

Origins of Delaneys-Potokys

23/8/03

CLONBROCK, Townland, County of Queens , now Laois / Leix -REPUBLIC of IRELAND



The county was formed in 1547 by the English. The name was changed back to Laois in 1922 after formation of Irish Free State. This is when many records were burned in the "4 Courts fire".

A townland of 97 acres and home of John Dormer Delaney, born 1814 -2nd of 7 sons of Denis Delaney and Judith Dormer. This Clonbrock is one of 5 but the only one in the Civil Parish of Killaban and Catholic Parish of Doonane, County of Queens - now Laois sometimes called Leix and situated in the Barony of Slievemargy. Province of Leinster-Poor Law Union or General Registrar District of Carlow. Clonbrock is 4 miles south-west of Castlecomer and 8 miles west of Carlow. Subject to confirmation, there are just 260 houses and a population of 650 with three schools - Newtown, Mayo and Ardough.

At the present time Doonane -the smallest parish -has 2 churches, St.Abbans and Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in village of Mayo. Mayo, Clonbrock and Hughreena are all villages in Doonane Parish in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. A Michael and Elizabeth Brennan, Patricia Brennan and Patricia Delaney appear in current church activity--2001. Local newspaper is: Nationalist and Leinster Times.

This area was decimated by the potato famine in 1846-1851, the closing of mines and an active emigration policy by some landlords in this period.

Coal miners from Doonane were feared throughout the area and the locality was considered to be in a state of rebellion around 1832.

Places of Interest: Kilgorey Ancient Burial grounds, Blessed Well, Killaban Monastery, Slievemargy Way.

Main produce of Laois is grain, beet, sugar, flour and dairy products. Griffiths Valuation 1850/51 shows Catherine Dormer as occupier of a house owned by Henry Close with annual value of 5 shillings. Judith Delaney occupied one house and land of 1A2R38P owned by John Edge with annual value of 1pound 2shillings but owned another house occupied by Mary Byrne. On 1-15th January 1844 at Abbeyleix, List of Persons owning Firearms shows two Denis Delaney's, one in Aharney and one in Strahard, both farmers.

The Griffiths Valuation also lists Mary Dormer and Michael Delaney as occupying houses in Clonbrock.

Map references for above are 61 BandC and 70 Aand B.

Sources of info NLI National Library Ireland - LDS Library Syst-Nat Archives and LOFHR

CITY and COUNTY of DUBLIN Pop. abt 1 million

The home of Eleanor McDermott, born around 1825.

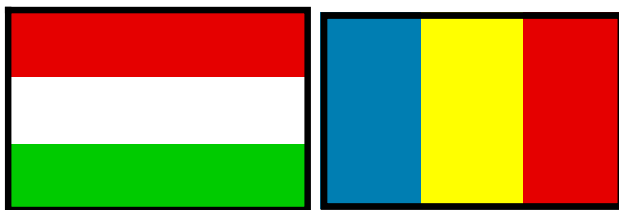
Situated just above Carlow and in the same Province, Leinster. In Gaelic -Baile Atha Cliath -, the name means "The Town of the Ford of the Hurdles". It is the seaport for Republic of Ireland at the mouth of the Liffey River on Dublin Bay, an inlet of the Irish Sea.

In about 450 AD it's inhabitants were converted to Christianity by Saint Patrick, now the patron saint of Ireland.

In the 9th Century Dublin was captured by the Danes but taken back on three occasions by the Dubliners. In 1171 the Danes were expelled by the Anglo-Normans, led by Henry 2nd- King of England.

In 1916 there was a rebellion and in 1919 to 1921 a revolution, which resulted in the Irish Free State.

Currently there are moves to transfer control of Northern Ireland from the British while the southern section of the island is a Republic. There is believed to be a reversal of the migration from Ireland at the current time but this will no doubt spoil the very nature of our heritage.



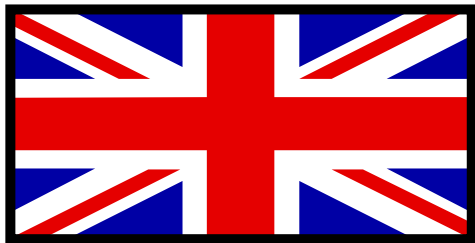
Arad , - HUNGARY / Romania

Birthplace of Francis Potoky in 1829 . It is the capital of Arad Judet (County) and located on the Mures River very close to the Hungarian border and in fact now within the borders of Romania.

It has a poulation of around 226,000 and situated about 262 miles northwest of Bucharest.

It is not known how or when Francis Potoky left Arad but there was a revolution there in 1848 and the Crimean War raged during 1853-1856. One or both these happenings may have caused Francis to leave and be in London in 1856/58.

Family legend has suggested that Francis's real name was Alexander Potofski a Polish Count who fled a revolution in the mid 1800's. There are descendants of a well known family of a Count Potocki de Montaulk living in New Zealand but at this stage there seems no connection.



Kennington, Surrey, London, England

Home of Harriet Eade baptised in St.Marks 27 /12/1835 and also the setting for her marriage to Francis Potoky.--Dec 1858.We have details of an earlier marriage and 3 children to Elizabeth Fisher as wife of Ferenz Potoky.



Capetown---Cape Province -- South Africa-- Kaffir Wars

John Delaney arrived in Capetown in 1839-we do know he served 10 years in the 27th Regiment of Foot which later became the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and later again merged with others to form the Royal Irish Rangers.

During the Kaffir wars he was discharged because of wounds received. Capetown is now in the Western Cape Province. The Cape was beset by intermittent wars between 1799 and 1879 and the Kaffir Wars (Kaffir is an Arabic word for infidel) were between the Xhosa tribesmen who resisted intrusion of Dutch settlers. In latter stages the British took over the Cape Region (now South Africa) The worst conflict was from 1799 to 1801.

John Dormer served under Sir Harry Smith a very famous soldier from the Napoleonic Wars who became Governor of the Cape from 1848 to 1852. He had been responsible for defeating the Boers at Boomplaats.

John Dormer arrived as a soldier, he married Eleanor McDermott there on 27/2/1849 and Mary Eleanor, William Dormer and Anne Maria were born there during 1850/51 and 53.

According to the Cape Almanac they owned a store in Shortmarket and Buitengracht Sts and a home at 22 Castle Street also at 35 Hout and Loop and Wales Sts.

The family sailed from Capetown in the Wigram and reached Melbourne on 24 Feb 1854.

Lyn and I visited Sth Africa, Capetown and The Cape of Good Hope in 1998 as well as Zimbabwe and Zambia but at that time hadn't known of the family history there.

A second trip in 2002 did not gain much more information.

The Cape, where the south Atlantic meets the Indian Ocean ,is quite a spectacular place and the sunset viewed from Tabletop Mountain is even more inspiring.



Port Louis---- Mauritius

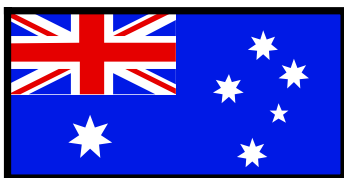
A tiny island off the coast of Africa and east of the much larger island of Madagascar. It is presumed Isabella Potoky was born here in 1861. However, the island , once a Pirate stronghold, was on the normal sailing route from Europe to Australia and New Zealand and was at one time a base for pirates.

Mauritius which includes also Cargados Carajos Shoals and Agalega Islands only has an area of 787 sq.miles. and a population 1,130,000 (1995 estimate)and is one of the most densely populated countries in the world ---1636 people per sq.mile.

The country has been occupied by the Dutch, French and British, the latter capturing it during the Napoleonic War in 1810 - gained independence in 1968.

Francis and Harriet Potokey together with Isabella, an infant Emily and a servant sailed from Port Louis on the Pand O steamer "Madras" and arrived in Melbourne 21 May 1863 following service there with the 24th Regiment of Foot.

See photo page for Pt.Louis



Golden Square--Sandhurst-Bendigo --and -Melbourne Victoria

The Delaney family arrived in Melbourne on the Wigram on the 24 Feb.1854 and eventually to the gold fields of Sandhurst now Bendigo where for a time John was a storekeeper.

During this period the Delaneys evidently occupied a house and store on Allotment 13 Section 13A High Street an area 100 x 277 ft between Beech and Maple Streets, close to Police Reserve. Council rates of 35 pounds were extremely high for that era so there must have been substantial buildings on the site.

Whilst in Golden Square Bendigo between 1854 and 1863, Eleanor had 5 more children but only John and Michael Walter were to survive.

Husband John Dormer enlisted in Waikato Regiment on 18 September 1863 and by this time was having financial problems - on 15/2/1859 and again on 4/9/1860 he took out mortgages of 200 pounds and so by 1863 his equity in the property would have been almost nil.

Lt. Colonel Pitt and Capt. Skene together with The Hon. Dillon Bell were seeking volunteers to fight Maori wars in NZ and John probably saw the opportunity to perhaps set up himself and 3 of his sons with a job and grant of 50 acres in Waikato together with a town allotment.

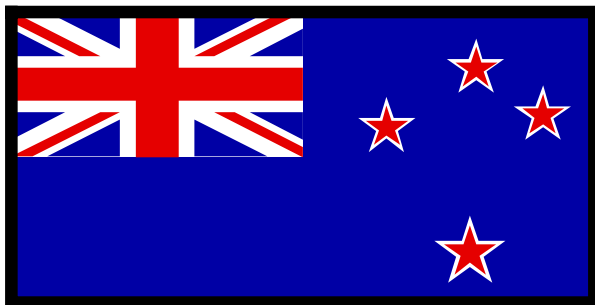
Once John enlisted in September 1863 the family probably trained into Melbourne and would have stayed there until John Sen. and William left on 5/2/1864. Eleanor and the rest of the family probably stayed in Melbourne until sailing in the Claud Hamilton on 31 December 1865.

It is believed a tent city was set up to house families awaiting passage to New Zealand.

Potoky's

They also sailed into Melbourne but not until 21 May 1863 on the Madras, a Pand O steamship of 260 tons commanded by Capt. P.J.Wuffer. We believe Harriet and Isabella arrived in NZ aboard the Matoaka 3/1/1865. No record yet of Francis, Emily or the servant who arrived on Madras.

It would be interesting if the Delaney's and Potoky's met in Melbourne?



Drury -Tauranga-- Opotiki -Waioeka -Wellington -Auckland -Avondale.

The Delaney's arrived in Auckland 1864 and 1865 and first lived at Drury, Albert Barracks and later at Tauranga. Drury was a base camp and first battle was fought at

Rangiriri in 1863. Part of Albert Barracks, a wall with musket loops and firing steps has been preserved within Auckland University. About 1867 some of the family were sent to Opotiki. However, John Sen. seems to have worked in the Militia in Auckland from 1870 -1877 and then appears to have taken his farm lot at Opotiki in the Whakatane District where he died in 1898. Some of the sons served at a Redoubt in Waioeka a glorious valley some 20 kms south of Opotiki.

It is believed The Opotiki Butter factory was built on part of the Delaney farm at some stage.

The factory building was there in 2000 but now operates as a market-factory area. The both families seem to have been in Opotiki from at least 7/10/1867 until 1900 when Juanita Potoky was born.

It appears Opotiki was surveyed 1868/69 and volunteers received 10 not 50 acres as promised. John and William had lots 377 and 388 and William bought 379 but only John Senior stayed on. These lots were at SW cnr of Nelson and Wellington Sts. John Snr seems to have spent his last 20 years on Lot 337 William St.--probably the town lot opposite the 10 acre farm lot.

John the second evidently did not apply for his land grant.

Interesting that both families were in Melbourne at the same time and again in the small town of Opotiki for some 30 years between 1865 and 1900.

More information on the Waikato clashes appear in Michael Walter's 25 page account which is a little large to include here---There are also a number of books on Waikato and Kaffir wars and they are outlined in another chapter on Reference Books.

At some stage land being lots 378 and 379 existed at northern cnr of Nelson 7 Wellington Sts Opotiki plus a house lot since subdivided opposite in Wellington St at center of block.