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**Dear Cousin,**

Later in this newsletter, you will see that my family research has been minimal this year, but recent immersion in Teskey family matters has provided material – and inspiration – for this latest Newsletter. I hope you enjoy it.

The burst of activity was sparked by participation in the Irish Palatines Ontario Tour and the Teskey family reunion immediately afterwards. In the last Newsletter I mooted the idea of a Teskey Reunion if there was sufficient support for that and for the Ontario Tour to justify them going ahead. For a while both events were in doubt, but a late rush of bookings meant that both took place in September. Life for event organizers would be so much easier and less stressful if people committed earlier! If you are a member of the Irish Palatine Association ([www.irishpalatines.org](http://www.irishpalatines.org)) you will be able to read my full account of the Ontario Tour in their next Journal, but here I will focus on some of the Teskey moments of the Tour. Then I will report on the Teskey reunion in Toronto.

You will recall that Teskey was the name of just one of the thousands of refugee families that left the Southern Palatinate of Germany in 1709, and one of the hundred or so families that settled in Ireland in the area around Rathkeale, County Limerick. That group became known as the Irish Palatines. When the 1709 refugees left their homeland that had been ravaged by war and harsh winters, they had no idea they would end up in Ireland. Probably most of them had never even heard of Ireland! Many had hoped that their flight from the Palatinate would take them to North America. However, they made a relatively comfortable life for themselves in Ireland and the dream of North America was forgotten. Some years later, when life became harder in Ireland, younger generations once again started to dream of a better life on the other side of the Atlantic, and from around 1760 some Irish Palatines found a way of realising that dream, joining the early trickle of Irish migration to America. In the early years, migration was to the British colonies, but after the American Revolutionary War of 1775 to 1783 (also called the American War of Independence), migration from Ireland (which was part of Great Britain) was focused on the more northerly American colonies that later became Canada. That trickle of Irish going to North America grew and grew until it became a great flood of humanity by the mid 1800s, the time of the Irish Famine. The Irish Palatines contributed to that general migration. As far as we know, it was not until 1823 that the first Teskey (John 1769) joined the westward migration, but he was followed by several more pioneers, as I call them.

For the last 25 years, the Irish Palatine Association (through its website, annual journal and museum in Rathkeale) has provided a focal point for preserving and promoting the story of those Irish Palatine refugees and their descendants. The IPA has organized tours of Ireland and Germany – indeed Janice and I organized their 2004 tour of the Southern Palatinate, which is known locally as the Pfalz.

More recently, there has been a growing consciousness in Canada of the Irish Palatines who settled there. The main Canadian family history body, Ontario Genealogical Society ([www.ogs.on.ca](http://www.ogs.on.ca)), established an Irish Palatine “Special Interest Group” and it was this group that organized the



**eleven-day Irish Palatines Ontario Tour, which Janice and I were so pleased to join in September 2013.**

**The 36 members of the tour group were descended from many of those 1709 Irish Palatine families, and 13 had Teskey ancestry. These were: Bill and Lisa Teskey; Barbara Pittam (née Teskey); Janet (née Teskey) and Bob Martin; Lorna Shier (whose mother was born Teskey); myself (mother born Teskey) and Janice; plus those with more distant Teskey ancestors: Christy Switzer, Steve Stockmeyer, Barb Madry and John and Liz Venn. The Teskey geographical mix was pretty typical of the overall tour group – John and Liz from Australia, Janice and me from England, Lorna and Christy from Ireland, and Barb and Steve from the USA. Of the five Canadians, Barbara hails from British Columbia, whilst Bill, Lisa, Janet and Bob are from Ontario. Janice and I had met all of them before, and many others in the group were also old friends from previous tours. Some of the new faces were also known to me through their contributions to online Irish Palatine discussion groups.**

**Lisa and Bill Teskey were members of the organizing team that put together an entertaining and varied coach tour around much of southern Ontario. We visited tourist sites, met with local Irish Palatine communities and explored many cemeteries. The organizers provided us with lots of genealogical information, including some Teskey data that was new to me and requires future research. I will recall a few of the special Teskey moments.**

**The biggest “Teskey” day was when we were joined on the coach by Laureen Harper, née Teskey, the wife of Canada’s Prime Minister. The coach stopped in Appleton (once called Teskeyville) where we saw that the picturesque ruins of the old Teskey mill had now completely disappeared and no longer enhanced the view across the Mississippi River. We also saw some of the substantial stone houses that were built by the sons of the first Teskey pioneer, John 1769. Today they are lovely homes, albeit no longer inhabited by Teskeys. We weren’t expecting to visit, but a couple of the tour organizers took Laureen to one door and were invited in for a brief visit – after all, what does one say when Canada’s first lady calls?**

**A lovely surprise for me in Appleton was to meet Carole and Doug MacFarlane.**

**Doug is descended from the Appleton Teskeys and his wife Carole has been a most helpful correspondent for nearly 20 years, but I had never met them before. We were able to sit together for lunch in nearby Pakenham. There, as on a number of other days, we dined with other Irish Palatine descendants from the local area.**





I had another welcome surprise in Pakenham - meeting a Teskey that I didn't know - Garth, pictured here with Lisa Teskey. I was soon able to place him, and immediately felt bad after telling him he was not an Irish Palatine Teskey.

I have since sent Garth a copy of the last Newsletter in which there is a photo of Teskey's Terrace Hall, the dance hall run by his uncle Cecil. Cecil and Garth are descended from the Collingwood branch, descendants of Stephen Teske who migrated to Canada in the 1860s directly from Germany.



At Pakenham, a superb display had been mounted by Appleton Museum and Lanark Archives. This mostly related to the Appleton Teskeys who had clearly prospered and accumulated some lovely possessions. Here is one display which included a silver coffee urn that was presented to John Adam Teskey (1837-1908) on his retirement from Mississippi Woollen Mills.



For many years, I have sent a copy of the Teskey Newsletter to the Appleton Museum, so it was a treat to meet Sarah and Doreen who run it and who had assembled the display. I will divert briefly from the story of our Ontario visit to tell you a little about what they have made available online.

#### **APPLETON MUSEUM**

The North Lanark Regional Museum at Appleton has accumulated a sizeable collection of Teskey artefacts, archival documents and photographs and has produced a virtual exhibit on the "Mills of Appleton". This can be viewed at:

[http://www.northlanarkregionalmuseum.com/NLRM\\_Virtual\\_Exhibit.html](http://www.northlanarkregionalmuseum.com/NLRM_Virtual_Exhibit.html)

The museum website also features a storyline on the early settlement of the Teskey family in Ramsay Township, including the sawmill and gristmill built in Appleton. Please see:

[http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/histoires\\_de\\_chez\\_nous-community\\_memories/pm\\_v2.php?id=story\\_line&lg=English&fl=0&ex=00000835&sl=9362&pos=1](http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/histoires_de_chez_nous-community_memories/pm_v2.php?id=story_line&lg=English&fl=0&ex=00000835&sl=9362&pos=1)

A second storyline, relating to the Mississippi Woollen Mills built by Robert Teskey and operated by the Teskey family until 1900 can be viewed at:

[http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/histoires\\_de\\_chez\\_nous-community\\_memories/pm\\_v2.php?id=story\\_line&lg=English&fl=0&ex=00000835&sl=9363&pos=1](http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/histoires_de_chez_nous-community_memories/pm_v2.php?id=story_line&lg=English&fl=0&ex=00000835&sl=9363&pos=1)



Let me return to my account of the “biggest Teskey day”, which was about to get even more special.

When Laureen heard about the planned Ontario tour, a year beforehand, she was keen to get involved and offered to entertain the tour group at 24 Sussex Drive. This is the Prime Minister’s official residence in Ottawa. It’s not an office, but the family’s home, and it has been the Harper family home since 2006. And so our tour bus parked outside and, after security vetting, we all trooped in for afternoon tea. The Teskeys sure do things in style! Laureen is a charming hostess and everyone soon felt at ease. What a privilege! Here, Laureen (in the white dress) poses with most of the Teskeys.



Laureen’s commitment to get involved wasn’t over yet. That evening our coach pulled up beside Ottawa’s Parliament building and Laureen gave us a private guided tour. Not only that, but Prime Minister Stephen Harper was there to greet us all personally and join in the photos of his wife’s extended Irish Palatine family.

I am particularly pleased to have this picture, not just because I’m being welcomed to Parliament by Stephen Harper, but because the photographer was his wife.



I don't suppose many visitors are welcomed so sincerely and given such a personal tour. We visited the House of Commons, the Senate, the Prime Minister's office, the magnificent Library and the Memorial Chamber. There, those who have died in the service of their country are commemorated. Someone had thoughtfully left on display a copy of the page that included Laureen's great uncle, Private James Edward Teskey, who died in France at the age of 19 during the First World War.

All in all, the day that started with collecting Laureen from a Tim Horton's car park and ended on the steps of Parliament was totally magic and unforgettable.

The whole eleven-day tour was a great event, a vacation that blended social activities with the accumulation of knowledge and challenges for further research. As I mentioned earlier, there will be a fuller report in the IPA Journal, but I would like to recall a few more lovely Teskey moments.

One day, we saw a Teskey Road sign looking somewhat the worse for wear. The coach stopped and all the Teskeys got out to fix it before having our photo taken.

From the left, they are: Janice, me, Lorna Shier, Bill Teskey, Janet Martin, Barbara Pittam, Steve Stockmeyer, Lisa Teskey and John Venn.

We visited a number of cemeteries where Irish Palatine names predominated, and quite often we would find a Teskey gravestone.

Below, a group of us gather around the grave at St Marys, Perth County of pioneer John 1832 and his Irish Palatine wife Frances Sparling.



John and Frances Teskey married in Ireland in 1859 and their first child was born later that year in Quebec, where they lived for some years before settling in St Marys.

They are the ancestors of several of my contacts including Carol Moss and the Arizona Teskeys.

Those visiting the grave are, from left to right: Lisa Teskey, Barbara Pittam, Bill Teskey, Bob and Janet Martin.





This photo, taken in the same cemetery, is of Steve Stockmeyer and Bill Teskey beside the memorial to Steve's great great great grandmother, Lucy 1805 Teskey.

Lucy travelled to Canada in the 1840s with husband Jacob Legear and several young children.



In the St John cemetery, Brock Township, Ontario County, there were lots of familiar Irish Palatine names, but no Teskeys. However, this grave of Richard and Mary White caught my eye and rang bells.

White is not an Irish Palatine name but, back at the hotel that evening, my computer record confirmed my suspicions – this was probably Mary 1777 Teskey (the half sister of John 1769, founder of Appleton) who had 'vanished' after marrying Richard White in Rathkeale in 1801. I now knew their final resting place, but not what happened in between.

Since returning home, I have found widower Richard on the Brock census for 1861 with what appears to be a son and many grandchildren. There's more research to do, but I may one day be adding a whole load of Whites to the Teskey family tree!



After all these references to Ontario cemeteries, and before I report on the Teskey Reunion in Toronto, I will leave our Ontario experiences for a while, firstly to record a number of family members who have died in the last year or so.



**FALLEN LEAVES****VELMA EVELEIGH (1911-2013)**

**Velma was the daughter of Berthilda 1880 Teskey and a great granddaughter of pioneer William 1818. She was a petite and charming lady who served for 36 years as a registered nurse at the KW Hospital in Kitchener/Waterloo, Ontario.**

**She attended the Teskey reunions in Toronto in 1998 and 2001. This photo has been extracted from the group photo taken at the 1996 family reunion in Wingham.**

**Velma is the only person I have ever known personally who has reached the age of 100.**

**LEONARD RUSSEL TESKEY (1920-2013)**

**Len was descended from pioneer Hugh 1788. We exchanged occasional letters and emails for nearly 20 years and Len attended the 1999 Teskey reunion in Vancouver with his daughter Lori. Len grew up in Saskatchewan and lived for a while in Michigan before working for the Alberta government and eventually settling in Claresholm, Alberta.**

**This photo of Len and his older brothers was taken in the 1930s. From the left, they are Ray 1915, Floyd 1911, Len 1920 and Elmer 1919.**



### **GEORGE FRANKLIN TESKEY (1920-2013)**

George was a descendant of pioneer William 1787. He was buried in Wellington Cemetery, Prince Edward County, Ontario, which is also the final resting place of his parents and grandparents. Reverend George Teskey ministered for 60 years across five Canadian provinces and lived for a while in Salvador, Central America.

### **MOLLY CARPENTER (1923-2013)**

Many of you will have met my aunt, Molly. She was one of my late Mother's younger sisters. Molly was always enthusiastic and keen to be involved in anything, so she attended all the Teskey reunions in Stansted and thoroughly enjoyed the Teskeys in Ireland tour in 1999.

Molly served in the Women's Royal Air Force during the war and then as a police constable until her daughters Carol and Averil arrived. She worked in a charity shop into her 80's. Although she knew she had terminal cancer, she was not afraid of dying and was always a joy to visit.

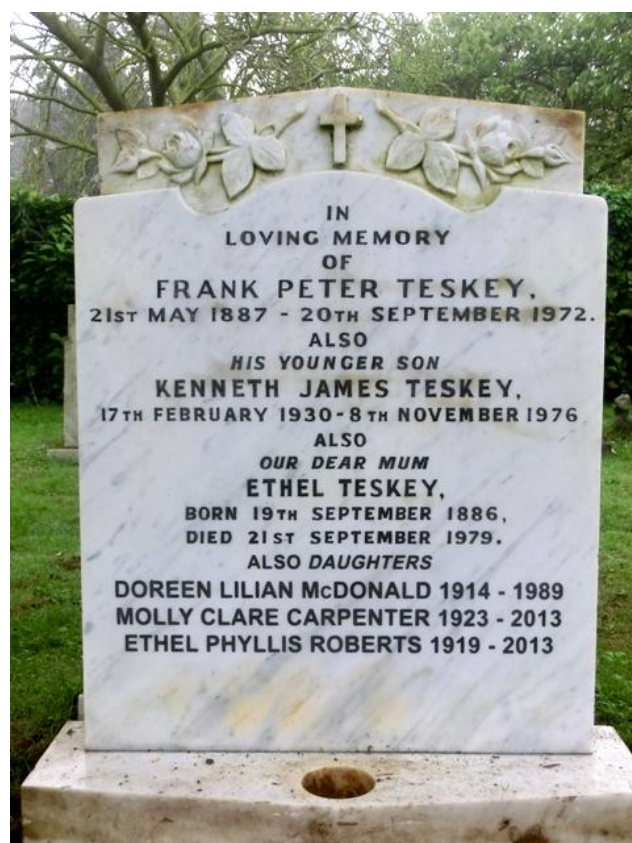


### **ETHEL ROBERTS (1919-2013)**

Ethel was the last survivor of my Mother's siblings, dying less than a month after her sister Molly. She had been married twice but had no children. She devoted most of her life to horticulture and her large garden was always a picture until her last few years. Above, Ethel (on the left) and Molly enjoy an ice cream by the seaside.

Ethel and Molly were cremated and their ashes interred at Corbets Tey, Essex in the grave of their parents and younger brother Ken (1930-1976), after whom I was named. My Mother's ashes had been buried in the adjacent crematorium gardens, so we took this opportunity to add her name also to the family memorial.

Although I showed a photo of this gravestone in Newsletter 37, I hope nobody will mind the inclusion now of the updated stone.





Molly's daughters, Carol and Averil, and most nephews, nieces and spouses gathered for the interment and were photographed afterwards. Here we are, from the left: Tony & Eileen Bass (my sister and therefore daughter of Doreen 1914); Ian (son of Kathleen 1912) & Evelyn Penfold; Carol and Stephen Smith; Kevin Salmon (husband of Averil); my better half, Janice; Averil and me.



#### **NICK CHAPPELL-KING (1954-2012)**

Nick was a great grandson of Lillian 1875 Teskey and her first husband Frank King. Nick's father Alec invented the hyphenated surname by joining his father's middle name Chappell to his surname King to form Chappell-King.



Nick lived in Wiltshire, England and was a truck driver. He had the distinction of being married four times. He is pictured here with one of his six children, Michelle.

Although Nick and I were fairly closely related (second cousin one removed) we never met, although we exchanged emails a few years ago when we discovered one another while I was unravelling the story of Lillian Teskey for Newsletter 35.



**MARIAN EVANS, née Teskey (1942-2012)**

**JACK WILLIAM TESKEY (1945-2012)**

**EDWARD SIDNEY GROUT (1936-2012)**

**ART WIELICZKO (1939-2012)**

Soon after I had sent the last Newsletter, I was greatly saddened to hear from Cathy Wieliczko in Alberta, Canada. She reported four deaths in her close family during 2012. They were descendants of pioneer Christopher 1834 (who was born in Ireland and died in Elderslie, Bruce County, Ontario. Christopher's son William 1875 went West to farm in Islay, Alberta. William had four grandchildren, three of whom died within four months in 2012, leaving just my contact Cathy.

Cathy is the daughter of Euphemia Teskey (1911-1985) and Sidney Grout. Cathy's brother Edward Sidney Grout died in April. Cathy's only Teskey first cousins, Jack Teskey and Marian Evans, died within a week of one another in July. And then in November, to complete a dreadful year, Cathy lost her husband, Art Wieliczko. All lived in Alberta where they raised their families.

Fortunately, Cathy has been able to take comfort from her three children and five grandchildren.

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Marian and Jack had been on my mailing list since 1995, but I knew little about them other than the names of their offspring. As often happens, I discovered more by reading their obituaries. I do encourage my readers to tell me a little about themselves – before I read someone else's account! The index to [www.Teskey.org](http://www.Teskey.org) has a link to a simple outline for a "Personal Profile". Please use this to tell me a little about yourself or an older close relation.

I am very grateful to all who send me word of family births, marriages and deaths, press cuttings and links to online news. I especially thank Jane Teskey in Petrolia, Ontario. She is an active Teskey researcher and we regularly exchange information.

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#### **RARE MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

I would be interested to hear of any occurrences of relatively rare medical conditions that are known to be hereditary. I give three examples:

One of my Teskey contacts has Crohn's disease, an inflammatory bowel condition that manifests itself in genetically susceptible individuals.

I understand that two of William 1818's descendants had Huntington's disease, a faulty gene that damages some brain cells, but this may not have been inherited from the Teskey side. I have not noted any other family members with this condition, but then I have not been looking until now.

Another contact has an inherited bleeding disorder called Von Willebrand's disease – this stops blood clotting and leaves the sufferer prone to bleeding. As this lady comes from a relatively small Teskey branch that I have so far been unable to link with others, I would be particularly interested to learn if anyone else in the family has had it.





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**TESKEY FAMILY REUNION, 16 September 2013**

The day following the Irish Palatines Ontario Tour, we organized a Teskey Reunion in Toronto. I am most grateful to Bill and Lisa Teskey who suggested their local golf club as the venue. They made all the arrangements with Islington Golf Club, whilst I handled the bookings, etc. Lisa and Bill were also really helpful on the day of the reunion, providing a buffet lunch for many of the overseas folk and ferrying us between hotels and airports. Many thanks for being such excellent hosts.

Just two months before the reunion, there was a great storm and terrible flooding that inundated that part of Toronto. The golf course was closed and for a while the reunion was in doubt. Through much hard work, the course was restored and on September 16 it provided a beautiful backdrop to the excellent venue for our gathering.

The reunion was the first we had organized for some years and the first in Toronto since 2001. It was most satisfying that 52 people chose to attend, some travelling great distances. There was one from Germany, four from England, three from Ireland, six Americans from four different states and 38 from Canada, including two from Vancouver Island on the far west. The eight who came from Europe had been on the Ontario tour, as had several others. Sixteen of those present still had the Teskey name.

As is our usual procedure, we gave everyone an abbreviated family tree to show how all the attendees were related to one another. Everyone was issued with a name badge. Where appropriate, this was colour-coded to denote their pioneer ancestor. We had descendants of the majority of Teskey pioneers, each of whom had come to Canada with their families at some time during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of those pioneers would have known each other back home in Ireland, but once they dispersed around Canada they probably never saw one other again. Could John 1769, William 17??, William 1787, Hugh 1788, Joseph 1805, Lucy 1805, Stephen 1815 and William 1818 ever have imagined that their great great grandchildren would come together in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

We had met three-quarters of those present before, somewhere or other, but many not since 2001 or earlier. And it was great to meet a new bunch of people who have made contact in recent years despite my relative lack of activity.

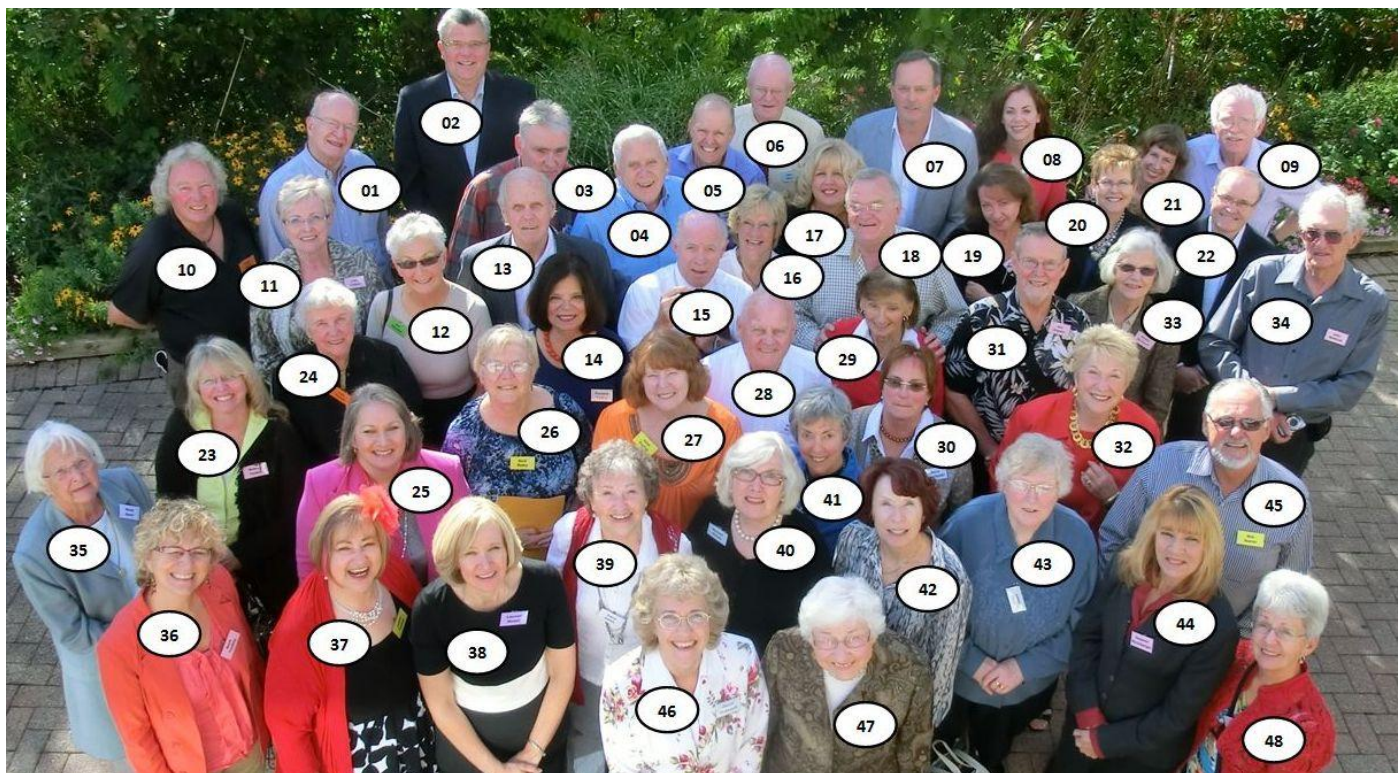
We had taken some folders of old photos and memorabilia, and others also brought their albums or family trees. Many of those present had not met their cousins with matching colours for a long time, perhaps never, and there were lots of new faces for us all to greet.

The name and the colour on the badges gave an easy opening for conversation with anyone else in the room. Not that there was ever any lull in the conversation! The gathering started informally around tables with teas and coffees and later moved into a dining room for a set meal. For six hours there was no let-up in the constant buzz of introductions, discussions, good-hearted banter, sharing of memories, photo-taking and poring over photos and trees. Everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion, so we must try to repeat it before too many more years pass.

The big group photo on the next two pages captured nearly all who attended. Over the following pages you will find snaps of fewer than half of those who attended. I apologize to those who didn't make it to this section of the Teskey version of "Hello" magazine.



**Firstly, here's a version with everyone numbered so they can be identified in the table below.**



Ref	Name	Ref	Name	Ref	Name	Ref	Name
1	John Teskey	15	Glen Teskey	29	Phyllis Green	43	Lorna Shier
2	Garth Teskey	16	Joan Sparrey	30	Doris Spychalski	44	Suzanne Nistelberger
3	Austin Bovenizer	17	Cathie Hand	31	Donald Stephen	45	Bob Martin
4	Steve Stockmeyer	18	Bill Teskey	32	Marion Hand	46	Janice McDonald
5	Norm Sparrey	19	Michele Teskey	33	Phyllis Metheral	47	Ruby Reichheld
6	Christy Switzer	20	Evelyn Roberts	34	John Metheral	48	Judy Tressler
7	Mark Teskey	21	Christine Hanlan	35	Norah Navin		
8	Jody Sharpe	22	David Roberts	36	Barb Teskey	Missing from photo	
9	Ken McDonald	23	Brenda Teskey	37	Lynda Teskey		Ann Teskey
10	Brian Teskey	24	Lois Burch	38	Laureen Harper		Sarah McLean
11	Lisa Teskey	25	MaryAnne Sopik	39	Carol Jones		Lisa Ann Teskey
12	Pat McLeod	26	Barb Madry	40	Barbara Pittam	Photographer	
13	Paul Teskey	27	June Teskey	41	Sheila Babb		Taylor Pettit
14	Florence Teskey	28	Derek Green	42	Janet Martin		

**And on the next page is a clean version.**





**Lots of cameras were being used during the reunion. Here is a small selection of photos.**

**Firstly, I hope Ruby 1921 Reichheld will not mind me singling her out as the oldest at the gathering. She is seated here with her sister-in-law Lois Teskey, whose late husband was Orville Dee Teskey (1929-1973).**

**They are from the William 1818 branch and were accompanied by Lois's son Brian.**

**Ruby and Orville were children of David Dee Teskey (1878-1969). We don't know the origin of "Dee".**







**Jody Sharpe and Christine Hanlan (pictured here) were probably the youngest. Janice and I first met them almost 20 years ago. Now they have six children between them. How pleased my dear old friend Ben 1913 would have been that his granddaughters came.**

**And how proud Ben's first cousin Manley 1915 would have been that his three daughters were there to meet up with them.**

**I think it may have been the first time that these cousins had met, but they seemed to have such fun together looking back at their shared family heritage that I hope it will be the start of a lifetime's friendship for these descendants of Joseph 1805.**

**Here are two of Manley's daughters, twins Barb (left) and Brenda, flanking the most photographed lady in the room, Laureen Harper, a descendant of William 1787 and their 6<sup>th</sup> cousin twice removed (Laureen is two generations younger).**



**Here are four who didn't have to travel far: Florence and Paul Teskey and Norm and Joan Sparrey all live in Toronto.**

**Paul and Joan are just two of the twelve children of Frank 1917 Teskey who was a well-known photographer-reporter with the Toronto Star newspaper. They are descended from Stephen 1815, the pioneer who by-passed Ireland and came directly from Germany to Canada, settling in Collingwood.**







**I have already mentioned one Garth Teskey in this Newsletter. Here is another, with his second cousin Pat McLeod and Laureen.**

**Garth and Pat are descended from William 17?? – we don't know his year of birth.**

**Pat hosted a Teskey gathering at her home in Calgary, Alberta in 1995 and it was there that we first met other Teskeys from the Calgary area, including Laureen and Stephen Harper.**

**Pat now lives on Vancouver island, whilst Garth lives in Ottawa.**

**We were very pleased to see Ann Teskey, whose late husband, Don the Dentist (1925-2011), was a keen historian of his Appleton branch of the Teskeys. Ann and Don had been regular supporters of past Teskey reunions and Irish Palatine Association tours and they had kindly provided lodging for Janice and me at their Toronto home on more than one occasion.**

**Ann is talking here with her daughter Sarah McLean (centre) and Lisa Ann Teskey, daughter of Bill and Lisa.**



**Bob Martin and Lorna Shier had both been on the Ontario tour and both stayed on in Toronto for the Teskey reunion.**

**Bob is the husband of Janet, who is descended from pioneer Hugh 1788. It was the first time they had joined one of these tours, although we had met them at the giant Teskey reunion in Ruthven, Ontario in 1996 where we met about 80 of their relations.**

**Lorna lives in Ireland and was making her first trip outside Europe. Her mother Vera was born a Teskey. Lorna is a mainstay of the Irish Palatine Association and has been involved with arranging all their tours and gatherings.**

I don't think Lynda Teskey and John 1934 had met before, but they quickly established the bond of being on the "yellow team", both being descendants of Hugh 1788.

Lynda's late husband Jim was Janet Martin's first cousin. Janice and I once parked our hired motor home on Jim and Lynda's drive in Petrolia, Ontario so we could attend the Teskey family gathering that they arranged.

John had flown from Oregon, western United States, for the occasion. He has a good attendance record at Teskey gatherings. John and Barb Madry have exchanged lots of research over the years, and they soon resumed their discussions. There is, after all, plenty to discuss as we have so far traced no less than 1,200 of Hugh 1788's descendants.



Here is Lynda with Barb Madry from Michigan, centre, and Carol Jones from Indiana. Barb and Carol had been on the Ontario tour. They are veterans of many Irish Palatine and Teskey campaigns. Like Barb, Carol is a keen family historian, albeit not related to Teskeys or any other Irish Palatines. She just enjoys our company, and who can blame her!







Janice and I enjoy a feeling of warm satisfaction whenever we recall the joyful occasions of these Teskey family reunions. Long may they continue! Now for some news beyond our visit to Canada . . .

### **MY GREAT GRANDFATHER'S ELUSIVE SISTERS – FOUND AT LAST!**

In compiling the last Newsletter I 'discovered' [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie), a free website with a good search facility for the Irish censuses of 1901 and 1911. I have since used this to good effect to trace a little more about the sisters of my great grandfather.

Firstly, just to recap, my great great grandfather was Adam Teskey (1823-1909). He and his wife Mary Legear (1833-1902) lived firstly in Ballywilliam, Rathkeale, County Limerick but then moved around Ireland, presumably because of Adam's employment as a servant, groom and coachman. They had six children who I list briefly below:

**JAMES (1851-1916)**, my great grandfather, married soldier's sister, Eliza Nunn, moving to England  
**JANE (1853-1855)** died as a child

**ELIZA (1855-1941)** married soldier John Nunn (brother of Eliza) and moved to England

**JACOB (1858-1957)** a professional soldier, serving in India, England and finally settling in Dublin

**MARY (1863-????)** married soldier Edward McCann

**EMILY (1866-????)** married two soldiers, the second bigamously.

A soldier's uniform seems to have been a good way to attract the girls!

I have a thorough record of the descendants of James, Eliza and Jacob, but until recently I knew very little about their younger sisters Mary and Emily. I still know only a little, but it's a start.

With the help of the Irish National Archives website, I was delighted to find Mary and Edward McCann on both the 1901 and 1911 censuses. They were living in Limerick City, Urban number 2 district, first in King's Island and then in Nolan's Cottages. They had a total of nine children, seven of whom were still living in 1911.

Turning to the other sister, I already knew that Emily had married soldier James Beach in 1882 when she was just 16 and then, whilst already married, a second soldier George Blakemore in 1884, bearing a son Walter Blakemore when she was still only 18. I had already found them on the 1901 census, living in Punches Lane, Limerick city. I have now found them on the 1911 census, when Emily, George and Walter were resident in Ball Alley Lane, Limerick (Urban 5 district). George Blakemore completed the census return and stated that they had been married 29 years and all three were Roman Catholic. This seems strange, given that George and Emily were married in the Wesley Chapel, Limerick in 1884, less than 27 years before, but then I am always cautious of replies given to census questions.

I have not yet traced any descendants of the children of either Mary 1863 or Emily 1866. Perhaps a visit to Dublin's record office will be required – I haven't taken Janice on holiday to that particular archive for 20 years!

### **ANOTHER FREE ONLINE RESOURCE – BRITISH COLUMBIA ARCHIVES**

A search of the new facility <http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/BasicSearch> generated 60 birth, marriage and death records for Teskeys in British Columbia during the periods that are accessible. In some cases, copies of the registration certificate are available. I can see there is information that is new to me, so I look forward to finding a day or two to follow through.

**TESKEY DESCENDANT TO LEAVE HER MARK IN OTTAWA**

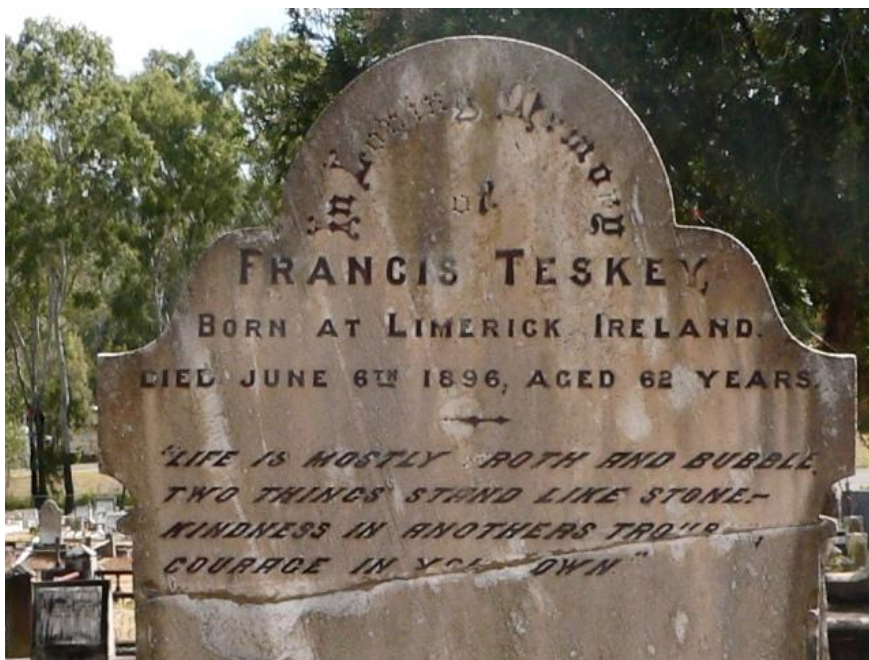
Our visit to Ottawa came a year too soon to see the memorial that will be installed opposite the Parliament buildings to commemorate the War of 1812. The three metre tall bronze statue is being created by Adrienne Alison, a Toronto artist whose grandmother was Mary Isobel Teskey (1894-1980) who became better known as an obstetrician and family historian under her married name, Dr Isobel Ayer. Adrienne is descended from John 1769 and the Appleton Teskeys.

The War of 1812 was a spin-off from the Napoleonic wars in Europe and involved the United Kingdom, United States and Canada. Its main legacy appears to be the confirmation of the boundary between the United States and what is now Canada. There is a detailed account of the war at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War\\_of\\_1812](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_1812).

Congratulations to Adrienne on winning this commission against competition from other artists. I hope someone will send me a photo of the monument, which is due to be completed by September 2014.

**TESKEYS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**

I have received a plea for more information about the Teskeys who went to Australia or New Zealand. The plea came from Sue Semple, a great granddaughter of Francis 1828 Teskey who emigrated from Ireland around 1870 and worked as a miner at Mount Morgan in Queensland. Sue kindly sent me this photo of his gravestone in Mount Morgan.



This Newsletter will be read by a few Australians and New Zealanders with Teskey ancestry, some of whom came more recently from Canada or Ireland, whilst others are descended from female 19<sup>th</sup> century Teskey pioneers so no longer bear the name. If any of you would like to be put in touch with others down under, please let me know.

**TESKEYS IN KYRGYZSTAN**

One day, Google directed me to <http://teskey.webs.com>, the website of Teskey Guesthouse in the former Soviet country Kyrgyzstan. I contacted the owner and his reply was as follows . . .

*"Our guesthouse is at the foot of Teskey Ala-Too, and that's why we called it Teskey Guesthouse. Our district is situated between two mountain ranges - Teskey Ala Too and Kungei Ala Too. Kungei ala too means sunny side of mountain. Teskei ala too means shadow side of mountain.*

*Regards, Taalai Janybekov."*

The location sounds delightful, so perhaps one day we will visit, provided it's within our carbon emissions budget.



### **A SMALL WORLD**

The internet has made a tremendous difference to the ease of communication between family members, etc. In January I received a request from the secretary of an organisation in Canada for help in tracing an elderly member named Teskey who had moved without leaving a forwarding address. I passed on the request to the member's son, who now lives in Australia and he responded directly with the requested information. I hope the Canadian secretary appreciated the four hour response via Europe and Australia! I awarded her full marks for initiative.

For genealogists, the world has come closer to home with the advent of online resources such as those provided by Ancestry.com. Earlier this year we attended the "Who Do You Think You Are" exhibition in London. We hadn't been to this family history event for nearly 20 years, so it was fascinating to see how much the hobby and the genealogy industry has grown in that time, fuelled by the television series whose name the exhibition has adopted. Whilst it was most interesting to wander round the hundreds of stands, we were not in the



market to buy anything, just to meet Carol Teskey from Ireland for the first time. I reported in the last Newsletter that she had joined Ancestry, and she was kind enough to let us know that she would be in London for the big show. We dragged her away from work for a coffee. It was great to meet her.

### **A DISTANT ROYAL CONNECTION**

For friends who may have got used to me dropping into conversation the name of a well-known Prime Minister's wife, I now have a new, albeit rather remote, connection with which to astound them – a shared heritage with our newly-born heir to the throne, Prince George.

I grew up in a rather low-key Victorian London suburb called Leyton. My Teskey mother and my Teskey grandfather and their siblings also grew up in Leyton. We all lived in typical modest terraced houses. Around 1900, several ancestors of Prince George also lived in Leyton. Indeed, Prince George's great great grandfather, Frederick George Glassborow (1889-1954) lived as a child in Vicarage Road, Leyton, just 23 doors along from what would become my childhood home in 1947.

Then, from 1903 to 1908, the Glassborows lived in Manor Road, only 19 doors, about 100 yards, from where my great grandparents James 1851 and Eliza Teskey lived with their family. Frederick Glassborow was the same age as their daughter Florence 1890 Teskey, who was known by her middle name, Miriam. Perhaps Miriam and Frederick knew one other as teenagers. It's a small world!

Miriam's children, Rosemary and Doug, will receive a copy of this Newsletter – I hope they have some fun when they tell of their 'royal connection'.



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### **THANKS TO THE PHOTOGRAPHERS**

I would like to thank all who send me photos, ancient and modern, including the following whose photos appear in this Newsletter: Barb Teskey, Carolyn Heald, Janice McDonald, Laureen Harper, Lisa Teskey, MaryAnne Sopik, Pat McLeod and Taylor Pettit.

### **TES KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

In the last Newsletter I introduced the idea of measuring my research progress through some key performance indicators. I am somewhat embarrassed by the low scores for the year since the last Newsletter . . .

Teskey tree members – up 141 from 10,683 to 10,824.

Number I have met – up 13 to 629.

Number of unlinked Teskey tree branches – unchanged at 25.

New documents recorded and filed – 51.

Visitors in the year to [www.teskey.org](http://www.teskey.org) – 1,878.

Overall performance – could do better!

### **A FEW REMINDERS**

**Please:**

- ☐ Tell me if you are aware of an uncommon inherited medical condition in your branch of the family.
- ☐ If you have email but did not receive a message from me in November or December 2013, please send me a message asking to be added to my Teskey emailing list.
- ☐ Tell me if you move home or if you have a new e-mail address.
- ☐ 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](http://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,**

*Ken McDonald*