

## Introduction

A transcript of the composite surname index in Vol. X is given here as an aid to genealogical and historic research. It is believed easier and more appropriate to present it in a modern format rather than as a series of image copies of the original index. The origin of the index arose from the author's belief that an overall index would be a useful research tool and that the original volume indexes were flawed.

The presentation of the surnames in this format will allow a complementary comparison with Griffiths' Primary Valuation indexes for Wicklow and Wexford. Its plus point is that the source gives depth over time and useful for the study of families long established in specific areas. However, it will not have the same range of surnames due to the fact that the vast majority of people have no inscribed gravestone(s). The memory of most of the unrecorded would have lasted two generations on average, though longer when a community had members, *seanachai*, who acted as communal keepers of history. This practice has almost completely died out due to modernization in Ireland from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and survives only in small pockets, some rapidly disappearing, others tenaciously hanging on where traditions are strong, particularly in the Gaeltacht and other parts of the western seaboard

The index can also be used to check surname-spelling variations. In the original, and this index, all variants are given separately in their original form, without any attempt of amalgamation or standardization. Standard spelling of surnames is a modern development; its prime purpose is for functionaries to organize, manage and control society, our lives and livelihoods, but was of less importance in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and even less in the 18<sup>th</sup>, when literacy first started to spread among the general population. Having a standard surname was of far less importance than putting food on the table for the vast majority of folk in pre-literate societies.

Literacy allowed the development of absentee capitalism at a time when communication was no faster than the speed of a horse. Instructions could be sent from a distant place, Dublin, London, on Grand Tour, and didn't need the physical presence of the instructor; a great advantage for the rich who preferred to be where the centers of power were, Court or Parliament, or, as the Culture of Leisure spread, fashionable; rather than in the place where they made their money, often far away and the middle of nowhere (relatively speaking).

Communication inventions and related technological development speeded up the transmission of instructions and lessened the time needed for them to be implemented (theoretically instantaneous now among computers, humans are slower); a subsidiary effect was the need for standard spelling of names; the right communication had to go to the right person.

The source of surname spellings for most would have come from the priest, landlord agent, teacher and/or stonemason, each who could have used different spellings for any one name in their records. The importance of correct spelling

would have been of little importance to a population with little literary skills though this changed over time as rural populations used literacy to develop their bargaining skills and land rights and then to register their acquired land ownership in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Standard spelling allowed easily identifiable landowners; which benefited both owner and government (particularly revenue departments).

Little is known as to how stonemasons, as a class, influenced the development of literacy and surnames within their communities; why, for instance, did any one variant become the accepted standard? Nor is it known how they became literate, presumably it was part of their apprenticeship. It likely differed around the country as some areas had very well developed skills and culture, as can be seen in the use of prestigious decorated headstones and trade iconography. In other areas with no tradition it was more haphazard due to differing literary abilities of local masons (for instance an itinerant mason specializing in decorative motifs on buildings could have been drafted in to carve a gravestone with unpredictable results) and in some areas it was DIY, as can be seen where a surname is spelled differently on an inscription.

A surname that is spelled differently over generations can have different interpretations depending on the stonemason and/or the family. Traditional Gaelic spellings, particularly during the Gaelic Revival of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, played a role but in many cases it was just guesswork as masons, with differing English language skills, attempted to phonetically spell Gaelic pronunciation. Spelling and carving English names was difficult enough; particularly in those areas where Gaelic was the primary language; though Gaelic had mostly died out in counties Wicklow and Wexford by the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>1</sup>.

One should not underestimate the range of variation in surnames, all vowels, and their order, are interchangeable and letters of phonetic similarity are used interchangeably. Redundant letters are common. An excellent example of this is the names beginning with K, which show remarkable variation, while others of these can also be found under C. Take one example, Kinsley and Kinsella in southeast Wicklow; are they separate surnames, variants of each other, or an interchangeable mix of both? And if separate, which variants belong to which surname? Are Cogley and Quigley in south Wexford always synonyms? Answers to questions, such as these, can, perhaps, only be solved with the individual study of families. In searching this index the less assumptions the better, because while most variants are similar, there are others that can only be found by creative research.

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<sup>1</sup> See the author's *Memorials of the Dead for the Western Seaboard*, Eneclann, 2002, for comparison. The inscribed memorial in the West is uncommon for reasons of culture and poverty (though there are regional variations, i.e. Inishmore limestone slabs between 1820-40) in coastal Galway and Mayo and, when found, are primarily in English even though Gaelic was, and still is in the Connemara Gaeltacht, the native language. It would be interesting to know why stonemasons in the West, where Gaelic was the primary language, used English on memorials; perhaps it's an indicator of its use as the primary language of literacy in dealings with landlords, national and local government. The area also shows a range of variations in graveyard layout and architecture (particularly Mayo) unlike southeast Leinster, which is more uniform.

A plus is that variants can sometime be geographically specific and this can be an aid in locating the origins of an ancestor, though surnames can and will change their spelling during times of migration; the practice of immigration registrars in Ellis Island is one example. Another point is that different variants can belong to specifically different family groups, i.e. Bayley (Arklow) and Baillie (Bray).

Finally the differing spelling of surnames may also be a guide to phonetic pronunciation, accents, regional dialects and relics of Forth and Bargy Elizabethan English but one would need to assume that the spellings were accurate and consistent transliterations. One example might be Welsh/Welch in the New Ross area.

#### Format Notes

The redraft has the following format changes

1. Volume numbers are not included, readers are referred to the overall index that cross-references graveyard/church name to number
2. The surname list has been put into strict alphabetical order to avoid the occasional minor slips in the original and changes due to point 6. The sort tool of Microsoft Excel (c. 1999 edition) was used in case there are differing alphabetical conventions, i.e. in the original Vandeleur is before Van der Aa, the sort engine reversed the order
3. (T) is used instead of (title)
4. In the original some surnames, or parts of, are bracketed with a question mark, here the brackets are deleted but the question mark remains, i.e. Alyar?
5. In the original some numbers are bracketed with a question mark, here the numbers are given without brackets or question mark
6. When surnames are given as alternatives, i.e. Felan/Idan/Idam or Fearan (rect. Tearan?), each variant is given separately. The alternative is always indexed in the original, which practice is followed here, but a question mark is added
7. Surnames that have been amalgamated, i.e. Fitzgerald/Fitz Gerald or French/Ffrench, are left as they are
8. Double-barreled names are copied as they are differently presented in the original
9. Memorials with initials only were put into a separate index in the original called 'Miscellaneous'. These have been integrated into the main index here. Another entry to a 'aslow' (93) has also been indexed under Paslow, as being the most likely

#### The letter M, Section and Miscellaneous Introductions

One piece of formatting that has gone unchanged is the order of surnames beginning with M, which are in two sections. I quote from the original and have added probable date of 'current' ITD:

Prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> section: “For surnames commencing with the prefixes M’, Mc or Mac, I have followed the system used in the current Irish Telephone Directory (c.1989). The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> letter determines the position of the entry. Surnames such as ‘Mack’, ‘Mackan’, ‘Macissey’, ‘Maccord’, etc., are included in the ‘M’ section which follows. Cross references should also be made to other sections for surnames which can be spelt without the prefixes – i.e. names such as ‘Guinness’, ‘Hardy’, ‘Mahon’, etc.”

In other words M’, Mac, Mc and Mcc (Kilenor Old) prefixes are treated as a unit and it is the order of the letters following that define the order of the surnames. In some cases variants were amalgamated, i.e. MacBride/McBride, McCormick/M’Cormick, Mc/M’Grath (Magrath is separately indexed), Mac/Mc/M’Donald, etc., though this caused ambiguities with Mc/Macintosh and M’/Makee; the latter two variants have been also indexed under M in the second section of this index for clarity.

Prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> section: “See the note, p. 528 (as quoted in previous paragraph) at the commencement of the M’, Mc and Mac section of this index. Cross references should be made to that section for surnames such as Mahon, etc., which can be spelt with and without the prefix”.

The short introductory piece before the O section is given here: “A cross-check should also be made against surnames without the prefix ‘O’, such as Doherty, Toole, Kennedy, etc.”

The introduction to the Miscellaneous index, see point 9, is as follows: “Incomplete and memorial with initial letters only, the latter more common in county Wexford than Wicklow”.

#### Specific Changes

The following changes and corrections were made to the index  
Burke 242 > 142; Brien 196 > Brein 196; Conners 220 > 210; Danine > Dabine;  
Herbert 102 > Hebert 102; Kent 355 (1<sup>st</sup>) > 352; Macartney 423 & Macready 6  
from Mc section to M section; Nagle 22, 251 & (426?) > Nangle 22, 251 & (426?);  
Neal 229 > 299; Power 285 (2<sup>nd</sup>) > 286; Synott > amalgamated.

#### Exclusions

The following entries were excluded from the index  
Globe Insurance Co. (431), John Paul II (418), Karslake & Crealock (431), Victor Emmanuel - King of Sardinia (388) and Wentworth Estates (87)

#### Caution

It is important to note that this index is only a transcript of the original index. Editorial checking of each and every entry was not attempted. However some errors did come to notice due to their obviousness and these were corrected after checking. Errors in the original index usually come from misspelling surnames (keystroke errors), such as Moran for Moarn, entries out of alphabetical

sequence, and incorrect numbering, i.e. numbers out of sequence. When possible errors were found they were checked and corrected against the original indexes and texts. Misspellings are corrected; the automatic sort facility in the spreadsheet program was used for alphabetical sequencing, except the first part of the M section covering Mc, etc. Note, however, that if a misspelled entry was not identified it is now out of order. Finally, incorrect numbering was corrected where noted.

Caveat

Indexing is not an exact science, no matter what format is used, ambiguities will arise, editorial decisions that can create bias have to be made and no amount double-checking will overcome the fallibility of the indexer; there will always be an error or three... Always check the original.