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**Dear Cousin,**

**32 editions of the Teskey Newsletter were produced and distributed during the 11 years from 1990 to 2001, but I have managed only 3 since I retired in 2002. I apologise that it has taken more than five years for number 36 to appear. Many of you will know that my active participation in family history research was put on hold whilst I contributed to a long campaign opposing the expansion of one of the UK's busiest airports, right here in Stansted. The fight has at last been won, at least for the foreseeable future. Our victory will make a not insignificant contribution to the UK's efforts to limit the carbon emissions which are contributing towards global climate change. To some extent I feel guilty not to continue campaigning on behalf of that greater cause, but I am really pleased to return to serious family research. I intend this to be the first of many regular editions of the Teskey Newsletter.**

**There is much news to catch up with since 2006, so this Newsletter is somewhat longer than usual. Sadly, many family members have passed away during that period, including many who had become good friends, so a substantial part of this Newsletter is devoted to the leaves that have fallen from our family tree.**

**Over the last few years, the number of documents available online has expanded significantly, and for a relatively modest cost these are available without the need to travel to distant archives. The additional information means that there is a greater chance of resolving missing family links. The downside is that I'm further behind than ever!**

**Whilst little new material has been added to our website for some years, it continues to provide information to new researchers and generates a steady flow of new contacts. I try to help new researchers and contacts, but I have not always found the time that was required, and have not always answered promptly. I promise to do better! I am pleased to say that our webmaster, Tom Upshaw, will soon be working with me to update the online family tree. Whilst I have maintained a low profile for many years I have continued to update and expand my spreadsheet version of the family tree, which now contains over 10,000 names. I am grateful to so many of you who keep sending me news of births, marriages and deaths. Tom and I also hope to add to the website's collection of photos, but that will not happen for some time. I will let you know when there are any significant changes to [www.teskey.org](http://www.teskey.org).**

**I would like to bring you up to date on three stories that appeared in the May 2006 Newsletter . . .**

#### **STEPHEN AND LAUREEN HARPER**

**On the front page, I reported that Stephen Harper had become Prime Minister of Canada. He has now held that position for nearly six years and in 2011 his political party secured an overall majority in Parliament. I hope we will all be able to bask for some time to come in the reflected glory of a Teskey, Stephen's wife Laureen, being in residence at 24 Sussex Drive, Ottawa -**



Canada's equivalent to the UK's 10 Downing Street and the USA's White House. Whether or not you support or understand Stephen's politics, I hope that, like me, you also get a thrill from seeing cousin Laureen on the World stage or in Hello magazine from time to time. She has certainly put the name Teskey on the map!

### **BRENDAN WHIELDON**

Newsletter 35 included a photo of 7 year old Brendan Whieldon, a 6<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Joseph 1805 Teskey and a really plucky kid with an incurable form of cancer. Over recent years he has continued to raise thousands of dollars for fellow British Columbia children with cancer, mainly by selling calendars. I am delighted to report that after a lifetime of chemotherapy and other treatments, Brendan was declared free of cancer a year ago. He is now 14 and catching up with life, doing well at school and steadily growing stronger.

### **LILLIAN 1875 TESKEY'S CHILDREN**

Newsletter 35 included a substantial piece on my great aunt Lillian 1875 Teskey. She married twice and had children by three men. The 1901 Census showed that her two children were not living with her. Since that Newsletter, the 1911 Census for the United Kingdom has become available. This showed that one of these 'farmed-out' children, Gordon, was again living with his mother. The household at Walsham le Willows, Suffolk also included Gordon's full brother, Alexander King, born 1903, together with Lillian's second husband, Alfred Chamberlain, and their daughter Gladys Chamberlain, born in 1908. I remember Gladys with great affection, for she enthusiastically supported and encouraged my early Teskey research 20 years ago.

The 1911 Census also showed that Lillian's first child, Violet Eva Thompson, known as Eva, was still living with her grandparents James 1851 and Eliza Teskey in Leyton, east London, close to where I grew up. My article reported that I had found no record of Eva's marriage to Alfred Gunning, but this prompted a phone call from Rosemary (Rom) Durman, Eva's 1<sup>st</sup> cousin. She recounted that many years ago her mother, Florence 1890 Teskey (known as Miriam), had surprised Rom by telling her that she had just been to the wedding of Eva and Alf. Alf Gunning already had a wife when he met Eva around 1920, but his first wife would not give him a divorce. When the first wife died many years later, Eva and Alf were able to fulfil their wish to make their union official, notwithstanding the fact that all their three daughters had by then grown up, married and left home.

I was able to follow up Rom's clues, track down the marriage, and obtain a copy of the marriage certificate. The registry office wedding took place in 1955 when Eva, spinster, was 58 and Alf, "bachelor", was 60. Not only did Eva's Aunt Miriam attend the wedding, but her name appears on the marriage certificate as one of the witnesses.

### **FALLEN LEAVES**

Sadly, many family members have died in the last five years. It is my sad privilege to give a short account of some of their lives, or at least the part of their lives that I knew. It includes several fine people who I regarded as good friends and others to whom I was introduced only by their obituary. I am grateful to all of you who send me newspaper cuttings about Teskeys, whether you know them or not.

The first of my fallen leaves was a regular source of cuttings from the Canadian press.

**DONALD CUTHBERT TESKEY (1925 – 2011)**

Don the Dentist died in November 2011 at the age of 86. He and Ann had been married for 60 years. They lived and worked in Toronto, where they raised four children and where Janice and I stayed with them on more than one occasion. Don continued to serve his dental patients until he was 80. He had been a good friend and supportive Teskey collaborator for nearly 20 years. He was a descendant of John 1769 Teskey and the Appleton branch, and was researching the family history long before I became interested. Consequently he was well known to a wide group of Canadian Teskeys. Some of you reading this will remember him

from various Irish Palatine events and Teskey reunions. One day, he happened to be visiting Appleton when the opportunity came to rescue many family papers and photos that were about to be destroyed, including photos of Appleton Mill burning down. Don was himself a keen photographer and it was usually one of his pictures that featured on his Christmas cards.

**PHYLLIS BENSON (1938 – 2007)**

Phyllis was also from the Appleton branch of the family and had been a patient of Don the Dentist. She was the granddaughter of Ethel 1873 Teskey and Wesley West of Almonte, Ontario. She died at home in Toronto after a long battle with cancer. She was a shy and lovely lady who many of us met at three Teskey reunions in Toronto and at the 1999 Teskeys in Ireland event, each time accompanied by her sister Sheila Babb. After the Ireland event, Phyllis completed an atmospheric painting of Ballingrane Church and generously sent copies to all who were on that trip. Thereafter, her Christmas cards usually featured one of her own paintings.

**WALTER RUTTLE (1916 – 2007)**

Those of you who have visited Rathkeale are likely to have met Walter Ruttle of Ballingrane. He lived in what was once the family home of Barbara Heck, nee Ruttle, who was instrumental in the founding of the Methodist Church in North America. Walter may have shown you the pear tree in his garden, reputedly a direct descendant of the pear tree under which John Wesley preached to the Irish Palatines in 1756. Walter was a great ambassador for the Irish Palatine story and served on the Irish Palatine Association committee for nearly 20 years.

**VERA CONROY (1918 – 2008)**

Vera was a thoroughbred Irish Palatine: on her Father's side she was the granddaughter of Isabella 1847 Teskey and Uriah Sparling and on her Mother's side descended from the Palatine Mick, Long and Switzer families and also from Eliza 1784 Teskey. Vera lived in Dublin. We met on several occasions and in 1993 she stayed with us in Stansted to attend that year's Teskey Reunion.

**HOWARD (1924 – 2008) AND GERTIE (1928 – 2010) TESKEY**

Howard was a founder of Teskey Concrete and Construction, a successful Toronto business whose trucks provide high visibility for the Teskey name. Gertie qualified as a registered nurse after raising 5 children. For some time she worked at the same hospital as distant relation Dr Luke Teskey. Don 1925 Teskey told me that when Gertie accompanied Dr Luke on his rounds he would say "I am Dr Teskey and this is Mrs Teskey". Janice and I had the pleasure of

meeting Howard and Gertie several times. In 1999, together with daughter Cheryl, they joined the Irish Palatine Association tour in Ireland. Their characters were extreme contrasts: Howard seemed dour, although underneath he was a softie, whilst Gertie was always full of enthusiasm for everything. They adored their family, especially their 12 grandchildren. Both were laid to rest in Orillia where they were born.

**CAROL COLLINS (1921 – 2011)**

Carol and her daughter Laura joined us for Teskeys in Ireland in 1999. Carol was the great granddaughter of Catherine 1838 Teskey and Arthur O'Neill. Their daughter Arabella O'Neil left Ireland at the age of 16 in 1888 and settled in the United States. Carol lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was a teacher for 30 years and an enthusiastic genealogist to whom I am indebted for much information.

**ALLAN BRYAN (1919 – 2007)**

Allan was descended from the Appleton Teskeys, the son of Ruth 1881 Teskey. He was born in Battleford, Saskatchewan but spent most of his life in California. After serving in the US Army in the Pacific he worked for the Bakers' Union, retiring as its president in 1982. In 1999, he and travelling companion Jean Downs participated in Teskeys in Ireland.

**JOHN LARS TESKEY (1917 – 2007)**

John was one of my late Mother's 21 first cousins. His father, James 1880, was an overseas missionary, so some of John's childhood was spent onboard ship, sailing between postings. He pursued a career as a bank manager, apart from a spell as a fireman in Coventry during the Second World War. He and wife Pat lived in England's Lake District.

**ARTHUR (1921 – 2006) and AUDREY TESKEY-KING (1924 – 2007)**

Arthur was my second cousin and was one of the grandchildren of Lillian 1875 Teskey. He was a fighter pilot for 5 years in WWII and then served in the first post-war aerobatic squadron. He later worked in the chemical and insurance industries. He always lived in or near Hull, East Yorkshire. He and Audrey died just 6 months apart. They had been married for 63 years and raised four children. Arthur gave me much help and encouragement in my early family research and I am pleased that his interest has been inherited by several of his children and grandchildren.

**KEITH PITTAM (1944 – 2008)**

Some of you may remember Keith from the Irish Palatine tour to Germany in 2004 or a Teskey gathering at our house. Keith was married to my 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin Barbara. They both grew up in England but for many years lived in Victoria, British Columbia, where they performed regularly in amateur dramatics. Keith was a policeman by profession, but made his mark on more than one Teskey occasion with his rendering of a humorous 1930s Stanley Holloway monologue, “Albert and the Lion”.

**WALTER JAMES TESKEY (1945 – 2011)**

We first met Jim and his wife Lynda in 1996 at the largest Teskey gathering we have ever seen, at Ruthven in the far south-west of Ontario. All were descendants of pioneer Hugh 1788. Hugh's offspring account for the extensive Teskey clan that lives today in the area between London and Windsor. When we were in that area again five years later, Jim and Lynda not only allowed us to park our rented mobile home on their drive, but used this as an excuse to host a gathering of 40 Teskeys. Jim was a millwright by trade, fascinated by anything mechanical. He was a big, warm-hearted man, clearly well-loved by his extended family. He and Lynda brought up two sons and also fostered other children. I thank Karissa Teskey for this great photo of Jim and Lynda.

**KIM TEUMA (1960 – 2009)**

Kim was Jim Teskey's niece, the daughter of Pat Bristow, nee Teskey. We met Kim at Jim's gathering in 2001 and we corresponded for several years. As a single mother, Kim brought up her disabled daughter, Sarah, who sadly died at the age of 18. This was soon after Kim had found happiness through marrying Phil Teuma from England in 2000. Sadly, Kim also died young.

**WAYNE KENNETH TESKEY (1950 – 2009)**

Wayne was a professional photographer in Edmonton, Alberta, a grandson of David 1873 Teskey and a descendant of pioneer Hugh 1788.

**SUSAN GAIL LENNOX (1943 – 2010)**

Susan, nee Teskey, was descended from pioneer John 1769, and was the great granddaughter of John Adam 1837 Teskey who owned the woollen mill at Appleton. Her grandfather Albert 1870 headed west and settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Susan and her husband Jim lived in Vancouver and attended the Teskey reunion there in 1995. When they retired they let out their home and travelled for 2 years in a motor home, before settling in Chilliwack, British Columbia.



**PETER JAMES TESKEY (1931 – 2007)**

Jimmy Teskey and I first exchanged information in 1995. He was a descendant of the Teske family that came from Germany and settled in Collingwood around 1860. All his life was spent in Thunder Bay, which was previously called Port Arthur. Earlier still, when Jimmy's grandfather Augustus Michael Teskey arrived at the port in 1883, it was known as Prince Arthur's Landing. Jimmy was a welder by trade.

**HELEN ELIZABETH FRASER (1925 – 2011)**

Betty was Jimmy Teskey's older sister. She was voted "Miss Port Arthur" in her teens, before moving to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she married and raised a family. I had never corresponded with Betty, but I am grateful to John Mortimer in Manitoba for forwarding a copy of the obituary from his local newspaper. John is descended from Joseph 1805 and the Orillia Teskeys.

**ROBERT WILLIAM TESKEY (1934 – 2009)**

Robert was the son of Dr Stanley 1899 Teskey, a surgeon and descendant from the Orillia Teskeys. Robert lived in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he pursued a career in sales and management with medical companies. He is survived by his wife Beth and five children and their families.

**PAUL TESKEY (1951 – 2008)**

Paul was a lawyer in Winnipeg. I corresponded with his late mother in the 1990s, but not with any of her children. Paul was the grandson of Josef Teskey who brought his family to Canada from Romania in the 1920s. The family was Jewish and probably spelt their name Tutefski in Romania, but it was 'anglicised' by the immigration authorities. Most of Josef's family who stayed behind perished in the Holocaust.

**GEORGE PERCIVAL TESKEY (1917 - 2007)**

George grew up at Rockfield, a farm just outside Rathkeale in County Limerick. He was the older brother of Vera Shier who some of you will have met in Rathkeale or at Ballingrane Church. 50 years ago, George and his family moved to Dublin and then to North Wales, where they ran a guest house. He was known as Percy in Ireland and George after moving to Wales.

**ANTHONY FRED TESKEY (1913 – 2011)**

Tony was the grandson of Anthony Tzrebietowski who migrated from Poland to the United States in 1885. Some of Anthony's sons shortened the name to Teskey, but not all did, so today there are Teskeys with Tzrebietowski cousins. Tony was born in Chicago, but spent most of his life in West Virginia where he worked for West Virginia Glass. As a young man he boxed; he was awarded a Purple Heart after being wounded in the Second World War; and in later life he taught guitar.

**GLEN TESKEY (1928 – 2006)**

Glen was on my mailing list for 13 years. He always seemed pleased to hear news of other Teskeys, but never told me anything about his own family! I was saddened to learn of his death through an obituary, but pleased that the newspaper report filled in some of the gaps in my information. Apart from service in the US Army during the Korean War, Glen spent all his life in Merrill, Wisconsin, where he was secretary of a funeral home and active in scouting and the local community generally. It was only from Glen's obituary that I discovered his father was Silas 1896 Teskey. The name was new to me, but so unusual that I soon found that Glen was a great grandson of pioneer John 1819 Teskey, who migrated from Ireland to Iowa in 1859.

**MORLEY TESKEY (1915 – 2007)**

Morley was a great grandson of pioneer William 1818. He helped me unravel that part of the family tree and we were pleased to meet him at a reunion of William 1818's descendants in Wngham, Ontario in 1996.

**CORA BIVAND (1917 – 2007)**

Cora was Morley's sister.

**GERMAINE MARIE (GERRIE) TESKEY (1924 – 2006)**

Gerrie was the widow of Manley 1915, from the Orillia branch of the family. Some years ago, Janice and I enjoyed a visit with them at their home in Ajax, Ontario.

**CHESTER TESKEY (1920 – 2007)**

Chet Teskey was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and died not far away in Fond du Lac. Chet was a teacher and in World War II served in the Army Air Corps. Chet was the son of Joseph Ivan Teskey who was born in Minnesota in 1888 of parents who were born in Germany.

**BRUCE JOHN TESKEY (1921 – 2006)**

Bruce was one of the first Teskeys I ever met in Canada. We called on him and his wife Nina in 1993 at his home in Ontario, not far from where his pioneer ancestor, William 1787, had settled in Camden East Township.

**LIONEL LUCIEN TESKEY (1924 – 2010)**

My first contact with Lionel followed the Irish Palatine Association's first holiday in Germany, back in 1994. One of our fellow travellers was Marguerite Shouldice from British Columbia. She had married a man with the Irish Palatine surname Shouldice, and we discovered that her sister Luella had done likewise, marrying a Teskey. It just so happened that Luella and Lionel Teskey were due to visit England soon, so I wrote a letter introducing myself and, within weeks, the Teskeys came to stay with us for a weekend. We got on really well, and later visited with them in Brighton, Ontario, only 50 miles from where Lionel's pioneer ancestor, William 1787, had settled in Camden East. Lionel was an electrical engineer and served in the Royal Canadian Engineers in WWII.

Laurie Case took this photo of Lionel and Luella at the 2001 Teskey reunion in Toronto.

**ETHEL SIMPSON (1935 – 2007)**

Ethel lived in Chilliwack, British Columbia and was the daughter-in-law of Mildred 1905 Teskey. Ethel contacted me several years ago and sent me information and photos. One gem was of her husband Ralph 1929's grandfather, Robert 1870 Teskey, a descendant of William 1787. The picture of Robert and his great grandson James Simpson (Ethel's first child) is photo 3005 on [www.Teskey.org](http://www.Teskey.org) under 'Meet the Ancestors'.

**MYRTLE IRENE CROUCH (1940 – 2007)**

Myrtle was a first cousin of Ralph 1929 and a granddaughter of Robert 1870. We exchanged information in 1995 and she received every Newsletter since. I am pleased that her interest in the family history was passed on to daughter Karen.

**TIMOTHY GORDAN TESKEY (1977 – 2007)**

I am particularly saddened to report the death of Timothy at the age of 29 in a Toronto car accident, leaving a widow and two young children. He was yet another descendant of pioneer William 1787.

**JAMES EDWARD TESKEY (1897 – 1917)**

Last year I bought an old postcard of a First World War cemetery at Barlin in the Pas de Calais region of France, about 30 miles south-east of Calais. This is reproduced below, firstly in full and then with focus on an area to the left of the card.



This general view includes the grave marker for Private James Teskey (1897 – 1917), a Canadian descendant of pioneer William 1787. He was one of many Canadian Teskeys who fought in the two World Wars. An enlargement of that part of the postcard appears on the next page.

Barlin cemetery now looks quite different. It has been 'tidied', with over a thousand well-regimented memorial stones of uniform design. Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries are all beautifully maintained and memorial stones are replaced if they become worn. James Teskey's short life is remembered now on a more permanent gravestone that has replaced the original one on the postcard.





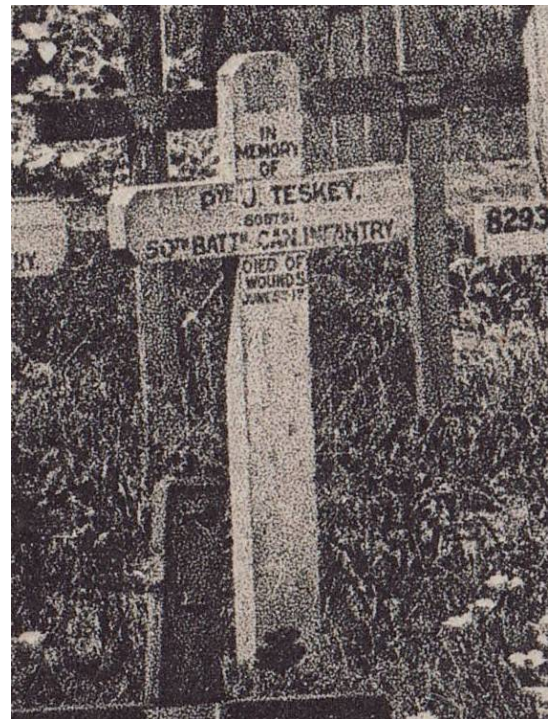
Long after his death, James Teskey received a rather special mention. I hope Prime Minister Stephen Harper will not mind me quoting from his speech in November 2006 at the launch of Canada's Remembrance Week:

*"Every one of those brave young men and women has a story to tell. Most are almost anonymous, their stories known only to their families, who pass them down through the ages like precious heirlooms."*

*One such story is that of Private James Teskey. Born and raised in Deloraine, Manitoba, and Okotoks, Alberta, he was just 17 when he volunteered to fight for king and country. Wearing his uniform, and a proud smile, he left his family behind on the farm, shipped across the Atlantic, trained for weeks in England,*

*And then found himself surrounded by death and destruction in the bloodiest war the world had ever known. After 34 days of horrific trench warfare at the Battle of Arras in June 1917, that war consumed him too. He was not yet 19 years old.*

*I know his story because James Teskey would become my wife's great-uncle. This summer Lauren and I visited his grave in northern France. Seeing the cross with his name on it for the first time brought the family stories of her childhood to life, and almost a century later his sacrifice still moved his grand-niece to tears."*



#### **WILLIAM CHARLES TESKEY (1877 – 1917)**

In 2010 Janice and I joined a coach tour of First World War battlefields and some of the hundreds of WWI cemeteries, but not Barlin. We found this a most informative and very moving experience. We began to appreciate just how many young men died, especially in the relatively narrow and rural battle zones around Ypres in Belgium and the Somme in France. Tyne Cot, near Ypres, is an impressive memorial that records the names of tens of thousands of British soldiers who perished but who have no known grave. Amongst these many names we found William Charles Teskey. He was aged 39, so probably joined the war late when older men were being recruited.



The 1911 Census shows that he was a correspondence clerk, living in Westminster, London with his wife and two young daughters. This Newsletter will be delivered to two of his grandchildren who never knew their grandfather.

**TERCENTENARY OF THE PALATINE MIGRATION TO IRELAND**

In 2009 the Irish Palatine Association organized a celebration in Ireland to commemorate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the migration from the German Palatinate to Ireland in 1709 of hundreds of families, including Jacob 1659 Teskey, his wife and two sons. Janice and I were pleased to attend and delighted to meet again with Teskeys and others from around the World. Those of you who are members of the IPA will have seen full accounts of a very eventful 10 days, including an excellent article by our own Lisa Teskey from Toronto. We visited many of the places where our ancestors had lived, farmed, worshipped and been buried. This photo of all those with Teskey ancestry was taken outside a former Teskey home in Killeheen Lane.



One of many highlights was the unveiling of a memorial stone in Killeheen Lane to commemorate the occasion. It was erected on the site of Killeheen Wesleyan Chapel. The inscription quotes from John Wesley's 1760 diary: "I rode over to Killeheen, a German settlement, near twenty miles south of Limerick. It rained all the way, but the earnestness of the poor people made us quite forget it". Our group was joined there by others from the local area. I am pleased to include a picture of Jimmy Teskey and his son Nathaniel, talking with Canadian Teskeys Bill (with cap) from Toronto and Bob from Edmonton.





Janice and I last met Jimmy in 1992 at home with his parents Neil and Peggy. Jimmy is the grandson of James 1881 Teskey, and he in turn was the oldest son of Jacob 1841. As was usual, James 1881 inherited the farm at Ballinlina and the farm has passed down to Jimmy. Young Nat was born in 2001 and it is noteworthy that the average gap between generations has been 40 years since Jacob 1841.

### **THE LEAVING OF IRELAND**

Life in Ireland was always hard for younger sons and it was especially hard at the time of the First World War. "Home Rule" for southern Ireland had been agreed by the British Parliament, but the change was suspended because of the war. Not all Irishmen were happy about this and a significant minority opposed participation with Great Britain in the Great War. In 1916 the republican movement staged an "Easter Uprising" which was suppressed and its leaders executed. Against this background of unrest, Jacob 1841's two youngest sons left Ireland. The youngest, Richard 1892, joined the Grenadier Guards regiment of the British Army in January 1916 and served in the Great War. The second youngest, Edward 1888, arrived in Ellis Island, New York in August 1916. Ellis Island was the main port of immigration into the United States from 1892 to 1954.

After the cessation of the Great War in 1918, Ireland's troubles continued with the Irish War of Independence 1919 – 1921 and then the Irish Civil War 1922 – 1923. In 1922, Richard Teskey emigrated to the USA, passing through Ellis Island on his way to California, where he joined brother Edward in San Francisco.

Edward raised two sons but neither married. Richard also did not marry and this particular Californian branch of Teskeys died out by the 1980s.

### **RATHKEALE HOUSE HOTEL**

I am sorry to report that Rathkeale House Hotel closed last year, a victim of the downturn in the Irish economy. The hotel had been an excellent base for the 2009 tercentenary event and several other Irish Palatine Association and Teskey family gatherings over the last 15 years.

### **CENSUSES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

In 2006 I took out a subscription to the main online depository of genealogical records: Ancestry.com. This is an invaluable research tool, containing indexes and copies of all manner of individual documents. Over the last few years I have intermittently studied the censuses for the United States. These are available for every 10 years from 1790 to 1930 (with the exception of 1890, whose records were mostly destroyed in a fire in Washington in 1921). I have created a database of all Teskey names identified in Ancestry's indexes. Using this and copies of the actual census forms, I have been able to fill knowledge gaps and add many names into the Teskey family tree. Some of the content of this Newsletter has arisen as a result of this particular exercise.

First, let me share a few facts and figures. I chose to look for anyone indexed as either Teskey or Tuskey, knowing that there is a significant number of Tuskeys descended from at least one branch of the Irish Teskeys. Here are the total numbers of Teskeys or Tuskeys in each census:

1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930
11	24	48	68	destroyed	243	291	375	326



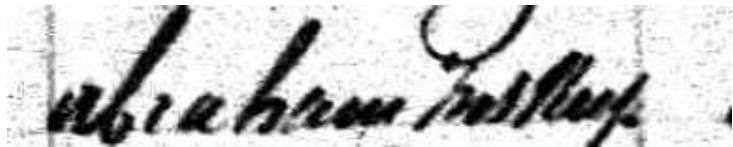


By 1930 a Teskey or Tuskey had been recorded in every American state but five: Delaware, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon and Utah. The highest occurrences were in Michigan (190), Pennsylvania (182), New York (127), Wisconsin (92), Minnesota (88), Illinois (85) and Iowa (75).

I have subsequently found known relations indexed as Tiskey, Taskey, Tesskey, Feskie, Leskey, Lesbey, etc. This is entirely understandable given the varying quality of handwriting and the poor physical condition of some documents. Indexes are helpful, but cannot be relied upon to be accurate or complete.

In addition, there was one apparent Tuskey household in each of the 1820 and 1830 censuses, but I am inclined to dismiss them as being misinterpreted handwriting and neither Teskey nor Tuskey, especially as neither name matches a known Irish Teskey.

This is the entry in the 1820 census that was interpreted as Abraham Tuskey. He was in New Orleans, Louisiana, where his household comprised 3 white males, 6 white females and 2 young slaves.



Now, a couple of stories that came directly from my review of these censuses . . .

In 1930 the census was taken over a period of several weeks. In Blue Earth City, Minnesota, newly-married Harold 1908 and Bertha Teskey were recorded on April 9 with Harold's parents, then again on April 30 on their own at a different address!

Somewhat more confusing were the appearances of William Henry Teskey (1864-1935). In 1900 he appears in St Louis, Missouri with his wife Ellen and daughter Vera, aged 1. The 1910 census shows him firstly living with his sister Eliza 1860 in Port Huron, Michigan, then 6 days later in St Louis, Missouri with a new wife Margarite and children Vera 1898 and Warren 1902. The 1910 record shows that he has been married twice, but also (presumably wrongly) says that he and Margarite have each been married 14 years. I could not find William on the 1920 census, but I found Margarite, now married to someone else, with both children Vera and Warren. During the 1920s, Vera and Warren married and Marguerite died after being struck by an automobile. In 1930, William was again living with his sister in Port Huron. I failed to find any records of any of the marriages or divorces I refer to. I am sure all census references were to the same William Teskey as he is always described as a dry goods salesman. I can only presume that William was divorced twice.

Of the 1,386 Teskey and Tuskey occurrences in the United States censuses, I have so far identified only about a quarter, so there is lots of homework still to be done!

### **THE CONFUSING TESKEYS OF IOWA**

I have long been aware of one branch of the family that settled in the state of Iowa, but my research into American censuses became somewhat confusing when I found that there were at least two Teskey branches there with Irish roots.

The pioneers who founded one branch were Christopher 1794 Teskey and his wife Catherine. They married in Ireland in 1820 (at Kilmeedy, a few miles south of Rathkeale, County Limerick), and had



eight children (John 1821, William 1823, Jane 1825, Ellen 1831, Catherine 1835, Gertrude 1837, George 1839 and Margaret 1842), some born in Ireland and some in England, before emigrating from Ireland to the USA. Christopher and Catherine arrived in New York in 1852 with their youngest three children and settled in Clinton County, Iowa, about 100 miles west of Chicago. What an oversimplified understatement that is! They travelled 3,000 miles across the Atlantic and another thousand miles overland from New York to Iowa. I don't know whether they crossed the Atlantic under sail or steam, and I wonder how they travelled those final thousand miles. It was not until 1858 that it became possible to travel from New York to Chicago entirely by rail, so they probably travelled a substantial part of the way by wagon.

The oldest of the three children who made the crossing with Christopher and Catherine was Gertrude 1837 Teskey. She is the great great grandmother of Tom Upshaw, who so generously and ably created and manages our website [www.teskey.org](http://www.teskey.org). As an aside, this is a copy made by Tom of an old tin type photo of the daughters of Gertrude 1837 Teskey and her husband Hans Jacob Jepsen: Gertrude (1864-1957) and Hannah (1862-1953). Both girls were born, married and died at an old age in Clinton County, Iowa.

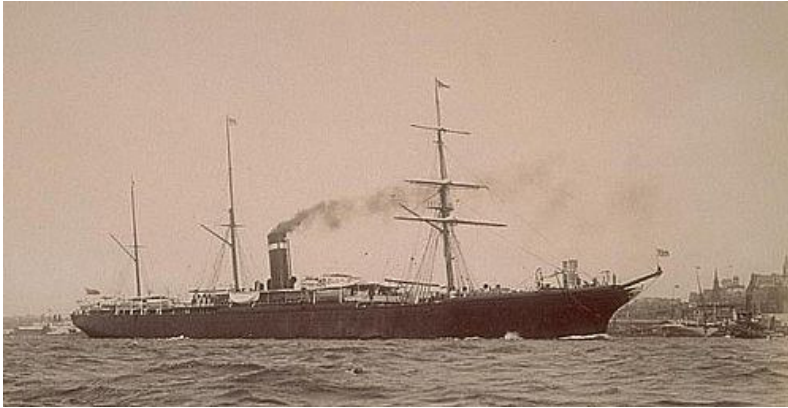


Most of Christopher's eight children left Ireland and settled in the same area of Iowa. The only one not accounted for is William 1823, for whom I have found no records other than his birth in Kilmeedy. In 1856, one child, Catherine 1835, married Thomas Flathers, a widowed farmer twice her age who already had a young son from his first marriage. Four years later, the census of Brookfield Township, Clinton County, Iowa showed that the Flathers household had expanded, not only through the addition of a son, Christopher 1858, but also Catherine's parents, Christopher and Catherine, and her younger siblings George 1839 and Margaret 1842.

Another of Christopher's older children was Jane 1825 Teskey. She was baptised in London, England, but probably grew up in Ireland. Jane returned to London to marry Patrick McCoy in 1846, before going back to Ireland. Their first six children were born in Ireland before the family returned again to England, where they had three more children. Most of their children also settled in Iowa. Two, Catherine and John McCoy, appear on the 1870 Iowa census within the Flathers household. By this time, Catherine Flathers' siblings George and Margaret had moved elsewhere in Brookfield, but her parents still lived with Catherine and husband Thomas and their own expanding brood.

Another of Jane 1825 and Patrick McCoy's children, Augustus McCoy, appears on the 1880 census for Brookfield, Iowa, living with his aunt, Margaret 1842. Another child, Sarah Jane McCoy, married in England, had children in Iowa and then England before settling again in Iowa. I am surprised how much travelling was done by this branch of the family between Ireland, England and the United States through much of the 1800s. Sarah Jane McCoy's passage in 1884 with her husband and five

young children was in 'steerage' (generally rather cramped dormitory accommodation) with hundreds of other passengers on the 5,000 ton steamship "City of Berlin", pictured here.



The ship sailed from Liverpool in England and collected many of its passengers at Queenstown (since renamed Cork) in southern Ireland. Even on this modern vessel, a general lack of facilities is implied by the ship's passenger manifest, which has a column headed "Date and cause of death". Another column records that the McCoy family sailed with 4 pieces of luggage. How times have changed!

Christopher 1794's oldest son was John 1821 Teskey. He settled in Iowa, married twice and had two children, but his line died out by 1937. Research into the Teskeys of Iowa became complicated – and this is why I started this article on "the confusing Teskeys of Iowa" several paragraphs back - because there was another John, of similar age, John 1819, who also settled in Iowa.

It took me some time to be convinced that there were two separate Johns and to conclude that John 1819 was in fact a first cousin of Christopher 1794. Both Johns were descended from Jacob 1720: John 1821 via John 1770, and John 1819 via Christopher 1752 and Christopher 1794. The two Johns were thus first cousins one removed.

Having untangled the two Johns, the story of John 1819 is relatively straightforward. Born in Killeheen and baptised in Rathkeale, he emigrated from Ireland in 1859. On the various censuses his wife was either Paulina or Pauline and she was born in either Ireland or New York. As another census statement said they were married in 1858, I suspect she was Irish and they married in Ireland. Their two sons, Charles 1859 and Arthur 1861 were born in Iowa and followed their father's career of farming. Charles had one son, Silas in 1896. As a researcher, I am so grateful when somebody names their child Silas rather than William - there have been nearly 100 William Teskeys, but just the one Silas! The Fallen Leaves section above includes Silas's son Glen 1928.

John 1819's other son, Arthur 1861, married Cora Greenwalt in 1886 and they moved north into Minnesota, where they kindly called their three children: Delila 1893, George 1898 and Alva 1902. These are the only occurrences I have found of Teskeys with the name Delila or Alva, so it was relatively simple to follow their lives, which unfortunately contained more than their fair share of tragedy.

In 1950, Delila's 18 month old granddaughter was crushed to death in Roswell, South Dakota by a reversing fuel truck.

Alva Teskey worked as a handyman for a steel corporation in Chicago. In January 1947, he was working outdoors, repairing a door, when a giant icicle fell 75 feet and pierced his skull, killing him instantly. The icicle measured two feet long and was 6 inches across at its base.



It is said that “no news is good news”, and as a consequence, it is bad news that tends to dominate, both in the media generally and, it seems, in this Teskey Newsletter. I will try to lighten the tone with the next item, which recalls an era when good news also had extensive coverage.

#### **AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF TESKEY INFORMATION – [WWW.GWENNYALOGY.ORG](http://WWW.GWENNYALOGY.ORG)**

Much of my accumulated information, especially of more recent generations, has been provided by the many family contacts I have established over the years. In more recent times numerous websites have provided an insight into specific branches of the Teskey family. My recent discovery of [www.gwennyalogy.org](http://www.gwennyalogy.org) revealed an amazing depth, far beyond the usual vital records (censuses and registration of birth, marriage or death). On this website Gwendolyn Cunningham shares the results of her extensive research in local newspapers, particularly from the Orillia area of Ontario. Fortunately, Gwendolyn's direct ancestors had many links with Teskeys, so there is a wealth of detail that is likely to be of interest to descendants of Joseph 1805. I encourage them to delve into the website. The index of surnames leads to a family group, where clicking on a name will often reveal much more. Here is one lovely example. Extracted from The Orillia Packet & Times of May 6, 1948, it is part of the account of the wedding of Pansy Teskey to George Mayo.

*The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a street length white silk jersey dress, white platform open toe shoes, white straw hat with pink trim and veil, and a corsage of pink roses and white hyacinth. Miss Eileen G. Teskey, sister of the bride, as bridesmaid, was attired in a street length powder blue silk jersey trimmed with gold buckles with pink and blue flowered hat to match and a corsage of pink roses and blue hyacinth.*

*The flower girl, little Maureen Ann Teskey, a niece, was in an ice blue taffeta dress with hair ribbon to match, and white ankle socks and shoes.*

*At the reception in the King Edward hotel, the bride's mother received in a black sheer two piece dress with a corsage of deep pink roses.*

*The happy couple went to Niagara Falls and Buffalo for their honeymoon, the bride wearing a brown silk print dress with shoes, gloves and purse to match, a poppy red coat, form fitting, and soft off the face beige fall hat. They will reside in Orillia.*

I am pleased that many years later I met the bride, the bridesmaid and the flower girl.

Whilst such internet sources can provide apparent solutions to outstanding questions or filling between the cracks, I always try to confirm the information by reference to original documents. Such websites can provide clues that overcome the problems caused by reliance on search engines and indexation that has been based on an incorrect interpretation of handwriting. Gwen's site provided sufficient help for me to find George 1870 Teskey on the 1901 and 1911 Canadian censuses. I had not found him before because on [www.Ancestry.ca](http://www.Ancestry.ca) he had been indexed in 1901 as Leskey and in 1911 as Lesbey!

### **VELMA EVELEIGH CELEBRATES HER 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

Those of you who have attended Teskey reunions in Toronto may remember Velma Eveleigh, a tiny and charming lady of mature years. I am delighted to say that she celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in March 2010.

This photo was taken a few months later. Velma, on the left, is with her young cousin, Sadie Tiffin, who was then 96. Their mothers were, respectively, Berthilda 1880 Teskey and Elsie 1881 Teskey, children of



Edward 1844 Teskey, himself the son of pioneer William 1818 Teskey who left Rathkeale and settled in Carrick township, Bruce County, Ontario. I am indebted to Sadie's daughter, Hilda Grant, for this photo.

### **WILLIAM EDWARD TESKEY - A MAJOR TESKEY CONUNDRUM**

In the last Newsletter I confessed that within the Teskey family tree on [www.teskey.org](http://www.teskey.org) there were a few outstanding conundrums, the worst of which related to William Edward Teskey, who I had assumed to be born around 1797, but whose first son Joseph was born in 1807. I concluded that this apparent mismatch had been around for years, and that it was high time that I solved it! However, I did nothing more until my conscience was re-awakened a few months ago by Connie Vogler, a Canadian librarian and direct descendant of William Edward. Connie and I independently reviewed what evidence we could find and regularly compared notes until we concluded that we could not be certain of the answer!

My online tree currently shows William Edward as the son of Appleton pioneer John 1769 (John 1769 being the son of Adam 17?? and his first wife Catherine Piper). However, after a process of elimination, my best bet now is that William Edward could well be the son of Adam 17?? and his second wife Mary Legear, and thus be a half brother (not son) of John 1769. Connie and I also concluded that William Edward was probably born around 1774 (not 1797) and was also quite probably the brother of Michael Teskey, born around 1772 and whose ancestry is also uncertain.

In arriving at this conclusion, I reviewed all the known male Teskeys in Ireland at the time William Edward was born. There were about eight possibilities for William Edward's father, but none seemed more likely than Adam 17??, with his second wife. Genealogy is not always an exact science, becoming progressively more uncertain the further we go back. So much relies on births, baptisms, marriages and deaths being recorded in the first place and then the survival of those records. There are no Irish censuses before 1901 because they were lost in a fire. I have not found any direct record (birth, baptism, marriage, death or census) for either William Edward or





Michael, in either Ireland or Canada. Reconstruction of their existence is based on references to them in records for their children.

William Edward's known descendants number around 300 and include quite a few of my regular contacts: Sheila Cochrane, Wendy Golding, Brian & Debby Teskey, Sandra Hamel, Pat McLeod, Marilyn Sundermann, Glenn 1953, Garth 1962, Robert 1935 and Steve 1955. Michael Teskey's line was less productive, with about 40 known descendants, including just one contact: Lorna Selby. I apologise to all of you for changing my view on your lineage. I would be happy to debate further or consider new evidence.

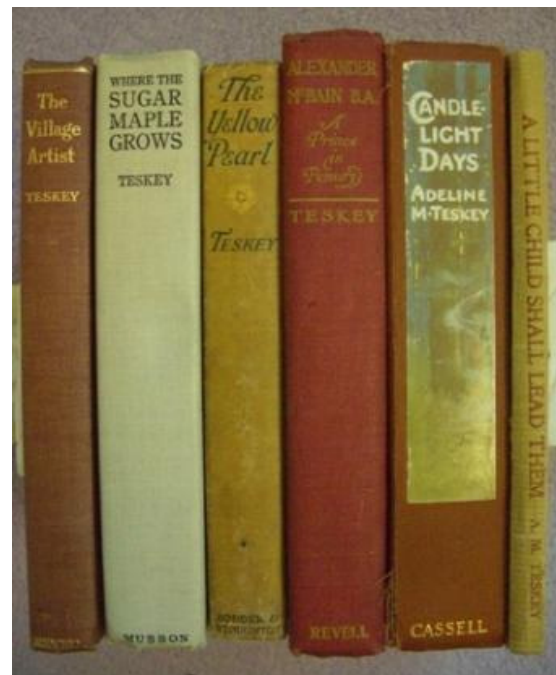
### **ADELINE TESKEY and the secret of eternal youth**

One of the best-remembered descendants of the Appleton Teskeys is Adeline 1853, for she left a legacy of six novels, published in the early 1900s and recounting the hard life of Canada's 19<sup>th</sup> century pioneers. During recent research I found that she also appeared to have discovered the secret of eternal youth. She was born on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1853 but in each subsequent census her age failed to match the passage of time. Censuses are usually taken in the springtime. The 1861 Canadian census unusually asked for age next birthday, so she should have been shown as 8, but was recorded as 10. Subsequent censuses asked for age. In 1871 (when she was 17) this was given as 16, in 1881 it was 25, in 1891 it was 28, and in 1901 Adeline was still only 30, albeit now 48 years after her birth! The 1901 census also asked for date of birth. 1<sup>st</sup> November was correct, but the year 1870 should have been 1853. Did she really age less than the rest of us – or simply use the imagination which inspired her novels?

Adeline wrote six novels – here are the copies in my modest collection of Teskey memorabilia.

Adeline left the family home sometime after 1881 and was subsequently recorded as a lodger and a teacher. I failed to find her on the 1911 census.

Time eventually almost caught up with Adeline and when her death was registered in 1924 her age was given as 69 – she was actually 70. Her death was registered by a 'cousin', Frank Teskey. He appears to be Frank 1891 Clifton Teskey, actually a first cousin one removed – and, incidentally, the uncle of Don the Dentist. There is a serious lesson to this story – family historians should be extremely wary of ages recorded on censuses and gravestones!



### **THE SAD TALE OF CHRISTOPHER TESKEY 1816 - 1846**

There are lots of loose ends on my family tree. Many relate to family members for whom I have an early Irish record, but whose later life has not been recorded – or at least the record has not been found by me. One such was Christopher Teskey, whose baptism on 23 April 1816 was recorded in the Rathkeale Parish register. I have now found that he moved to London, England as a young man. Brief details of his marriage appear in "Pallot's Marriage Index", a handwritten index prepared by an

early genealogist – and now available online. This short note records that Christopher Tuskey married Jane Farmer in 1836. All subsequent references to his family also spell the name Tuskey.

Christopher and Jane had three children: Bowen, Garrett and Mary Jane. The first was named after Christopher's father, Bowen Teskey (1790 – 1846), a weaver and tradesman in Rathkeale and also brother to early pioneers William 1787 and Christopher 1794. Sadly, all three children died in infancy and were buried in three different London cemeteries. Their father, Christopher, lived only to the age of 30. He was recorded on two documents as a skin dresser, which I understand to be someone who worked on skins taken from animals, either for book-binding or to make ladies' fashionable furs. This was an activity known to be most unpleasant and smelly. I wonder if it contributed to his early death. His widow, Jane, remarried 20 years later.

#### **JOHN SAMUEL TESKEY 1849 to 1921**

Some of my research has been done in a systematic way, but it's often the unexpected lead that prompts a rush of focused activity. My interest in John 1849 arose from an unusual 'Teskey' article that was offered for sale on eBay by a Canadian dealer. Fortunately I was the only bidder for this antique, and so parted with very few Dollars to become the proud owner of a bamboo-handled 'cut-throat' razor, part of which is pictured here.



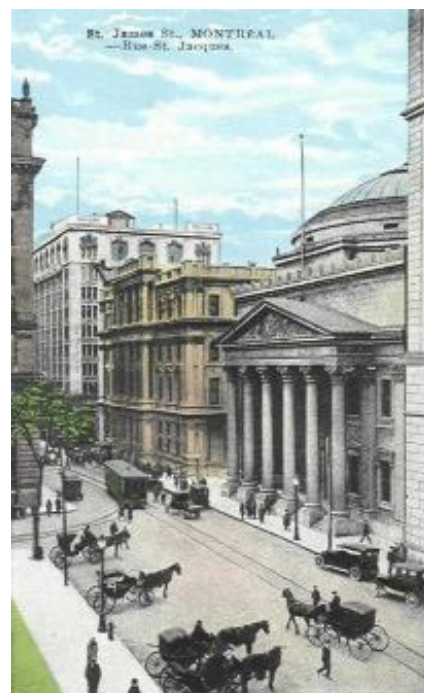
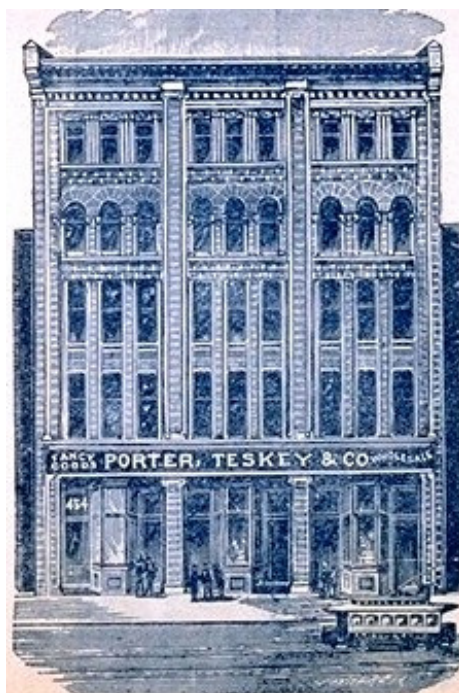
Its attraction was the engraved name **PORTER TESKEY & Co, MONTREAL**. It transpired that this was not the name of the barber or the manufacturer, but the store that sold the razor.

The internet is a marvellous resource for researching anything unusual and I was soon downtown Montreal in the 1890s when Messrs Porter, Teskey & Co traded as "fancy goods wholesalers" from a rather grand six storey building at 454 and 456, St James Street.

The business appears to have grown very rapidly, but then overstretched itself financially. A notice in the New York Times in 1896 declared that the Bank of Montreal, being owed \$20,000, had 'made a demand for assignment', which I understand to be Victorian parlance for 'pulling the plug'. It seems that Porter, Teskey & Co traded for only 5 years.

Here is a drawing of the Porter, Teskey premises, taken from an 1890s magazine.

Alongside it, from an old postcard, is a more general view 100 years ago of St James Street, Montreal, known also as Rue Saint-Jacques for the benefit of French speakers. It was clearly the place to be, but no doubt an expensive location from which to operate a wholesale business.



The Teskey partner in Porter, Teskey appears to have been John Samuel Teskey (1849 to 1921). He was born in Appleton, the son of John 1804 and one of the many grandsons of pioneer John 1769. John 1849 was a resident of Montreal when he married Mary Rose ("Minnie") McCallum in 1892 in her home town of Stouffville, north-east of Toronto. Two children were born in Montreal: John Wilfred in 1893 and Miriam Evelyn in 1896. After the Porter, Teskey business closed, the Teskeys appear on two Montreal censuses, with John 1849 described as a traveller in 1901 and a dry goods merchant in 1911, but I don't know what became of them after that. 1911 is the most recent Canadian census made public and the availability of 20<sup>th</sup> century Canadian birth, marriage and death information is quite limited.

My next story mentions Montreal, so I wonder if there may have been a family connection.

#### **CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE ATTESTATION PAPERS**

A message on the Teskey guestbook encouraged me to look at these papers which have been made available online by the Canadian Archives at [www.collectionscanada.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.ca). 15 Teskeys are listed as having volunteered for service in the First World War as members of Canada's Over-seas Expeditionary Force, often abbreviated as CEF. Each volunteer signed an "Attestation Paper", a kind of application form, on which they attested that their personal details were correctly recorded and made oath that *"I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God"*.

Each volunteer's document contains family information and personal details that are not available from more regular genealogy sources. These include height, build, complexion and colour of eyes and hair.



**Here is a full list of the 15 Teskeys. I give just their first name and year of birth: Albert 1895, Alvin 1897, Benjamin 1896, Charles 1894, Clarence 1895, Frank 1891, Ivor 1897, James 1897, Marvin 1882, Stanley 1887, Stephen 1875, Thomas 1891, Thorburn 1895, Victor Norman 1899, and Vilas 1895. If anyone would like a copy of a document for their ancestor, please let me know.**

**Of the 15 volunteers, one failed to return from military service in Europe – James Edward Teskey (1897-1917), whose obituary appears earlier in this Newsletter. Twelve were already well documented in my records, going on to live normal lives, but I did not know either Stanley 1887 or Victor Norman 1899 so I had to find out more about them.**

**Stanley Anthony Teskey's attestation paper showed that he was a travelling salesman from Winnipeg, Manitoba, born 14 May 1887 in Montreal, Quebec. His next-of-kin was given as George Henry Chatfield, "adopted father". A search of censuses revealed Mr. Chatfield and other members of his family, but there was no sign of Stanley Teskey, although the Chatfields did have a son Stanley in 1914. However, I did find that Stanley Teskey married Ethel Jane Drever in Winnipeg in 1922 and that he died and was buried in Winnipeg in 1966. I don't know if they had any children. But I was left with an outstanding question – who were Stanley's real parents? There were a number of Teskeys in the Montreal / Lacolle area in the late 1800s and several in Winnipeg in the early 1900s, but I failed to find any with links to both areas. I have applied for a copy of Stanley's marriage certificate from Manitoba and hope that this will provide the answer.**

**My search for Victor Norman Teskey proved to be more productive, albeit with a tragic conclusion.**

**Victor Norman Teskey's attestation paper shows that he was born 24 May 1899 in Buckingham, Quebec, close to Ottawa, the son of Albert and Louise Teskey. Albert and Louise, who immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1882, appear in the 1901 census of Buckingham as Teske, but their many named children do not include one that matches Victor's name or age. However, the 1911 census does include "Norman Teske", born May 1901. It seems that he lied about his age, as I understand many did in their enthusiasm to fight against Germany. Victor Norman Teskey signed up in November 1917, when he was really only 16 years old, and was passed fit for service, but written across the top of his application is "Not to be sent overseas till 19 years of age". However, it appears that he did see active service, because a further, undated, message "Invalided to Canada for further medical treatment; Canadian Military Hospital ....." is stamped across the form – unfortunately I can't decipher the faint name of the hospital.**

**Two of Norman's older brothers, William and Lewis, also went to war: their attestation papers gave their name as Teske – and both gave dates of birth that were different to those recorded on the 1901 census! One can only speculate how their parents felt, having come from Germany and then seen three sons return to Europe to fight against their former homeland. William and Lewis did not return, for they were both killed in action in 1918.**

**Norman did return to Canada, where he reverted to the name Teske and his correct date of birth, and joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In 1923, Private Norman Victor Teske was stationed in Winnipeg, sharing guard duty with a fellow constable. The other constable accidentally discharged his revolver and shot Norman in the stomach. Norman quickly died from his wounds.**





## **A FEW WORDS ON TESKE**

Teske is a more common surname than Teskey, but there are many Teskeys today whose ancestors spelt their name Teske. They include several descendants from Norman Teske's cousins.

Janice was surprised to find a reference to Teske in a short story by well-known English author Jeffrey Archer. In "Not the real thing" Archer claimed that Teske, the capital of Multavia, had one of the finest sewerage systems in Central Europe. Everything, of course, was a product of his fertile imagination!

This find encouraged me to search Wikipedia for other references to recent Teskes. I found Edmund Teske, a 20<sup>th</sup> century American photographer; Mrs. Charlotte Teske, a German who won several international marathons in the 1980s; and Mrs. Rachel Teske, a successful Australian professional golfer in the 2000s.

Perhaps the most tragic tale related to Werner Teske, the last person to be executed in Germany. He worked in espionage for the East German government, but was planning to defect to the West with state papers. His intentions were uncovered, he was found guilty of "planned treason" and shot in 1981. After Germany's reunification in 1990, the sentence was overturned as being disproportionate, but by then it was too late to save him.

## **A TOKEN TESCH**

My personal library of books written or illustrated by Teskeys has been expanded with the addition of a token work by a Tesch, purchased on eBay. "Wo sanfter die Wolken ziehen" ("Where clouds drift by") was written by Anne Tesch. By chance, the authoress lived in Bad Kreuznach, only 20 miles from Osthofen, where we think Jacob 1659 Teskey may have originated and been called Jacob Tesch. I like to think Anne Tesch may be a very, very distant cousin.

## **APPLETON – BAD NEWS AND GOOD NEWS**

I was saddened to hear from Don the Dentist a few years ago that the ruins of the old Teskey grist mill at Appleton, near Ottawa, had been demolished. Apparently, they had become a safety risk. Over the years, Don and I, and I'm sure many others, have taken great pleasure from the sight of these magnificent ruins on the far side of Ontario's Mississippi River. There is a lovely winter photo of the ruins, before demolition, on the internet at: [www.flickr.com/photos/57492765@N00/80010705/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/57492765@N00/80010705/).

On a more positive note, Appleton Museum has become very active in recent years. Because of the significant contribution made by the Teskeys to this lovely village and the area generally, a special Teskey exhibition was mounted in 2008. This attracted good support from locals and Teskey descendants. I heard that the "Teskey Tea" was a great success. The museum has a growing collection of Teskey artefacts. It is normally open every day during the summer months, but potential visitors are advised to check beforehand – the museum phone number is (613) 257 8503 and their website is [www.lanarkcountymuseums.ca](http://www.lanarkcountymuseums.ca).

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**POSTCARDS**

I referred earlier to the postcard I bought of the WWI cemetery. I collect old postcards, especially of the area in which I live. I also have a few of places associated with Teskey family history. I have only two of Rathkeale for there seems to be great demand for these. They can change hands for as much as 100 euros – over 100 Dollars. This is one of my cards – of Castle Matrix 100 years ago. It was formerly the home of the Southwell family who welcomed the Teskeys and other German Palatine families onto their estate in 1709.

If anyone has a relevant old postcard (or photo) which they would like others to enjoy, please send me a scanned image to consider for inclusion in a future Teskey Newsletter.

**SOURCES OF NEW FAMILY CONTACTS**

I continue to make regular new personal contacts with living Teskeys. Most originate from three internet sources, [www.Teskey.org](http://www.Teskey.org), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) and [www.GenesReunited.co.uk](http://www.GenesReunited.co.uk).

Our own website [www.Teskey.org](http://www.Teskey.org) has a guestbook that allows visitors to record comments and any details of their personal interests. I try to make contact with anyone new who leaves a message. This can lead to a productive exchange of information. Often I am able to point to their branch of Teskey ancestry on the website family tree (bearing in mind that we try not to show living people on the online tree) and sometimes I am able to introduce enquirers to other relatives. Through these contacts I frequently discover additional information about more recent generations who may be too young to appear on censuses and other sources available to the public.

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) is a subscription site. For someone heavily into genealogy it is an invaluable resource, giving indexed access to millions of original documents. The indexation is not always perfect, but makes for an interesting challenge! Unlike me, some subscribers choose to put their family trees here. They sometimes prove most helpful, especially for locating a wrongly indexed record, but can also be misleading if someone has mis-allocated someone or something. As always, I treat such 'gifts' as a means to an end, unhappy unless I can view source documents and check out alternative possibilities. Contacts with other subscribers can often bring benefits to both parties.

[www.GenesReunited.co.uk](http://www.GenesReunited.co.uk) is a service that allows subscribers to record their own family tree and to identify references to common ancestors in other trees. From time to time, I check to see if anyone new has recorded a Teskey or Tuskey. I make contact, drawing their attention to the Teskey website and sometimes exchange useful information. Unfortunately, some who subscribe to this site are able, through their family tree package software, to transfer data en masse to or



from GenesReunited. This has meant that some subscribers have massive trees containing all sorts of remote relations whose names they have never actually seen, as well as perpetuating any errors in the information that was gleaned. Responses to my enquiries usually reveal fairly quickly if I am wasting my time, but people new to family history are not always aware of these pitfalls. Despite the drawbacks, I find this a useful source of new contacts and new information.

I maintain a Teskey page on Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org>) and also one at [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org), the website of the Guild of One Name Studies (GOONS), of which I am a member.

### **ONLINE TESKEY FAMILY TREES**

If you would like to explore the online family tree, go to [www.teskey.org](http://www.teskey.org), select *Family Trees* from the index on the left of the screen, then *Teskey Family Tree*. From the explanatory page, the easiest way to access your own branch of the tree is probably to select *Surnames* at the top of the page and then select a surname of one of your ancestors who married a Teskey. This will lead you to a family group. From there you can click on any underlined name to take you up or down the tree. In order to preserve privacy we do not display details of living people. At the present time the online tree shows only known descendants of Jacob 1659, but we are hoping to show all branches when this is next updated. The tree was uploaded to the website over 10 years ago, so lots more people will appear when we re-install it, partly because I have found more and partly because we have had 10 years of deaths.

I should repeat a word of caution about the presentation of dates in our current online tree. Generally they are shown in the English format of dd/mm/yyyy, but if both the day and the month are 12 or less the date appears in the American format of mm/dd/yyyy. The years appear correctly.

The Teskey website also includes a family tree with additional information about Tom Upshaw's Jepsen family, into which Gertrude 1837 Teskey married.

### **IRISH PALATINE ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY IN ONTARIO IN 2013**

A group of Irish Palatine descendants is working towards a gathering in Ontario in September 2013. Past IPA holidays have focused on Irish Palatine history in Germany and Ireland, whilst 2013 offers a chance to explore Ontario amongst friends, with visits to top tourist and heritage sites and places where Irish Palatine families settled after leaving Ireland. If, like me, you try to limit your carbon emissions, consider saving up your personal carbon allowances for this 2013 opportunity.

### **FUTURE TESKEY NEWSLETTERS**

A copy of this Newsletter should soon be added to the collection on [www.teskey.org](http://www.teskey.org). Some earlier editions also appear there. If you are satisfied to view future editions online, please let me know. I will email you when a new one appears. If you wish to continue to receive a printed copy there is no need to make contact, for I am happy to keep mailing copies as long as you keep me updated with family news!

It is my intention to return to producing regular editions of the Newsletter and I am hopeful that Number 37 will appear in mid 2012. It may not be as lengthy as this edition, but I'm sure I will find something to say!



**A FEW REMINDERS**

**Please:**

- ☐ **Advise me of any births, marriages, deaths or other major events in the family. Please don't assume that I will spot it in the newspaper, or that somebody else will tell me.**
- ☐ **Please post or email me with any Teskey press cuttings.**
- ☐ **Let me know if you move home or if you have a new e-mail address.**
- ☐ **If you have email but have not received a message from me in the last few weeks, please send me a message asking to be added to my Teskey emailing list.**
- ☐ **If you have not already done so, please prepare a Personal Profile of a close relative, either living or deceased, or of yourself. This does not have to be very long or detailed. A suggested framework appears on [www.teskey.org](http://www.teskey.org).**
- ☐ **Let me know if you would be happy to view future Newsletters online.**
- ☐ **Send me copies of any good old family photographs.**
- ☐ **Remind me if I am long overdue in replying to you.**
- ☐ **Please don't take offence if I don't reply to you as promptly as you would like!**

**With best wishes from your distant cousin,**

*Ken McDonald*