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Dear Cousin,

Printed copies of Newsletter 36 were posted to over 200 households and I emailed almost 500 contacts to advise them when it had been added to our website www.teskey.org. Over the next few days there were hundreds of visitors to the website. It's good to know that we have so many living cousins and that so many of them are interested in their broader family's story.

As expected, the last Newsletter sparked a welcome flood of emails with all manner of questions and additional information. I am extremely grateful to everyone who keeps me updated with family news and just as grateful to those who keep me "on my toes". This edition's Fallen Leaves include a few that were omitted last time, and I stand corrected on the following point of fact: the group photo on page 10 of Newsletter 36 was not taken in Killeheen Lane, but in the lane leading to Courtmatrix, both of which are just outside Rathkeale, County Limerick, Ireland.

I reported the closure of Rathkeale House Hotel, the only hotel in Rathkeale, but I am pleased to say that it has reopened. For details, see www.rathkealehousehotel.ie.

Newsletter 36 reported the fatal shooting of Norman Teske in 1923. This unfortunate accident was reported on the front page of the Ottawa Citizen newspaper. I have since noticed that this front page also announced that, in the aftermath of the First World War, the German Palatinate had been declared an autonomous state. We refer to the Pfalz or German Palatinate (or, more correctly, the Southern Palatinate) as being the state from which the first Teskeys emigrated in 1709. This part of Europe has been volatile and ravaged by wars for centuries, with alliances made and broken and states reorganized or renamed with confusing regularity. And so it was to prove with the 1923 re-birth of the German Palatinate. Within months it ceased to exist as an autonomous state.

AVAILABILITY OF GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION

Over the last few years the range of information available online to family historians has grown tremendously and hardly a month goes by without the release of some new database. In April 2012, there was a major addition, with the first publication of details from the 1940 United States census. This created a whole new set of opportunities to bridge gaps between historic records and information provided personally by my many contacts. I already have a spreadsheet into which I have transferred nearly 1,400 Teskey-type names from earlier United States censuses. I will add the many 1940 names (I haven't yet worked out how many) and continue the rather painstaking task of trying to match them all.

The availability of information of use to the family historian is not limited to births, marriages, deaths and censuses. www.findmypast.co.uk is indexing and providing access to a growing number of British newspapers. The index already has 177 references to the name Teskey between 1710 and 1950. And I haven't looked at any yet!

**TREVOR PERSSE AWARDED MBE**

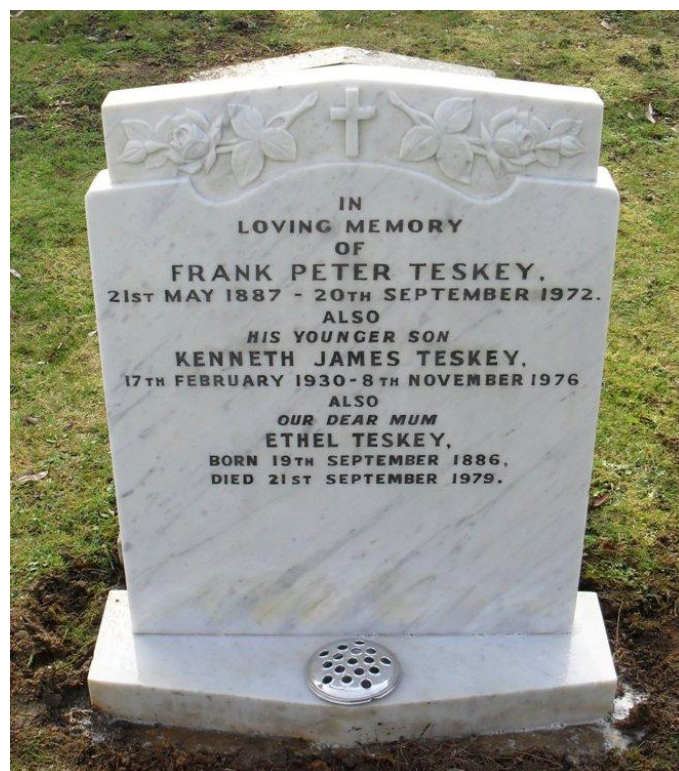
In the Queen's birthday honours for 2011, Captain Trevor Persse, Royal Regiment of Artillery, a great grandson of Henrietta 1874 Teskey, was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for service in the British Armed Forces. Congratulations, Trevor. I am sure your late mother, my old friend Muriel Persse, would have been delighted for you.

RENOVATION OF GRAVESTONES

During the past year I have heard of two Teskey memorials that have been renovated. In Maquoketa, Jackson, Iowa, USA, Helene Lubaroff, a first cousin of our webmaster Tom Upshaw, restored the gravestone of their pioneer ancestor Christopher 1794 Teskey. Christopher left Rathkeale and sailed to New York in 1852.

And in England, my first cousin, Ian Penfold, arranged for the headstone of our grandparents' grave at Corbetts Tey, Upminster, Essex to be brought back to its former condition. Our grandfather, Frank Peter Teskey (known as Peter), was a son of James 1851 Teskey who left Rathkeale and came to London in the 1870s.

Sadly, this provides a natural link to my next section . . .

**FALLEN LEAVES****YVONNE STEWARD (1921 – 2012)**

Yvonne was my second cousin. She was 25 years older than me because she was the first child of Eva Thompson who was the first child of Lillian 1875 Teskey, the first child of James 1851. Yvonne attended the first two Teskey reunions we organized in Stansted more than 20 years ago. In this photo of the 1990 gathering she is the shortest lady standing.



**PAUL TESKEY-KING (1950 – 2011)**

Paul was the son of Yvonne's first cousin, Arthur Teskey-King. Like, Yvonne, they attended the very first Teskey family reunion at our house in 1990. Paul died in Hull, East Yorkshire, where he lived all his life. In the photo on the previous page, Paul is standing third from the right, immediately behind his father Arthur.

SADIE TIFFIN (1914 – 2011)

Sadie's photo appeared in Newsletter 36 (with her cousin, Velma Eveleigh). I am sorry to report that Sadie died shortly before the Newsletter was printed. She lived in Wingham, Ontario and was the daughter of Elsie 1881 Teskey and the great granddaughter of pioneer William 1818. We corresponded for many years and met several times, including at reunions in Wingham in 1996 and Toronto in 1998. Sadie was active into old age, including playing keyboards.

JAMES EARL TESKEY (1976 – 2011)

I remember Jim as a young man at one of the family gatherings arranged in Guelph by his grandfather, Ben 1913. Jim was the son of Don and Liz, a master printer by trade. Sadly, he died in British Columbia of brain cancer at the age of 34, only six months after his wife Holly gave birth to their son Angus.

ARTHUR TESKEY (1926 – 2011)

Janice and I visited Art and his wife Peg in Florida in 1996. He had worked as a radio disk jockey and was still keen on technology, so was one of the first people with whom I exchanged emails, back in 1998. Art's Grandfather was Gustave Tutzke, born in the Prussian port of Danzig (now called Gdansk in Poland). Gustave and his parents emigrated to the USA in 1868, settling in the state of Wisconsin. The family name was anglicised to Tuske (or Tusky on the 1900 census) and that was further modified to Teskey when Art's father Arthur entered the armed forces in 1916. Art leaves three Teskey daughters, but his other relations still go by the name of Tuske.

BOB FIZZELL (1939-2012)

Bob was descended from Anne 1765 Teskey who married Adam Phizzle in 1783. Bob was a very active man and enthusiastic Irish Palatine researcher. He attended several Irish Palatine Association events with his wife Marge and was one of the team planning the 2013 Ontario Tour, notwithstanding that he lived in Wisconsin, USA. Easily recognised by his flowing white beard, Bob is pictured here during the 2009 gathering in Rathkeale with others who are organising the 2013 tour – Chuck Wallace and Carolyn Heald. I will discuss the Tour later in this Newsletter.



LILY BAKER (1921 – 2012)

Lily was an untiring and enthusiastic committee member of the Irish Palatine Association since its formation over 20 years ago. She was always supportive of my efforts to record the history of the Teskey family. Those who have visited Ballingrane Church near Rathkeale or been to any IPA event will have met her. Lily was descended from the Irish Palatine Baker family (originally Becker when they came to Ireland from Germany in 1709) and lived with her brother and sister in an old Baker family home in Ballingrane. Lily is pictured here in Ballingrane Church in 2009. The horn hanging from the wall was once used to summon worshippers.


CHARLOTTE LUCILLE TESKEY (1921 – 2011)

Charlotte, nee Imeson, was married to Gordon 1923 Teskey until they separated. Her sister Isabell married Gord's older brother Walter 1919. We met Gord, Charlotte and three of their children on more than one occasion in the Windsor area of Ontario. Charlotte was always a hard worker and didn't retire from being a greeter at Wal Mart until she was 83! She will probably be remembered as the hat lady – she had one for every outfit and never went out without one, owning over 50 when she died.

OLIVE LUCILLE GEE (1925 – 2010)

Olive was a younger sister of Gordon 1923 (see above) and a descendant of pioneer Hugh 1788 Teskey. I was pleased to meet her (and Charlotte) at two Teskey gatherings some years ago. Olive was one of Roy 1900 Teskey's ten children and like many others lived in Essex County, Ontario. Olive and Edgar Gee brought up 5 children. This has been an exceptionally prolific branch of the family and I manage to keep pace with developments only through regular reports from several family members, especially Jane Teskey, who is an avid researcher. My tree includes almost 300 of Roy 1900's descendants, of whom no less than 50 are Olive's progeny.

MOLLIE FREEMAN (1916 – 2011)

Mollie was born Mary Robertson Teskey in Westport, Ontario, the son of Ernest 1883 and a great granddaughter of pioneer William 1787. Her first husband, John Patton (1915 - 1996) was awarded the George Cross for bravery in World War II, one of only three Canadians to receive this honour. John and Mollie had six children.

WILLIAM FLOYD TESKEY (1921 – 2012)

I knew Bill as the father of Pat McLeod. He had worked as a car and holiday trailer salesman and when I met him in Calgary it was at his trailer home. He was descended from William 17?? Teskey (a different man to William 1787, but whose exact year of birth is unknown).

**DAVID WAYNE TESKEY (1940 – 2011)**

We met David at the 1995 Teskey reunion in Calgary at Pat McLeod's home. He was a descendant of pioneer William 1787. David pursued twin careers as both a teacher and a horticulturalist. He was also an accomplished pianist and artist, living for a while in Australia before returning to Alberta.

WILLIAM TESKEY (1927 – 2012)

Bill was one of the Collingwood branch of the family – in fact he lived in Collingwood, Ontario, the town where his great great grandfather Stephen Teske (1815 – 1893) had settled after migrating from Germany around 1860. Bill was a great family man, with four daughters and lots of grandchildren and great grandchildren. He had been on my Newsletter distribution list since 1995 and I was pleased to make contact and exchange information recently with his daughter Karen.

DOROTHY TESKEY (1919 – 2012)

Dorothy was the widow of Russell Teskey (1916 – 1978), a descendant of pioneer William 1818. She died in Sidney, British Columbia. I exchanged information with her and her two daughters some years ago, but lost contact.

ERNA TESKEY (1929 – 2011)

Erna was the widow of David Teskey (1922-1987), a descendant of pioneer Hugh 1788. Erna corresponded with me from Chilliwack, British Columbia, where David's grandfather Joseph 1865 had settled in the late 1880s.

I have met more than 600 members of the Teskey family, mostly during my early research in the 1990s. It is sad to see many of them amongst the fallen leaves, but my life is richer for having met them.

So, to other news . . .

MORE DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM 1818 TESKEY

I have concluded that the family of William Teskey 1818 was larger than I first thought. Several of my contacts are descended from this pioneer (including Velma, Hilda, Lorna Ksioszk, Carson, Sandra & Lynn). The 1861 census showed that William had 7 children, but I have now found later censuses which show that four additional children were born after 1861. To the tree I have added John, born 1861, Angus 1863, Henry 1867 and Catherine 1869. As a result of this modification, William's known descendants have increased to 450.

William 1818 and his family are recorded on the 1861 and 1871 censuses, farming in South Carrick, Bruce County, Ontario. Most of his older children married and settled in Ontario. However, William and his wife (recorded on different occasions as either Susan, Ann or Noney) took their three youngest children to the USA, where they appear on the 1880 census farming in Russell Township, Macon County, Missouri. I found that son Angus 1863 also settled in the United States, at Helena City in Montana. One can only wonder how families coped with the vast distances that separated them. William and Angus were over 1,000 miles apart and each a similar distance from their Ontario family.

**TESKEY MARKET, CHILLIWACK, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Chilliwack has been home to a branch of the Teskeys for 120 years and this has led to the naming of Teskey Road, Teskey Way, Teskey Rock and Teskey Trail, and quite recently the opening of Teskey Market on Teskey Road.



There's a photo of Chilliwack's original Teskey family, on www.teskey.org, under the "Meet the Ancestors" section. Photo 5002, probably taken in the late 1920s, shows Joseph 1865 Teskey with his wife Grace and all their eleven children.

I presume our name has been adopted for roads, etc because the Teskeys were amongst the earliest settlers. Joseph 1865 migrated west from Ontario soon after the railroad was opened in 1885. Life was always hard for the pioneers. I read somewhere that the Teskey home burnt down and their fruit trees were washed away. The family were mainly dairy farmers, although the eldest son, Joseph 1889 was a logger all his life. Second son David Loney Teskey was the first of this family to be born in British Columbia and was reported to be the first white child born at Vedder Crossing, part of Chilliwack.

The children had some interesting names - David Loney was named after his grandmother, Eliza Ann Loney who married Daniel 1826 Teskey. Thorburn was named after his mother, Grace Walker Thorburn. Vedder was presumably named after the nearby mountain and river of that name.

Those early pioneers would have difficulty recognising Chilliwack today, for it has grown into a city of 80,000 people. Today, we are fortunate that we can look back on history that has been recorded in words, photographs and artefacts. There are several Teskey mentions on the website of Chilliwack's Museum and Archives, www.chilliwackmuseum.ca.



"EARLIEST TORONTO" by ROBERT MacINTOSH

Robert MacIntosh has done a fine job in recording the days of Toronto before there were photographs. Robert is the grandson of Elizabeth Jane Teskey (1857-1938). She and her parents left Ireland in the 1870s and settled in Ottawa. Robert was born in Stanstead, Quebec, nearly 90 years ago. He had a distinguished career as a banker, including serving as chairman of the Canadian Bankers Association during the 1980s. Not long ago he published the result of his research into the earliest days of Toronto. I'm pleased to have a copy on the Teskey shelf of my library. Thanks, Robert, for an interesting read. It is hard to imagine that Canada's largest city was but a small collection of canvas tents and log huts only 200 years ago, when its population could be counted in hundreds, not millions as today.

When I spoke with Robert last year he was working on his memoirs, just for his family, and had already written over 100,000 words, about 17 times the length of this Newsletter!

TESKEY VARIATIONS FROM BOHEMIA

Most online search facilities can look for variations in spelling, which is helpful as there are many, many instances of spelling changes for Teskey. One of our larger related family groups in North America is now called Tuskey. I was interested to find a 1920 census entry for Joseph Tuskey, born approximately 1860 in Maryland to parents who were born in Bohemia and had Bohemian as their mother tongue. These were apparently unrelated to our Teskey Tuskeys, but where is Bohemia? Seeking to address my ignorance, I turned as usual to the wonderful online encyclopaedia, www.wikipedia.org. This revealed that Bohemia is a historic region of central Europe which today makes up around two-thirds of the Czech Republic. Furthermore, in the Czech language there is no distinction between adjectives referring to Bohemia and the Czech Republic, i.e. *Český* means both Bohemian and Czech. That brings us back to one of my theories about the origin of the Teskey name, for *Český* is pronounced *Cheski*. There is a thin scattering throughout the United States censuses of families with variations of the name (Tuskey, Tasky, Taska, Taske and Teske) coming from Bohemia or Czechoslovakia. Perhaps we are all related many generations ago.

TESKEYS IN SPORT

It has come to my notice that several members of the extended Teskey family have achieved notable sporting successes. The number of high level sportsmen and women may not be out of the ordinary in such a large group of people, but I would like to pay tribute to several who have achieved honours in their chosen sport.

DOUG TESKEY – PROFESSIONAL ICE HOCKEY PLAYER

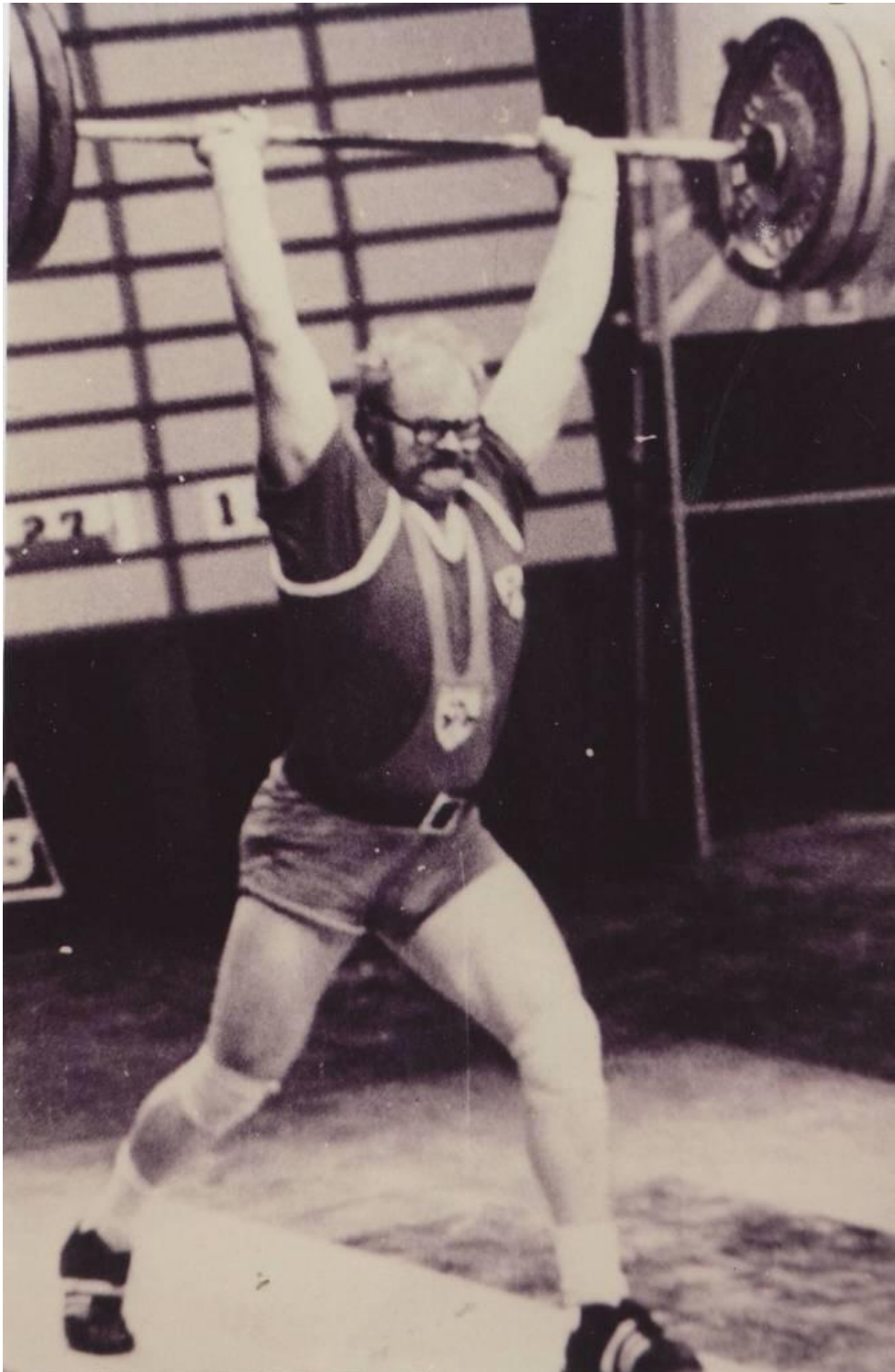
Doug is a 5 greats grandson of pioneer Joseph 1805 Teskey. He was a goal keeper for several teams during a 7 year professional career, playing between 1992 and 2005 in Canada, United States and England.

LINDA TESKEY – COMMONWEALTH GAMES ATHLETE

Linda represented Northern Ireland in athletics in the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in 1970. She was eliminated in the heats of the ladies 100 metres and 200 metres, but made the final of the 4 x 100 metre relay where her team finished 7th.

**KEN DONALD – IRISH INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY PLAYER**

George Kenneth Donald (1912-1980), a grandson of Charlotte 1837 Teskey, was a medical doctor and also played international hockey for Ireland - on grass, not ice.

CHRISTY SWITZER – IRISH INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTER

Any of you who have attended an Irish Palatine Association event will have met IPA committee member Christy Switzer. He is not only a member of the Irish Palatine Switzer family, but also a great grandson of Jane 1823 Teskey. Christy had a long and distinguished career in weightlifting and powerlifting. He set 29 Irish senior records and represented Ireland 14 times in international competition.

ANY MORE?

I would be interested to hear of other high level sportsmen and women. Participation in sport by family members has not been restricted to the field of competition. Pat McLeod's late husband Borden used to enthuse about his role as a volunteer in the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. His enthusiasm was one factor that encouraged Janice and me to become volunteers at the 2012 London Olympic Games. It was certainly a great experience!

Finally, I'm delighted to say that we have a recent English champion.

CLAIRE SMITH - 2011 ENGLISH GOLF CHAMPION



Claire is the great granddaughter of my great aunt Lillian 1875 Teskey. Claire is pictured here with the winner's trophy after her victory in the 2011 English ladies mid-amateur golf championship. Congratulations Claire, and thanks for brightening this page. I'm always pleased to have an excuse to include a picture of a pretty girl. I am extremely grateful to www.leaderboardphotography.com for allowing me to reproduce the photo.

Claire's great grandmother, Gladys Aked, was a real inspiration when I first started researching the Teskeys. She is seated in the centre of the 1990 photo on page 2.

THE DESCENDANTS OF LETITIA 1809 TESKEY

Our website allows visitors to leave a message in the guestbook. These are frequently from new contacts and open up new sources of information. One such message was left by Carol Ann McCourt. She had found her great great grandparents recorded as William John McCourt and Letitia Teska, both of Irish birth but living in Canada. Carol wondered if the lady might be connected to the Teskeys.

To my knowledge, there has only ever been one Letitia Teskey, born in Courtmatrix, Rathkeale to William Edward Teskey (the elusive William 17??) and Catherine St John in 1809. I had no knowledge of her apart from her birth.

I could find no direct record of William McCourt in Canada, and Letitia seemed to be on three censuses, but with some strange spellings. However, William and Letitia McCourt were recorded as parents on records for several of their children. Apart from the rarity of Letitia, two other pieces of circumstantial evidence contributed to my conclusion that Carol's ancestor was indeed Letitia 1809 Teskey from Courtmatrix – firstly Letitia's Irish brother was called Elias and so was one of her Canadian sons, and secondly Letitia's first child was born in Montreal where her father William 17?? first resided on migrating to Canada. Not content to establish the link, I spent several days trawling through the extensive online Ancestry library of births, marriages, deaths and censuses. I eventually added over 120 of Letitia's descendants to the family tree and have been able to exchange ideas and conclusions with Carol McCourt.

THOMAS STANLEY TESKEY'S POCKET WATCH

Now, Letitia Teskey had a younger brother, Philip (1818-1891) and one of his grandsons was Thomas Stanley Teskey (1891-1967). I recently stumbled across some photos of a lovely "Railway Special" pocket watch that once belonged to him. Sadly, I failed to win it in an eBay auction.



Stanley, as he was usually known, was born at Tilbury East, Kent County, in the far south of Ontario, the son of Isaac Emerson Teskey (1863-1934). I have had no contact with any of Isaac's descendants, but I have lots of information about Stanley. When he volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1914 he was 5 feet 8 inches tall with dark complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair. He served as postmaster at Merlin, a small settlement not far from Tilbury East, from 1938 until 1961 when he retired on his 70th birthday. He and his wife Margaret are buried in Pardoville Union Cemetery, Kent County, as are Stanley's parents.

TESKEY POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Every so often, some item with a Teskey connection appears for sale on eBay and if the price is right it will be added to my collection of Teskey memorabilia. Here are two items for which my bids were successful – Police Commissioner badges from the town of Trumbull in Connecticut, USA.

John Teskey (1912-1991) was the son of John 1873 who was born in Court Matrix, Rathkeale and emigrated from Ireland to the United States in 1896. John 1912 was known as Jack. Not only was he a police commissioner, but also president of the Bridgeport ambulance service. I have yet to establish whether his wife Mary was a police commissioner in her own right or whether her badge (smaller than her husband's) indicated an inherited position. I have not found when they served or whether they would have been appointed or elected. Can anyone help?





SHIPWRECK, WAR, MUSIC AND MURDER IN CHARLESTON

There was a small Teskey family group in Charleston, South Carolina whose lives were far from mundane. Their story is not straightforward. For a start, I don't know where they originated and I don't think any descendants live in Charleston today.

Family legend says that this Teskey branch started when Robert Amos Teskey (approximately 1850-1920) and his sister Isabel were small children and amongst survivors of a shipwreck in which their parents perished. For those not familiar with the area, Charleston is a major sea port on the Atlantic coast, a coast which has claimed many ships and their passengers' lives. Almost a hundred shipwrecks have been recorded in Charleston harbour, the majority during the American Civil War of 1861 to 1865. The two children were brought up in an orphanage in Charleston.

Robert is probably the R.Teskey listed as a private in the 1st Regiment, South Carolina Militia of the Confederate Army, a regiment that saw action at Charleston Harbour in 1863. He would have been a very young soldier. Subsequent censuses say that Robert was born in Canada of either Canadian or Irish parents. His death certificate, completed by his son Benjamin, recorded his parents as Amos Teskey and Emily Murray, both born in Canada. Information on death certificates is notoriously unreliable and I doubt all this information. I have failed to find any other reference to this Amos Teskey.

By 1867, teenager Robert Teskey was working for a Charleston grocer, Benjamin Feldmann, and became his business partner by 1877. The business appears to have been successful. When Feldmann died in 1895, Teskey took over at least part of the business, which he continued to run in King Street until 1916. The 1880 census shows a household that consisted of Benjamin Feldmann and his wife with a "niece" Isabel Teskey and also Robert and his wife Mary, so I suspect that Benjamin Feldmann may have adopted the two orphans, Isabel and Robert.

Robert and Mary moved into their own home by 1890 and had eight children, five of whom lived to adulthood. One of twin sons born in 1885 was named Benjamin Feldman Teskey, clearly recognising a special relationship with Benjamin Feldmann. The youngest child was Sidney (or Sydney), born 1893. This is a photo of Sydney – purchased on eBay, of course! He and most of his siblings worked for a while in the grocery business, but Sydney was also director of Teskey's Professional Dance Orchestra. I have not discovered any more about the orchestra beside its listing in Charleston's trade directories. Sydney later became an insurance salesman.

Robert Teskey's home at 30 George Street was substantial. Most of the children lived there into adulthood and also, in due course some of their wives. The 1910 census also shows a boarder and a servant. Today George Street still has some grand buildings from around 200 years ago, but numbers 28 and 30 have been replaced by a very large College of Charleston indoor sports complex.





This apparent close-knit family harmony was shattered on a fateful February day in 1921 when Benjamin Teskey, one of the 1885 twins, was shot dead. Family rumour has it that the killer was another member of the family, but I have found no evidence to support this. They continued to live together in George Street for a while, although Benjamin's wife soon moved elsewhere.

I hope you will not see many death certificates like this one. The cause of death is recorded as "Pistol shot wound of abdomen (HOMICIDE)". As far as I know Benjamin Feldman Teskey is the only Teskey to have been murdered.

1. PLACE OF DEATH County of Charleston... Township of Inc. Town of City of Charleston...		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA Bureau of Vital Statistics State Board of Health Registration District No. 7.6 (No. Baker Sanatorium)		File No.—For State Registrar Only. 1601
2. FULL NAME Benjamin Feldman Teskey		Residence In City Yrs. Mos. Days		
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS 3 SEX Male 4 COLOR OR RACE White 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED Married 6 DATE OF BIRTH January 6 1885 7 AGE 35 yrs. 1 mos. 10 days 8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) Hauling 9 BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) Charleston, S. C.		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH 10 DATE OF DEATH Feb. 17th. 1921 11 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from 12. that I last saw him alive on and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: Pistol shot wound of abdomen. (HOMICIDE) 13 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? Did an operation precede death? Date of Was there an autopsy? What test confirmed diagnosis? (Signed) J. P. DeBeaux, Jr. Feb. 17th. 1921 Address: Dep. Coroner, C.C. State the Disease Causing Death, or, to describe from Violent Causes state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.		
PARENTS 10 NAME OF FATHER Robert Teskey 11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country) Toronto, Canada 12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER 13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Country)		14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) Mrs. B. F. Teskey (Address) Charleston, S.C. 15 LOCAL REGISTRAR J. P. DeBeaux, Jr.		
16 Place of Burial or Humeral Greenwood Cemetery Undertaker Connelley Co.		DATE OF BURIAL 2/18/21		

On a lighter, musical note, and on the other side of the world . . .

THE TESKEY BROTHERS

In 1998, Janice and I visited most of the Teskeys in Australia, including Rob, Jennie and their young sons Josh and Sam, then aged 10 and 8. They have since become fine guitarists, performing as the Teskey Brothers. The wonders of modern technology mean that you can not only see photos of distant relations, but watch and listen to some of them on Youtube. I particularly enjoyed the Teskey Brothers' selection at www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4el6lu7Y60&feature=related. Those of you who have visited Rathkeale may have met their lovely great aunt, Edie Teskey.

LUCY 1859 TESKEY

I continue to hear from new Teskey descendants and do my best to respond to their questions and absorb new information, but I often fall short of the level of service that I would like to give. Amongst my long-overdue projects is the cataloguing of hundreds of photos. I am grateful to everyone who sends them. Joyce Lindsay has added a collection of pictures of some of the 150 descendants of Lucy Teskey (1859-1929). Here is a photo of Joyce's great grandmother Lucy with her son Arthur Johnston (1900-1974). Lucy was the granddaughter of pioneer William 1787. An earlier photo appeared in Newsletter 34, provided by another descendant, Jo-Ann Willson. I'm pleased to have put second cousins Joyce and Jo-Ann in contact with one another.



TESKEY'S TERRACE HALL

I recall some older Canadian Teskeys referring to the Teskey dance hall on Prescott Highway, near Ottawa. I recently acquired a postcard depicting "Teskey's Terrace Hall". It was opened as a dining and dance hall in 1938 by Stephen Cecil Teskey (1904-1978), known as Cecil, and his wife Donna. I understand that Cecil also played the piano and sang on the local radio. Cecil was descended from the Collingwood Teskeys.



Teskey's Terrace Hall, Prescott Highway, near Ottawa

ONLINE GENEALOGY SOURCES

Although eBay may appear to be a major source for this Newsletter, quite a lot of serious research is needed to put those random items into context. The availability of primary genealogical information varies significantly from country to country. I thought it might be helpful to other researchers (and me) to summarise the most appropriate online sources from key countries. Some of these services are free, but most are available only by payment of some kind of fee. If you are not planning to carry out any research, please feel free to skip to near the bottom of the next page.

IRELAND

Indexes of Births 1864-1958, Marriages 1845-1958 and Deaths 1864-1958 (on www.ancestry.com). Later indexes appear not to be online yet, although they can be searched in person at the General Register Office in Dublin, where certified copies ("certificates") of B, M or D can also be obtained. Certificates of B, M or D - 10 euros each from www.hse.ie/lifeevents. Censuses 1901 & 1911 - free transcripts and original images from www.census.nationalarchives.ie (earlier census records were destroyed in a fire).

**ENGLAND**

Indexes (free from www.freebmd.org.uk) of Births (most of 1837-1957), Marriages (most of 1837-1960) and Deaths (most of 1837-1963) and available up to 2005 from www.ancestry.com for a fee. Certificates of B, M or D - £9.25 each from www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates. Censuses every 10 years from 1841 to 1911 from www.ancestry.com or www.findmypast.co.uk.

SCOTLAND (all on www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)

Indexes of B, M and D from 1855 to 2009.

Certificates of Birth only available up to 1911, Marriage to 1936, Death to 1961.

Censuses every 10 years from 1841 to 1911.

CANADA

The civil registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths is administered by each province or territory, so there is no national depository for these records. The best online availability appears to be provided by www.ancestry.ca which has, for example, Ontario Births up to 1913, Marriages to 1928 and Deaths to 1938. Sometimes only the transcription can be viewed, but often a copy of the original record can be viewed.

Census indexes and originals are available on www.ancestry.ca for each 10 years from 1851 to 1911. Transcriptions (not the originals) of 1901, 1906 and 1911 can be accessed free of charge on <http://automatedgenealogy.com/index.html>.

www.ancestry.ca also has indexed Canada voter lists from 1935 to 1974 – a useful addition, especially for more recent times.

UNITED STATES

The civil registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths is administered by each state. Indexation and availability varies by state and seems to be most widely available from www.ancestry.com. There is information about the availability of B, M and D “certificates” from each state at www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm.

Census indexes and originals are available on www.ancestry.com for each 10 years from 1790 to 1940 (except the 1890 records which was destroyed in a fire). Most of this is subscription-based, but the indexes for 1880 and 1940 are free.

The poor availability of B, M and D records is somewhat compensated by Ancestry's large collection of US business directories.

I would be pleased to hear if anyone has come across sources that provide more recent, cheaper or additional information.

A TESKEY AT ANCESTRY.COM

In the analysis above I frequently mention Ancestry, which is an essential online resource for any serious genealogist. I was very pleased to be contacted by Carol Teskey, who told me that she joined Ancestry.com in 2012 in a senior international role. Carol is an Irish Teskey who is too young for me to mention her year of birth in public! Furthermore, she is working for a diploma in genealogy and has promised to fill some gaps in my Teskey family research. Congratulations on your appointment, Carol, and best wishes with the study and research.

**THE SOURCE OF CURRENT INFORMATION IS USUALLY YOU**

The limited public availability of more recent information confirms my dependence on what I am advised by personal contacts. Whilst I seek and record as many details as possible about Teskeys and their descendants, I don't make it publicly available. Our policy in managing www.Teskey.org is to preserve personal privacy by including in the published trees only those who are no longer living. I also seek to be sensitive about what is included in the Teskey Newsletter.

In my research I sometimes find 'delicate' information which I don't usually share with anyone unless they indicate that they already know. For example, I am aware of several Teskeys who were adopted in or adopted out, but I'm not sure if their descendants know or if they are happy for the information to be made public. I would be pleased to receive guidance from anyone who might fall into that category.

TES KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

A commonly used business management technique is the use of Key Performance Indicators, or KPIs. I decided to monitor my own progress on the Teskey 'project' by establishing some Tes Key Performance Indicators! Here are a few of my TKPIs showing what progress I have made since the last Newsletter, during a year in which I have done relatively little research . . .

Teskey tree members – up 343 from 10,340 to 10,683.

Number of unlinked Teskey tree branches – unchanged at 25.

New documents recorded and filed – 210.

Visitors in the year to www.teskey.org – 1,752.

Overall performance - must try harder!

LAUREEN TESKEY

I couldn't go without telling you that Janice and I were delighted to meet up with Laureen, wife of Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in London this summer during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. We had not seen Laureen since the 1995 Teskey reunion in Calgary at Pat and Borden McLeod's home. Despite her high-flying role, Laureen keeps in touch and even finds time to do a little family research of her own. She is also a really personable, enthusiastic and hard-working lady – a typical Teskey - making a positive contribution to the lives of Canadians and to Canada's image around the world.

1995 – A GREAT YEAR FOR TESKEYS

Time seems to have flown so quickly since 1995 when Janice and I had our most extensive tour of Canada. We were there for three weeks and during that time we visited 20 Teskey family homes, attended six Teskey reunions and met no less than 147 family members. We hope we will meet some of them again in 2013.

2013 – A POSSIBLE TESKEY REUNION IN TORONTO

In September 2013, Janice and I plan to join the "Irish Palatines in Ontario Tour". This 11 day tour is being organised by the Irish Palatine Special Interest Group of Ontario Genealogical Society. If you are not already on their mailing list but might like to join the tour, please ask me for details.

The Ontario tour finishes in Toronto, where Janice and I are considering hosting a Teskey Reunion on Monday September 16 if there is sufficient interest. Please drop me an email or a letter if you would be interested in attending.



THE TESKEY NEWSLETTER LOGO

The logo first appeared in December 1992. It was designed by the late Ben 1913 Teskey. At that time, my focus (and that of my good friend Ben) was limited to our own branch of the family, with its roots in both the German Palatinate and Ireland (represented by the shamrock). Whilst my sphere of interest has widened to include Teskeys of all origins, the Irish Palatine roots relate to a significant majority. After 20 years, I don't plan to change the logo and hope the non Irish Palatines will forgive me.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

I would like to be sure that those who receive paper copies of the Teskey Newsletter really do want them, so next time (whenever that may be) my presumption will be that everyone is content to receive an email advising when a new Newsletter can be viewed online. However, I realise that some people collect them and others don't have internet access, so I will be happy to continue to post copies to anyone who emails or writes to me between now and then to ask for a paper copy. Please be sure to tell me any change in email address (or postal address).

A FEW REMINDERS

Please:

- ☐ Tell me if you would like to receive future Newsletters in printed form. Unless I hear from you I will assume you are content to view them on www.Teskey.org.
- ☐ Tell me if you would like to attend a Teskey reunion in Toronto on 16 September 2013.
- ☐ Tell me if you move home or if you have a new e-mail address.
- ☐ If you have email but did not receive a message from me in December 2012, please send me – teskey@btinternet.com - a message asking to be added to my Teskey emailing list.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Suggest, or even write, an article of general interest for the next Teskey Newsletter.
- ☐ Send me copies of any good old family photographs.
- ☐ Don't take offence if I fail to reply as promptly as you would like!

Best wishes for 2013

Ken McDonald