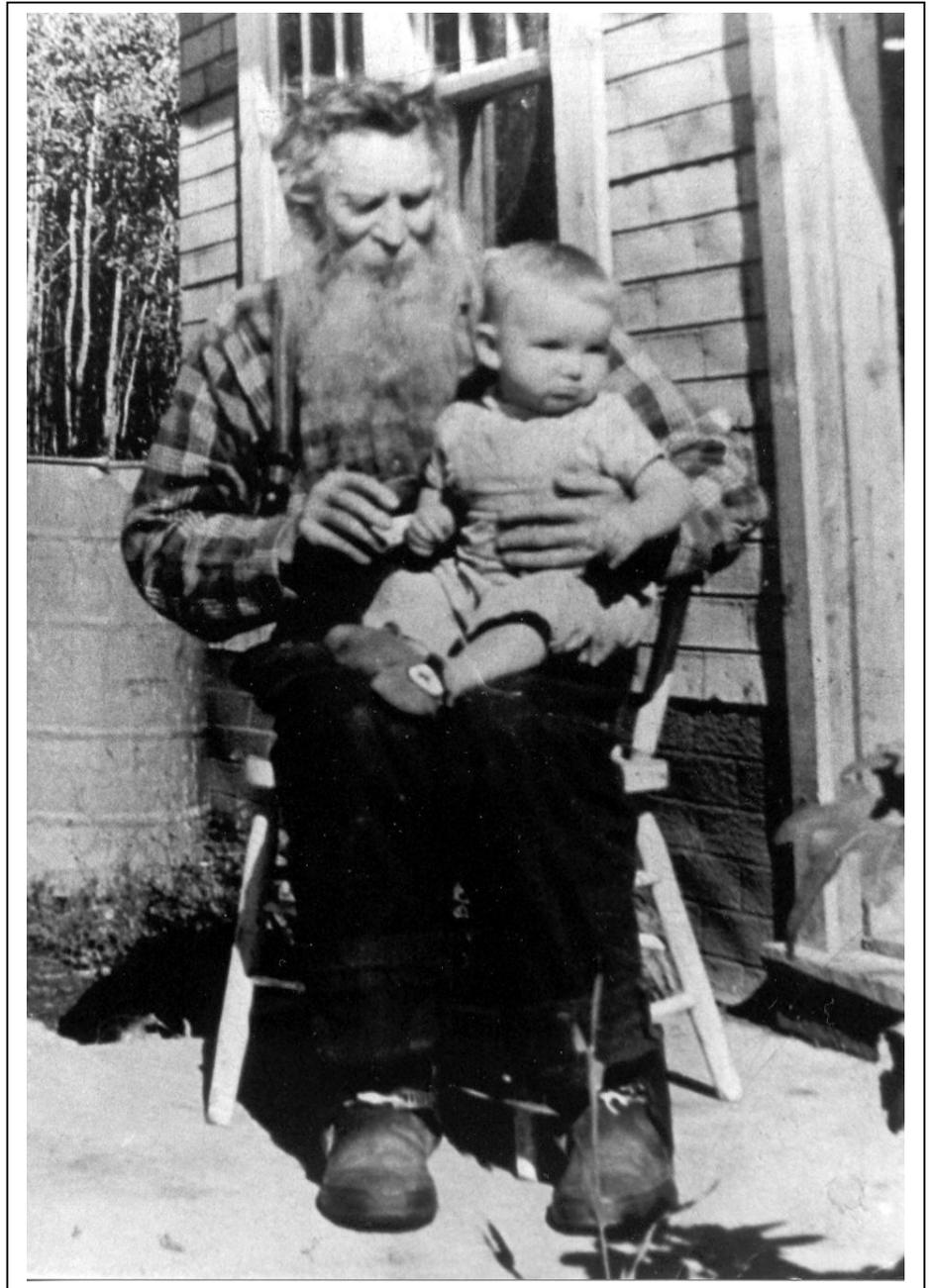
1848, including Hardress 1817, whilst pioneers Hugh 1788 Teskey and Catherine Supple were married there in 1818.

In the last Newsletter I asked if anyone could pinpoint Gallivan, where Robert 1870 Teskey settled. I am grateful to Robert's granddaughter-in-law, Ethel Simpson from Chilliwack, British Columbia, for providing more information.

Gallivan is in the province of Saskatchewan, and lies between Cut Knife and Battleford, about 100 miles North West of Saskatoon. I look forward to visiting this area in the Canadian Prairies one day.

This photo of Robert 1870 was taken in 1956, the year before he died. He is holding his great grandson, Ethel's first son, James Simpson.

The picture was taken at Leoville, Saskatchewan, where Robert farmed a "quarter section", about 160 acres.



AMERICAN RESEARCH

Last summer, Janice and I holidayed in Canada and the USA. As a special treat for Janice, we spent a day and a half in the US National Archives in Washington, D.C. Here, copies of Censuses as recent as 1920 have been indexed by state and are available for inspection. We had hoped to review a substantial part of those indexes and extract copies from the actual Censuses for Teskey families. Unfortunately, we found that the indexing had been done using the "Soundex" system, something we had not previously encountered. Whilst this system ensured we picked up all variations of the Teskey spelling, it probably increased search time by a factor of ten. Soundex



flushed out families with names: Taskey, Teaskey, Tecky, Tesey, Teske, Teskie, Tesky, Theskey, Tuskey and Tusky. Perhaps some of these will be relevant. Consequently, we completed only a fraction of our target. We concentrated on the 1900 Census, and scoured most states, coming away with details of many Teskey households scattered across the Union. Whilst I have occasionally dipped into this new pile of information, the details have not yet been followed up in a systematic manner. They join results from similar forays into other record offices and internet databases, awaiting the extra time that my retirement should bring next year.

During our American vacation our route enabled us to visit Sadie Tiffin and Ben and Betty Teskey in Ontario, as well as the Donovan family mentioned below. We do feel guilty not to have met more Teskeys en route, but there are just too many of you ! We hope to make some amends at the Toronto reunion in May, and next year, 2002, we are determined to add many new Canadian and American names to our travelling Visitors Book.

TESKEY REUNIONS and VISITORS IN 2000

During our vacation last summer, we stayed overnight in Syracuse, New York state with Marie and John Donovan. In the last Newsletter I told how I had made contact with John's sister Laurie Donovan Case. Their grandparents, Thomas Donovan and Sarah 1877 Teskey, emigrated from Ireland, and met and married in New York in 1908. Laurie has proved a most enthusiastic contact, and before we knew it we were enjoying a barbecue with all her family.



From the left: standing – John D, Janice, David D, Tom Blanch, Ken; Jonathan, Christopher & Daniel Case, John Convery and Danielle Blanch; seated – Mary Ellen Rulison, Marie D, Peg Blanch, Laurie Case and Deanna Marie Convery. John, David, Mary Ellen, Laurie and Deanna Marie are siblings.

Later in the year, Laurie produced an excellent bound volume of family photos, charts and letters. Copies were given to all her family, and Laurie kindly sent one for my Teskey collection.

In August 2000, we hosted a gathering of 12 members of the Teskey family at our home. This was a relatively local affair, but just about the right number to talk properly to everyone.

Just two weeks later, our house was the venue for a larger gathering, a surprise birthday party for Ken Odart, husband of Carole 1943 Teskey. It was good to meet many of their children and grandchildren for the first time, and we were able to add no less than 16 names to the list of Teskey descendants we have met. The total now stands at 539.

We always encourage overseas Teskeys to visit us if they come to England, and in 2000 we were pleased to play host to 4 lots of visitors from the West coast of North America who took up our invitation during visits to England. We welcomed my second cousin Barbara 1936 and husband Keith Pittam from Victoria, BC. Fran and Dean Corbitt of the Appleton Teskeys came from San Francisco. Below, Warren 1928 and Vivian Hawley travelled from Los Angeles to be photographed with Janice in an Essex village; whilst my attractive photo of Stonehenge includes Laurie Donovan's 1st cousin one removed, Cathy Blanch, far right. She flew in from Seattle with one friend, and we met up with another at this ancient British site. Genealogy has its compensations !



Now, a nice tale from Dianne Teskey, formerly Eccles, of Wigan, Lancashire, England. After a divorce last year, Dianne has reverted to her maiden name.

TESKEY GATHERING IN NEW YORK - narrated by Dianne 1953 Teskey

During the summer term of a study programme at Bolton University, I booked a place on a cheap and cheerful college trip to New York. Collaboration on email between Ken McDonald in Stansted and Cathy Garofalo Teskey in New York saw my holiday changed somewhat. Like a princess in a fairytale I moved from bunkbed in the YMCA to four-poster. Instead of trudging around the art galleries with fifty people I had never met, the change of plan meant I had a holiday of a lifetime with my long-lost cousins.

Cathy and I had met in Rathkeale on a Teskey reunion in the autumn of 1999. Thoughts of meeting Cathy again dispelled any nerves and I was all set to visit New York where not only had members of my Teskey ancestry immigrated, but also my non-Teskey great-great grandmother Sarah Doherty had been born in 1842. A meeting with the 'fix it' McDonalds days before my departure brought more news. Email printouts confirmed that a mini Teskey reunion was about to take place. The Teskey ancestry would draw Laurie Donovan Case from Syracuse, Deanna Donovan Convery from Florida and Tom Upshaw from New Jersey to Cathy's house to meet 'little old me' from Wigan.



Cathy met me at the airport, with hugs and kisses that generated a feeling of belonging. It is remarkable how the genes work, thousands of miles apart, but family ties still bind us. Apart from our ancestry, both Cathy and I share many other similarities. The drive from New York City to Long Island gave 'us girls' a chance to talk. The guidebook had told me very little about Old Westbury, where Cathy lives, and I was so wrapped up in 'sisterhood' that I cannot really describe the visual journey to Long Island, save that the skyline became less and less congested and more greenery appeared as we drove along the busy highways. Rosaleigh, Cathy's youngest daughter met us on arrival. She is the image of her mother with the same sweet nature. It didn't take me long to unpack my case! I wanted to spend time with Cathy's family, explore her house and make every second of my time with my cousin count. What was left of the first day was spent doing just that and that first night Cathy and I dined at a local restaurant that had just opened.

On the first full day of the holiday I was chauffeur driven back to the YMCA to join the art students and lecturers on a bus tour of New York. Both Cathy and I agreed that the trip I had previously booked and paid for would be an ideal opportunity to experience New York. Don't let anyone tell you that you can see New York from the top of a bus in two hours! What you can see is the vastness of a city that was a melting pot for thousands of immigrants who came in search of a better life. This vital city now boasts a skyline dominated by huge skyscrapers, overshadowing the nine million inhabitants that speak 80 different languages. What the whistle-stop tour did do was to point out the famous landmarks of New York and briefly explain the various cultures that have enriched the city and become its defining quality.

As the bus pulled up outside the YMCA and we waved goodbye to our guide and driver my thoughts still reverberated around the fact that one hundred years after my grandfather's sister Sarah Teskey had set foot in America here I was in New York. Outside the YMCA, I was picked up by a stretch limousine that had been hired by Cathy for the day. Riding in style was 'cool' and a far cry from my pushbike that has increasingly become my main source of transport around Wigan. I was given the choice of destination for the afternoon visit and with Sarah still fresh in my mind I requested a visit to Ellis Island. Sarah Teskey would have been one of the 17 million people that passed through its gates from 1892 to 1954. Since its closure Ellis Island had fallen into decay and restoration of the ruined buildings in 1990 took the form of a \$156 million renewal project. The building is impressive, and I am pleased I went there, even though it raised so many other questions. Because the restoration project is still ongoing no research facilities are available and I found that this was a great disappointment. It is hoped that within the next twelve months research facilities will be available. The ferry ride to and from the Island was pleasant, passing the Statue of Liberty on route. Liberty is astonishing and truly the essence of picture postcards and glossy travel brochures.

On the second day Cathy and I went off to meet Laurie Donovan Case who was making the long bus journey from Syracuse. It was quite a drive to meet her, but Cathy has this amazing talking car that not only plots the way, but a woman's voice talks incessantly throughout the journey, blurting out the directions. We named her Mary the voice. Cathy spotted Laurie straight away, walking along the main street. We all greeted each other with a group hug and spent the next few hours getting to know each other. Deanna Donovan Convery's reunion with her sister and two cousins was to take place that night. Despite the confusion created by the bus company Cathy managed (with the help of Mary) to track Deanna down at a bus station. Back at Old Westbury 'us girls' swapped stories, looked at photographs, explored family trees and raised our glasses in a toast to Ken McDonald and the internet for bringing us all together. Each of us speculated about what our

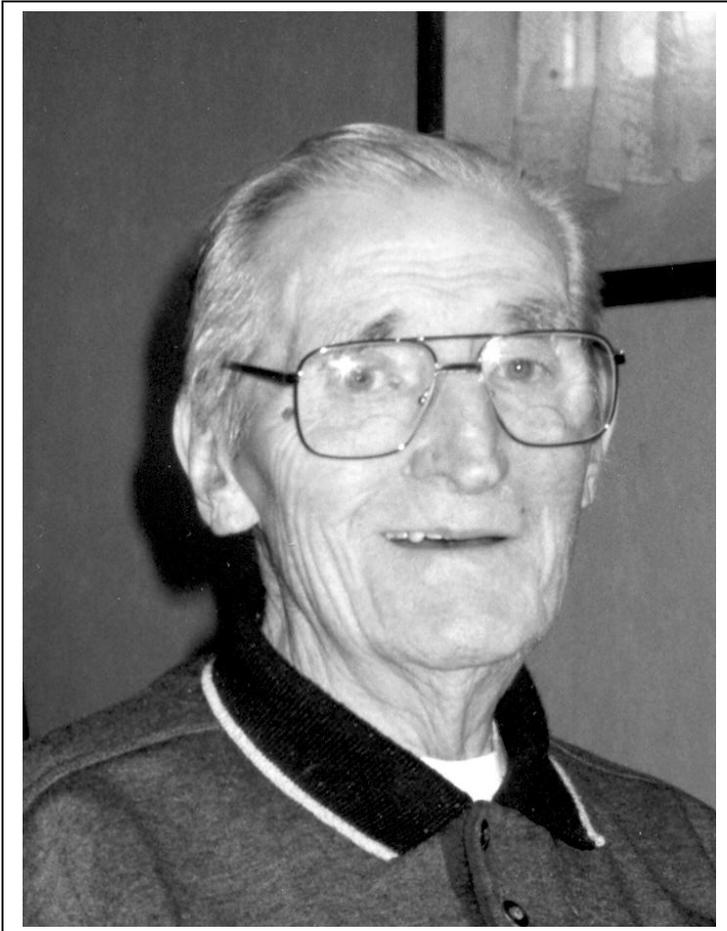
ancestors would have thought of our meeting. The conclusion was that Solomon 1838 Teskey would have been pleased and undoubtedly, along with all our ancestors, was smiling down on us. Each of us went to bed that night full of the events that had triggered thoughts about the Palatines.

The stretch limo waiting for us the following morning was to take us into the city to see the famous Rocketts in the Christmas show at Radio City. Everything is 'big' in America and all the glitz and glamour provided more unforgettable Christmas magic. Afterwards the allure lingered as we went to see the skaters under the Christmas tree at the Rockefeller Center. Next it was on to St Patrick's Cathedral to meet Tom Upshaw who was to spend the rest of the day with four women – brave soul! Both Cathy and I had met Tom and his mother Laurel last September at the Teskey reunion in Rathkeale and it was wonderful to see him again. That night we all dined at a popular rib place where barbecued food is served and for the first time I tasted grits and real America beans as the cowboys would have eaten them. The night seemed to vanish as we talked and a feeling of wellbeing and a sense of belonging was generated from the gathering.



This photo, taken in Cathy's home, shows from left: Cathy Garofalo, her Mother Thelma, Deanna Convery, Dianne Teskey, Tom Upshaw and Laurie Case.

Sarah 1877 Teskey had one surviving son, Thomas Donovan, who is now 88 years old and living with his wife Helen in Rocky Point. Both Laurie and Deanna had not seen their uncle and aunt for many years and certainly no family reunion would have been complete without a visit to see them. Cathy (with the help of Mary) took us all to see Sarah's son and daughter-in-law at their home on our last full day of the holiday. Both Tom and Helen, together with their son Edmond, greeted us as family and Tom was able to tell us all about his moma Sarah, and indeed her siblings Isabella 1880 and George 1883 who also joined her in New York. After years of trying to track down the Donovan family here I was sat in the living room of their home. I felt positive that old Solomon Teskey, Sarah's father, would have approved. Laurie had brought along her photographs and papers, and one in particular brought back so many memories for Uncle Tom. The photograph of his mother and



father as a young couple brought tears to his eyes and ours too as he kissed their image. Over a family tea Uncle Tom, pictured here, related back to us all the stories Sarah had told her children, the hymns and bible readings they had been made to recite at bath times and bedtimes. What became apparent was all the love that Sarah had poured into her family, the hard life she had endured, and the tragedy she had borne when in 1918 no less than three siblings, Isabella and George in New York and Henry 1885, my grandfather in Ireland, died of the Spanish Flu.

Leaving Uncle Tom and Aunt Helen behind at Rocky Point was not easy, and as a result we overran our allotted visit time, leaving Cathy's daughter Rosaleigh to look after Tom Upshaw who had, by then, arrived at Old Westbury. I hate goodbyes, they are not one of my strong points - age doesn't make goodbyes any easier and for me only enhances the feeling of sadness. It was a tearful goodbye for all of us, but a visit each

of us shall never forget. Mary (the voice) seemed to bear the brunt of our emotions as we periodically told her to 'shut up' in the early stages of the journey home, before our attention turned to Tom and Rosaleigh waiting back at Cathy's house.

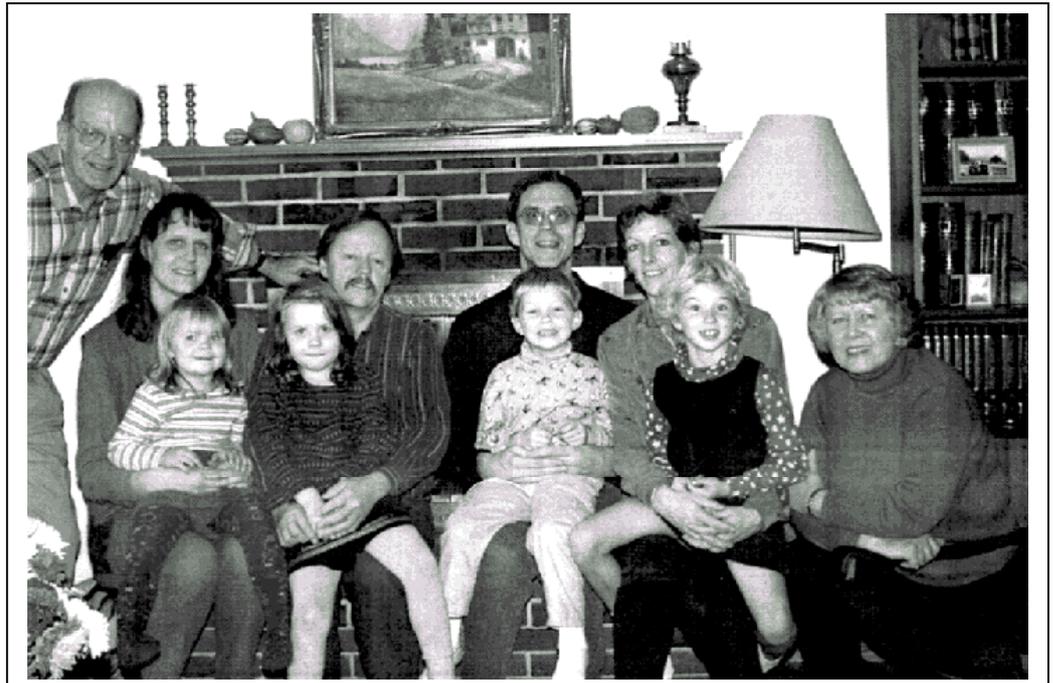
A tour of Cathy's house and garden kept us busy during the afternoon, with ancestry rearing its head when we eventually sat and 'chilled'. That night we had a Chinese banquet. Cathy's mother Thelma joined us for dinner and to his credit Tom sat amongst the harem with ease. We laughed over the fortune cookies and as families do shared our thoughts. I felt a sense of belonging and very thankful that the Teskey reunion had been made possible. Being an only child whose beloved parents are now departed I love having my new-found family. Long may these family reunions continue and may we always keep in touch. Our ancestors, had they been told, would never have believed that a family so geographically diverse could have kept in touch by an object called a computer. All of us had such a memorable time with quality time for each other because Cathy made it possible. A true Teskey like Cathy is always willing and does give so much of herself. Thank you for that Cathy.

I left New York on the 2nd of December 2000 with many happy memories, but I felt very sad at leaving my family behind there. I dread to think what pain Solomon and those like him felt when they said goodbye to their family. I look forward to seeing everyone again soon, in the meantime keeping in touch as often as possible.

Many thanks, Dianne, for taking time to record and share your experience. I heard also from the others who met up with Dianne, and they clearly had a wonderful time. By a very strange coincidence, Uncle Tom Donovan had been a patient of Dr William 1911 Teskey, Cathy's late Father, when he practised in New York.

I get a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction when I hear of friendships that have blossomed from encounters that I have helped to bring about. Dianne and Cathy first met at the Teskey gathering in Ireland in 1999. Also in

that year we organised a Reunion in Vancouver. There we brought together John 1934 and his wife Chris from Oregon and Len 1920 and daughter Lori 1962 Wilson from British Columbia. Later, I saw pictures of John and Chris at Len's 80th birthday bash, and here Lori and her family are visiting 2nd cousin John and his family.



From the left: John; Lori, holding Freyja; Jim Wilson with their other daughter Alexandra; John's son Mike 1962 holding David 1995; Mike's wife Nancy with Hannah 1993; and finally John's wife Chris.

Last year, around 50 folks attended an informal family reunion organised by Bob 1946 on the 114th anniversary of the birth of his grandfather, William Hugh 1886 Teskey. All who gathered in Alberta, Canada, were descended from pioneer Hugh 1788 Teskey. I have enjoyed meeting Bob several times in recent years, and we share the same passion for our family's history. Many of you will have seen Bob's photo or read some of the publicity that he has generated for the Teskey name. Here, in his own words, is an account by our cousin who gained international celebrity status in 2000.

SAVORING THE MIRACLE ONE DAY AT A TIME - narrated by Bob 1946 Teskey

I was an insulin dependent diabetic for almost 40 years. During that time I probably took 40,000 insulin injections. For most of that time, I was able to manage my diabetes without too many problems. However, over the last few years, I started to have more difficulties. I found out that because of diabetes, I had serious heart disease. However, worst of all, I found that I was having regular incidents in which I would just pass out without warning because of low blood sugar levels. Then in 1999 my life changed dramatically. I was able to participate in a research project at the University of Alberta. Insulin producing cells from donor organs were injected into my liver. The

result has been that for the last 18 months I have no longer had to inject insulin. I have been functioning as a normal non-diabetic.



Islet cell transplants had been tried many times before by researchers from all around the world, but always without any real success. So far 15 transplants have been done at the University of Alberta (I was number 4), with an amazing 100% success rate.

Notwithstanding the great success, the researchers were anxious to keep a lid on the news until the results were reported in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine in June 2000.

The excitement after the results were reported was unbelievable. The story was carried around the world. I was asked to give my story to the press. Since the announcement I have probably given close to 75 media interviews. My story has appeared on all of the major North American TV networks and in newspapers as diverse as the New York Times and my own hometown weekly. I can truly say that I have no secrets any more!

When people read about the research or saw me on TV, they would sometimes simply call directory information for Edmonton and ask for all of the Teskey listings – then simply start calling until they found me. Possible for a Teskey, but not likely for a Smith!

I always expected that diabetes was a life sentence and that things would only get worse. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that things could have turned out so well. This adventure has been nothing short of miraculous. It is possible that the transplant will fail and I will be back where I started or that there will be other problems. However, so far everything is going extremely well.

I will continue to savor the miracle one day at a time.

POLLIE TESKEY'S MIRACLE

The miracle of modern science that dramatically changed Bob's life reminds me of another Teskey event that was proclaimed as a miracle in the English national press in 1925. My great aunt Hannah Mary 1884 Teskey was always known as Pollie. This is how Auntie Pollie's miracle was described on the front page of the English "Daily Chronicle" of 17 July 1925:



CURED AFTER 18 YEARS – CRIPPLE BREAKS SEVEN YEARS' SILENCE – “DYING” WOMAN WALKS
From our Special Correspondent, Oysterfleet, Canvey Island, Thursday

The sole topic of conversation amongst the people of this island concerns a great wonder seen in their midst. After being practically bedridden for 18 years, Miss Polly Teskey, who for the last three or four years has lived with her mother at Dilkusha, a small bungalow in Oysterfleet, rose from her sick bed. She walked to the other end of the room, sat down on a chair, and asked for something to eat. As she rose, she said, “Lord, I believe”. Until that moment she had for a few days been going from bad to worse, and it was believed that her last moments were at hand. She had been as in a trance, unable to recognize anyone.

At the moment of her transformation a friend, Mrs Rush, was sitting with Miss Teskey. Today she told me that as she rose Miss Teskey cried out to her “Don't stop me. The Lord is going to make me quite well if I walk to that chair. I have been talking to the Lord Jesus, and he says if I have faith to believe He will heal me”.

“The doctor had given her but a few days to live”, said Mrs Rush, “and we all thought it was a matter of hours. On Monday her pulse had practically gone – in fact, there was scarcely any perceivable beating. At 6.30pm all that could be said of her was that she was on the border line. Her eyes were fixed almost as in death, she was motionless, and her body was rigid. Three quarters of an hour later she was sitting bolt upright in that chair asking for food, like any ordinary person, and saying, “Mrs Rush, I am talking, I am talking” and her voice, except for occasional feeble whispers, had not been heard for seven long years.”

Miss Teskey is the least excited person here. When I entered her little cottage to congratulate her on her recovery she was sitting on the edge of the bed on which for so many years she had lain in pain and sickness, now talking and laughing with a crowd of astonished neighbours. She walked across the room to show me what, as she described it, “the Lord's miracle had done for me”.

“I cannot run about yet of course” she said “but I was able to go down the steps into the garden and stay out there for three hours this morning. This thing is no work of a medical man. I was beyond their aid, and they said so. The Lord did this for me, because I had faith in Him. I never wanted to get better, though, and frequently asked the Lord to take me away altogether. This is just a miracle and nothing else. I remember dreaming that I was in a beautiful garden, talking to God. He told me that through Satan I had had many years of sorrow to test me, but that I would now have years of joy, and would be needed by my mother. She is getting on now. She has looked after me all through the dreary years of my illness, and now I am going to devote myself to looking after her. I have no other plans.”

“I have not spoken since the Armistice and have not even been able to whisper for the last five months. In fact, I have no recollection whatever of the last two or three months.”

Miss Teskey was only 23 when she was thrown out of a trap onto her head, and as a result became paralysed down the left side, and her head was drawn down to her left shoulder. Despite all treatments at hospitals, including the London Homeopathic, she became worse, and was finally confined to bed, both legs being paralysed. In 1918 the paralysis reached her throat. She was conveyed to Canvey in bed on a motor lorry in 1922 and until Monday had never left it.

She had been attended recently by Dr Norman Wheatley, late of the London Hospital. "I cannot account for her recovery in any way", he told me today. "As far as medical men were concerned, she was beyond all aid, and nothing I have done is responsible for her sudden recovery. She was paralysed through an injury to her spine. There is no reason why she should not become normal again."

Pollie Teskey had been born in 1884 in South London, where her father, James 1851 Teskey, had settled after leaving Rathkeale and marrying Eliza Nunn. James and his family later moved to Leyton in North East London, where they lived at an earlier "Dilkusha", a modest terraced house in Manor Road, Leyton. James died there in 1916.

After her miracle, Pollie cared for her Mother Eliza for some years on Canvey Island, which is in the estuary of the River Thames, East of London. The new Dilkusha was pulled down, and Eliza and Pollie moved into an extension built onto a nearby bungalow owned by their friends, the Milford family. Eliza Teskey died in 1933. Pollie stayed with the Milfords until they sold their bungalow. Then, she left Canvey, and for many years she would stay with friends or relatives, often for several months at a time. Her worldly goods were generally stored at the home of her youngest sister, Florence 1890, who was always known as Miriam or Mid. Much later, Pollie spent her final years confined to bed in Langthorne Hospital, East London.

Pollie lived to the age of 83. She never married, had a passionate faith in God, and is remembered as a rather dominating character. Few went against her suggestions for naming babies. I have a letter she wrote to my grandparents, telling them that their new son was to be called Kenneth James Teskey. And so he was. Ken 1930 was my uncle and I was named after him.



I have reserved a picture of Pollie for the back page of this Newsletter. The baby in that picture was also given her name by Aunt Pollie. Last year, the baby celebrated her Golden Wedding anniversary. Here is a more recent snap of Rosemary Cocks, now known as Rom, with her husband Ray Durman.

A THIRD COUSIN, AT LAST

There was a great military influence on the most recent generations of my own family to live in Rathkeale. Adam 1823 Teskey and his wife Mary Legear had five children who survived infancy: James 1851, Eliza 1855, Jacob 1858, Mary 18?? and Emily 1866. All three daughters married soldiers. Emily actually married two and subsequently appeared in Court on a charge of

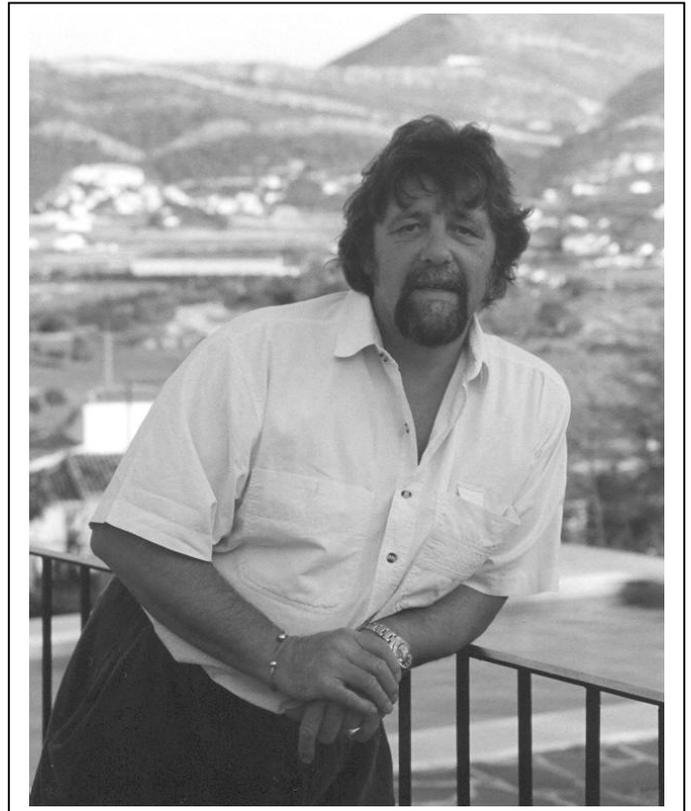
bigamy ! Eliza married John Nunn of the Royal Artillery, and my great grandfather, James 1851, married John Nunn's sister, Eliza Nunn. Meanwhile, Jacob 1858 enlisted in the army. He married Mary Ann Gordon in 1882. Although they soon started a family, they were posted to Queen Victoria's outposts around the British Empire. Mary gave birth to 9 children in Ireland, England and

India, and 5 of them died as children in either Egypt or India. Mary died in 1902 at the age of 39 and Jacob spent his later years working as an attendant at Dublin's National Gallery. Their one son who reached adulthood was James Adam 1895 Teskey. He followed in his father's footsteps, becoming first a sergeant in the Rifle Brigade, and later Curator of the Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham, England.

It was in Birmingham that his son Peter was born in 1940, the last of three children. This photo of Peter 1940 was taken last year at his home in Spain.

Not far from Birmingham, in Redditch, I recently had the pleasure of meeting Peter's daughter, Deborah 1964. I am grateful to Debs for bringing me up to date with her family's fortunes. Despite having been in postal contact with several members of this branch of the family, I had never before met a descendant from one of my Great Grandfather's siblings. Debs was thus the first 3rd cousin I had ever met. Debs' memory of her Grandfather, James 1895, was that he looked rather like the photo I showed her of his 1st cousin, my Grandfather Frank Peter 1887. Debs now has the challenge of finding a photo of her Grandfather.

By one of those strange coincidences, Debs' house was one of a row which had once belonged to Lord Southwell, presumably a descendant of the landlord who had been so kind to our refugee ancestors 300 years ago in Rathkeale. I have said it several times before, but . . . it's a small World.



FALLEN LEAVES

My visit to Debs had been partly motivated by the news of the death of her father, Peter 1940, pictured above. He died on 27 October 2000 in Spain, where he had retired 10 years ago with his second wife, Pat. Prior to that they had run a hotel in Leicestershire for a number of years. Pat and Peter had corresponded with me just a little over the last 10 years, but I had never met them.

I am sorry to report the death of Thelma Teskey on 19 August 2000 at the age of 84. She lived in Huddersfield, England. Her husband Cecil 1911 died in 1997.

The last newsletter included a photo of Appleton Mill, taken before the 1950s fire by Maurice 1908 Teskey. I am sorry to tell you that Maurice died on 14 December 2000 at the age of 92. He was cremated, and his ashes were taken "home", for interment with those of his late wife, Marion, at the Auld Kirk Cemetery in Almonte, near Appleton, not far from Ottawa. Maurice was the grandson of John Adam Teskey 1837 - 1908, owner of the woollen mill at Appleton. Maurice was born in



Winnipeg, Manitoba, and before the Second World War he gained a Ph.D. in Economic Geology from the University of Toronto. A career as a geologist in Alberta and Northern Ontario culminated in his appointment as Chief of the Gas and Oil Reserves Division of Canada's National Energy Board.

Maurice retired in 1972 to Victoria, British Columbia. He keenly shared family history with me, and in 1995, Janice and I spent a day with Maurice and Marion, going through their collection of papers and memories. This photo was taken on that occasion. They were a lovely couple.

The Almonte Gazette reported another Teskey death on 8 December 2000. Doris Teskey, aged 98, was the widow of the late Gordon G Teskey, whose birth date I do not know. Gordon was the son of Stephen Teskey. I know no more about the origins of this branch of the family, but suspect they may come from the Collingwood Teskes who arrived in Canada directly from Germany in the 1850's.

Those of us who attended the 1998 Reunion in Toronto will remember Rea Grant, who said grace before the meal. I am saddened to report that Rea died on 11 December 2000 at the age of 63 after a short illness. He was a minister of the United Church in Wingham, Ontario, and the husband of Hilda. Hilda is descended through her mother Sadie Tiffin from pioneer William 1818.

I am sorry to report the premature death in England of Eamon Heritage-Owen. He died from a heart attack on 6 November 2000 at the age of 48, leaving 3 children between the ages of 14 and 21. Eamon's mother was Isabella 1918 Teskey. Eamon attended the Stansted Teskey reunion in 1992.

Every so often I check out a website which lists obituaries. I have not been able to identify the Joe Teskey who died aged 81 in Simcoe, Ontario in July 2000. Can anyone help ?

SOME NEW ARRIVALS

I am grateful to all my correspondents who keep me updated with news of births, marriages and deaths. Usually, I do not report births, but I thought the following were especially worthy of mention.

Since the last Newsletter, I have not heard of any later Teskey births in 1999, so the final one of the old millennium seems to be Rowan Elizabeth Teskey born on 2 December 1999. Rowan was born in Virginia, USA, the daughter of Mark 1963 and Kathy Teskey, descendants from the Orillia branch.



To the best of my knowledge, the first Teskey to be born in the new millennium is Victoria Elizabeth Teskey, who arrived in Monterey, California on 25 February 2000. She is the daughter of Kevin 1972 and Kimberly, granddaughter of correspondent Gary 1944, and great granddaughter of Rupe 1917 and Audrey. Janice and I met Rupe and Audrey in 1993, when Rupe flew us in his own plane over the California desert to breakfast.

Many of us who have visited Rathkeale have enjoyed the company of Edie Teskey. The marriage in 1995 of her daughter Ruth 1968 to Brendan Smith was, I believe, the most recent Teskey marriage in Rathkeale. I was pleased to hear that Ruth gave birth on 30 December 2000 to a son who has been named Harry Teskey Smith. He is named after Edie's late husband, Henry 1914, who was always known as Harry.

TESKEY FLUTES

On 25 November 2000, Richard 1975 Teskey married Karissa Rice in Petrolia, Ontario. His 1st cousin Christina 1981 played the flute at the wedding. Curiously, Christina's 2nd cousin Denise 1969 also plays the flute at weddings.

THE TUSKEY FAMILY

I am sure the challenge of mapping the Teskey family will never be complete. If ever I reach a time when I feel that, at last, I must have identified all the branches, something inevitably pops up. In September 2000, Larry Tuskey made me stand back and think again. Yes, Tuskey !

Larry is a lawyer, living in Virginia. He had learned that his family came from Ireland via Canada, and settled in Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, USA around 1850. There, a family dispute early in the 20th century had led one branch to change their name to Teskey, which they claimed was their original name. Larry told me that the American Legion branch in Susquehanna is known as the Strider-Teskey Post. Larry's ancestor James Tuskey was born around 1823 and lived in "Adare Parish, near Patricks Well" before arriving in the USA in 1852 with his wife Mary, nee McCoy. They had married in Limerick in 1840. This marriage could explain the origin of the present Catholic faith of the American Tuskeys.

I trawled through the Teskey family tree to find a dozen or more members whose name was spelt Tuskey on one or more occasions. I had previously assumed this was a temporary spelling mistake, but there seems a strong possibility that one or more families carried that spelling on to North America, where we Teskeys now have countless Tuskey cousins. I have identified several possible links between Larry's family records and the official records I have copied. These include James 1819 and James 1820, for whom I have found no records other than their Rathkeale baptisms; Richard 1821, baptised as Tuskey in Adare; and possibly there was a brother of Jane Sarah Tuskey 1825 who married a Patrick McCoy.

Larry was keen to attempt a little research, so I have encouraged him to check out additional censuses to those that Janice and I found in Washington DC last year. It will be interesting to see where this leads us.

A search of various websites suggested there could be as many as two thousand Tuskeys. That could keep me busy, if I don't manage to delegate the job to Larry !



IRISH PALATINE ASSOCIATION

My initial interest in family history coincided with the founding of the Irish Palatine Association in 1989. Many readers of this Newsletter are members of the Association, and many have visited their excellent museum in Rathkeale or enjoyed one of their organised trips. I was honoured to be invited to join their committee, and I hope to be able to contribute to the development of the IPA. As their first overseas committee member, I have already managed to attend two meetings. You can expect me to promote even more this group of volunteers who have succeeded in creating both a focal point for descendants of the immigrants of 1709 and a most interesting museum. Here the story and artefacts of the Irish Palatine families are preserved for future generations. Membership of the Association helps to ensure our heritage will continue to be preserved. You can write to them at Irish Palatine Museum, Rathkeale, Co Limerick, Ireland. Alternatively, visit their web site www.erin.ie/ipa where you should soon be able to check opening times, membership, etc.

The IPA has added a new booklet to its range, "The Irish Palatines" by Dudley Levistone Cooney. This brief history of the group that included the first Teskeys is written in both English and German, and includes some new well-produced photographs. This very nice 50 page booklet can be ordered from the IPA for the equivalent of 6.50 Irish Pounds, including postage. It can be ordered by post or by using the membership form that should soon be available on their website.

ANOTHER VISIT TO RATHKEALE

In September 2000 Janice and I spent a relaxing week in Rathkeale. We cannot resist the charm of the area and its people, and this was our first visit that was not built around a tight schedule. We walked along Killeheen Lane and all the way round the Court Matrix "block". I was able to attend my first Irish Palatine Association committee meeting, and we presented the Museum with an updated and indexed presentation volume of the Teskey family tree. Best of all, we had time to meet up with practically all of our friends and relations in and around the town.

RATHKEALE NUMBER 2 SCHOOL

Our visit to Rathkeale was not totally without an objective, and we devoted a day to photocopying the attendance register for Rathkeale No 2 School. Just two volumes, one for Girls and one for Boys, hold the names of all pupils from 1873 right up to today. How marvellous to be entered in that book with the names of all those ancestors ! We have now transferred all the names onto computer and will be giving the Museum and the School complete indexed copies. We will also make publicly available in various forms the details of all pupils up to 1910. In order to preserve the privacy of people still alive, we do not propose to publicise more recent details. I hope that the full listing of all pupils registered up to 1910 will soon be available on the Irish Palatine Association's website, www.erin.ie/ipa

DISTRIBUTION OF TESKEY NEWSLETTERS

During my "culling" exercise, several of you offered to receive the Newsletter in digital form. I'm afraid that's a challenge that needs a little time, focus and education before I will be happy to comply. Whilst it is a virtually free method of distribution, I do not want to exclude or make it difficult for folk with older or no technology. Until we all have faster computers, I'm afraid many



would find the download of the picture content somewhat slow. In due course, I may be able to bridge that gap with improved scanning and saving techniques, or by adding each Newsletter to the website. Please be patient while I and more of my contacts adjust to the 21st century. I plan for the near future to continue to send everyone a printed copy. I may, from time to time, e-mail a mini-letter to those of you who have given me an e-mail address. Over half of those who will receive this paper Newsletter now have an e-mail address.

INTERNET UPDATE

Tom Upshaw continues to expand the Teskey family website. He has also registered a new, improved name, so the site can now be found at www.teskey.org If you have not checked recently, please do take a look. If you have managed to avoid all contact with the Internet, may I encourage you to visit a library or a friend and ask to check out the Teskey "site". I hope this will dispel any doubts or concerns you may have about the value of the Internet. It's great to have such a professional and easily-accessible "shop window" for anyone looking for Teskey information. Tom does a fantastic job. His enthusiasm is particularly remarkable, given that his most recent ancestor born a Teskey died in 1890.

Tom has designed a fitting coat of arms for the website, combining the banner of the Palatinate from around 1700 with the colours of the Irish flag. He would be interested in displaying any other coats of arms that may have been used within the family.

Tom has added a "Guest book" to the website. This allows anyone who goes to the site to leave a message, and sign up for a copy of Teskey Newsletters if they wish. I automatically receive a copy of each guest book entry, so I can quickly respond to anyone new. I have already made contact with a few new cousins in that way.

Within the Teskey website is a version of my Teskey tree. If you have any additions or questions, please address them to me. I let Tom do the technical stuff, and he leaves me to do the genealogy. And please remember that both Tom and I have jobs and families, so replies may not always be as prompt as you might like.

Whilst www.teskey.org is the place to look for general Teskey stuff, there are other websites which may be of interest to web browsers with a keen family history interest. There is so much Internet activity on the family history front that new sites appear regularly, or get "discovered". This one has a growing list of extracts from the Rathkeale Parish records:
http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Station/9230/Genealogy/rathkeale_records.htm

I recently signed up to a free Irish Palatine "Mailing List". Members exchange questions, answers and information about the various Irish Palatine families. Whilst my focus is on the Teskey name, practically all of us are also descended from several other Palatine names. If you would like to sign up to this list, simply send an e-mail to IRL-PALATINE-L-request@rootsweb.com with the one word message SUBSCRIBE You will soon receive an acknowledgement from the site, telling you how to submit messages and how to unsubscribe if you wish. Any e-mail you send to the list is distributed to all subscribers. To take a look at the kind of messages that have passed back and forth in the past, you can go to <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index/IRL-palatine> There is some great information there.



3rd TORONTO TESKEY REUNION Sunday 20th May 2001, Toronto, Canada

This will be the third reunion in Toronto that we have instigated, following gatherings in 1996 and 1998. It's the only way we can get to meet all the friends we have made in that part of the World, and we hope a few new contacts will take this chance to meet us and their more local cousins. As before, we will meet at the Wyndham Bristol Place Hotel, 950 Dixon Road, M9W 5N4, not far from Pearson International Airport. We have a private room there from 3pm, and will sit down to dinner at 6pm. This will be an informal gathering, a chance to chat, compare photos and take a look at whatever elements of my growing collection we manage to squeeze into the suitcase. The cost will be Can\$75, US\$50 or UK£35 per head, and should be paid in full when you send me your booking. Please make payment by personal check (or even cheque !) to me in your own currency.

Should you wish to stay overnight at the hotel, please make your own arrangements. You can phone the hotel on (416) 675 94444 or 1-800-WYNDHAM, or make a reservation online at www.wyndham.com

10th STANSTED TESKEY REUNION Sunday 22nd July 2001, Stansted, England

We have had a very positive international response, and all our spare rooms are already reserved for this event. We will be pleased to welcome anyone who would like to meet up with cousins from the UK, Ireland, USA and possibly Canada. Guests may arrive at our home from 11am and stay as long as they like, breaking off from chat and photos for a buffet lunch and tea. There is no charge for this event. Whilst Stansted has no historical Teskey connection (apart from regular reunions in recent years), we are conveniently situated for visits to London, Cambridge and many pretty local towns and villages. I should be around for a day or two either side of the Reunion to help visitors find their way about.

I enclose a double-sided booking form for these two events. If you are able to join us for one of these occasions, please complete the appropriate side (or even both !) and return the form to me, to arrive by the end of the month preceding the event. If I have your e-mail address, you may already have received the forms.

We do not encourage children at our kind of reunion, as they tend to get bored and disruptive after a few hours of chat about the old times. Our reunions are also held in a non-smoking environment.

MORE TESKEY ORIGINS

Whenever I find a new Teskey, from whatever source, I send them an introductory message. These bring forth a variety of reactions, often no reaction at all. I recently had an e-mail reply from a Jeffrey Teskey to say that his family name had derived relatively recently from a Polish name, TREZBIATOSKI. I can understand why it was changed ! Jeffrey was not sufficiently interested for me to pursue the origin any further.

I found an isolated record of a Teskey family in a 19th century Mennonite community in Russia. The 1861-1862 school register of Molotschna School, South Russia included Johanna 12, Susanna 10 and Kornelius 8, the children of Kornelius Teskey. There was a significant Mennonite settlement there from the early 1800's, apparently originating from Germany. Following the 1st World War and the Russian Revolution, many emigrated to Canada, and others left the area after the 2nd World War. I found this information on the website of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society. I wonder if any of those Teskeys joined the exodus from Russia, perhaps to the Canadian prairies.



SOME SURPRISE SIGHTINGS

Pat 1947 McLeod spotted Amber and Matthew Teskey in the yearbook of a school in Edmonton, Alberta. I don't know who they are. They are around 15 years of age. Can anybody suggest who they "belong" to ?

In my non-Teskey world I am Financial Director of a UK lubricants company. I opened a mailshot recently. It was not so much the headline "Prison sentence for Financial Directors" that caught my eye, but the name of the computer software company that claimed it could prevent this fate. They were called TEKSYS. Could it have been a spelling mistake ?

Barbara 1936 Pittam sent me an article from Vancouver's "Islander" newspaper about the JESKEY family that emigrated from Germany. No, definitely no !

FUTURE PLANS

Producing a Newsletter takes several weeks. Once this one has been posted, I hope to catch up with some updating of the family tree. If I have not yet acknowledged information that you have sent me, you might just hear from me over the next few months.

The only way I will ever really get on top of the backlog is to give up work, so I intend to retire in April 2002. Then we expect to abandon the study for a while and try to catch up with many friends in the summer of that year. If Janice lets me get away with it, we might just hold a series of get-togethers across Canada and the USA - a kind of Teskey Roadshow. This summer, 2001, we have arranged a trial hire of a Motorhome. We plan to explore North West Ontario, and hope that this experiment may lead to using this form of transport for longer vacations in North America in future years.

In 2004, Janice and I hope to take the lead in the organisation of an Irish Palatine Association trip to the German Pfalz. This will be open to all members of the IPA. We will strive to maintain the high standards set by the Association in their previous international vacations to Germany and Ireland.

2009, the tercentenary of the Palatine migration from Germany to Ireland, will almost certainly see a major Irish Palatine Association adventure. There are no specific plans yet, so we welcome suggestions.

REMINDERS

Please:

- Return the booking form in good time if you wish to attend either the Toronto reunion on May 20 or the Stansted reunion on July 22.
- Advise me of any births, marriages, deaths or other major events in the family. Please don't assume that I will spot it or that somebody else will tell me.
- Let me know if you move or if you get a new e-mail address.

With 2 major reunions planned for this year, Janice and I really do hope to see you soon.

Bye for now,

I make no excuse for dedicating a full page to this splendid 1925 photograph of my own branch of the Teskey family. Seated are Pollie Teskey (Hannah Mary 1884) and her mother, Eliza, who was always known as Granny Teskey. Behind is Charlie Cocks with his wife Miriam (Florence 1890), and, on the right, my Grandfather, Peter (Frank 1887). Miriam is holding baby Rosemary (see page 12), and her two older sons Frank and Albert are seated on the grass. Oh, for a time machine !

