

3.05 The Mealy and Farrar Genealogies

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The Mealy Genealogy

Originally from County Mayo, the Mealys appear to have moved first to Horseleap, Co. Westmeath and from there to Templecross. Richard's great grandfather Thomas Mealy is said to have been the first to arrive in Westmeath. He was born c.1745 and died in 1832, aged 87. We don't know what brought him to Westmeath but according to Mick Kilmurray, he was a carpenter, and to Francis O'Neill, a builder. He was married and had seven children including only one son, John (Richard's grandfather).

So Richard's lineage is:

1. Richard
2. Richard's father - Laurence (Larry)
3. Richard's grandfather - John
4. Richard's great grandfather - Thomas.

We are lucky to have a set of hand-written notes by Larry Mealy detailing previous generations as well as information about his own children, including Richard.

It seems that while the Mealys set up house in Horseleap, Tithe Applotment records show that Thomas, his son John, and daughter Julian all lived at Templecross by at least 1833 but according to Larry's notes, only his father John and Aunt Julian were buried at Templecross, the others all being buried at Horseleap.

Thomas Mealy

In the Tithe Applotment records of 1833 Thomas Mealy is listed at Templecross on 2 acres of arable land, with an additional 13 Acres of arable land and 7 acres of bottoms at Ballinacria. A Brian Mealy is shown on 12 acres, also at Ballinacria, which is listed immediately below an entry for Ballynacarrigy. We do not know if there was any connection between Thomas and Brian.

Thomas was married and although his wife's name is unknown, we know that she was born c.1765 and died in 1825, age 60 years. They had seven children.

Children of Thomas Mealy:

- Mary, born c.1782, died May 23 1852, aged 70
- John, born c.1784, died Mar 25 1863, aged 79 (see below)
- Julia or Julian (Female), born c.1790, died Nov 2 1864, aged 74
- Elizabeth, born c.1799, died Oct 20 1848, aged 49
- Annabella, died 1823
- Catherine, died 1823
- Amelia, died 1823

A note written by Larry Mealy tells us that of his three aunts who died in the year 1823, two were buried on the same day. Again, all of the family were buried at Horseleap except for his father John and aunt Julian, who were buried at Templecross.

John Mealy

John Mealy was born circa 1784, and died 25 Mar 1863, aged 74. Larry's notes say that a John Mealy ran a hedgerow school at Grange, in the parish of Kilbixy, prior to 1835. We don't know for certain if Larry's father was the hedgerow teacher, or if there could have been another family member named John.

Once again, there is no mention of John Mealy's wife's name or of where she might be buried.

In Griffith's Valuation¹ (1854) the holdings of John Mealia (note different spelling) consisted of 1 acre at Tristernagh and the Templecross Burial Ground. An additional 34 acres held by John Mealia were located at Ballynacrogghy (Gallowstown).

Also in Griffith's, a Mary Mealy occupied 3 acres on the Grange townlands of Kilbixy parish, and a Michael Mealy held 1 acre at Ballynacrogghy (Gallowstown).

The relationship of John Mealia to the Mary and Michael Mealy listed in Griffith's Valuations is not known but the two surnames are spelled with a distinctive difference in the Griffith's listings. A widow Mary Mealy and a Michael Mealy are also listed in Griffith's as occupiers of land in the Parish of St. Mary's, Fore Barony on the Glenidan townlands, with 45 acres occupied between them.

There are several other Mealy/Mealia families listed in both the Tithe Applotment and Griffith's Valuations in the Westmeath/Offaly/Longford region, but none have yet been proven as relatives of our family.

Children of John Mealy:

- Laurence born c.1823, died Apr 24 1903, buried in Templecross.
- There is no confirmed record of any siblings to Laurence

Laurence Mealy

Laurence Mealy (according to his own spelling) married Letitia Lewis, from Bellivor, County Meath (servant, born c.1832, died Aug 20 1900) Jan 21 1857 at Kilbixy by William Irwin, witnesses were John O'Brien and John Naghton.

Children of Laurence Mealy and Letitia Lewis:

- Louisa Annie born 11 Oct 1858, died 14 Oct 1874, age 16 (trap accident), buried in Templecross.
- Isabella born c.1860, died 14 Aug 1872, age 12 (drowned), buried in Templecross
- John Joseph (Johnny), born 4 Mar 1861, confirmed at Kilbixy Jun 21 1876, died 1926, buried Templecross, played fiddle, not married.
- Edmund (Ned) [Called Edward by his son Victor] born 7 Jun 1863, died 1945, spent time in USA after Larry died but returned at some point to

¹ In order to produce the accurate information necessary for local taxation, the Tenement Act of 1842 provided for a uniform valuation of all property in Ireland, to be based on the productive capacity of land and the potential rent of buildings. The man appointed Commissioner of Valuation was Richard Griffith, a Dublin geologist, and the results of his great survey, the Primary Valuation of Ireland, were published between 1848 and 1864. It lists every landholder and every householder in Ireland. Apart from townland, address and householder's name, the particulars given are: name of the person from whom the property was leased (immediate lessor); description of the property; acreage; valuation.

Ireland. Lived in Templecross c.1937. No confirmation of his wife's name. Played pipes. His son was Victor.

- William Henry (Willie), born 28 Nov 1865, christened at Kilbixy 4 Feb 1866, confirmed at Kilbixy Sep 1882 by F. Swift,² not married. Died 1947.
- Letitia, born June 1868, married George Frederick Farrar on 21 Nov 1904, St. Catherine's Dublin. Witnesses were William Thompson and Katie Mealy. Thompson was a cousin to George Farrar. At time of marriage, George lived at 78 Donver Ave. Dublin. Letitia had large green eyes, her nephew Victor Mealy is said to have resembled her. Letitia died 8 July 1913.
- Kate Ellen, born 14 Apr 1870, played concertina and fiddle, not married. Died 1946.
- Robert, born 4 May 1872, died 18 Sep 1872, age 5 months (gastro-enteritis, informant was Eliza Mealy. We have not been able to confirm exactly where Eliza Mealy fits into the family tree)
- Richard Lewis, born 22 Oct 1873, died 14 Mar 1947, Belfast aged 74. He married twice, no children. His first wife was named Eleanor (Nellie) Williams, the other, Letitia.

The Mealy family memorial stone in Templecross Burial Ground reads:

This stone erected by Laurence Mealy in memory of his father John Mealy who died March 25th 1863 aged 79 years, and his aunt Julia³, who died Novbr 2nd 1863 aged 74 years and also his children Isabella who died August 15th 1872 aged 12 years and Louisa who died October 14 1874 aged 16 years and Robert who died September 1879 aged 5 months – also their mother Letitia Mealy who died August 20th 1900 aged 68 years. Also her husband Laurence who died April 24 1903 aged 80 years. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

Grand Children of Laurence Mealy and Letitia Lewis:

- Victor Mealy, Ballyhug, son of Ned. Was interviewed for The Long Note radio programme. Died 5 November 1988.
- Twins George Frederick and Louisa Alice Farrar, born July 30 1905 to Letitia & George Farrar. The twins were not expected to survive after their birth so they were christened almost immediately on July 31 1905; Louisa always celebrated her birthday on the day of her christening, and not on the 30th.
- Stephen, born December 26 1907 to Letitia & George Farrar.

² The Reverend F. Swift who confirmed Willie Mealy is no relation to my father, Ronald Swift whose people came from Kilkenny.

³ We are unsure as to whether the correct name here is Julia (as on the headstone) or Julian (as in Larry's notes)

Farrar Genealogy

The following is an appended listing of the Farrar Family tree, beginning at the first marriage of my Great-Grandfather, George Frederick Farrar. The intent of this listing is to show the relationship between the Farrar and Mealy families, and thus provide clarification for the reader.

It may be noticed that there was a significant difference in age between George Farrar and his first wife, Letitia. The dates shown here are correct; Letitia was significantly older than her spouse. For this, there have been no stories or explanations passed down.

GEORGE FREDERICK FARRAR- son of John (Jack) Farrar & Susan Needham. Born 24 March 1884 at Baronston Gate, Co. Westmeath, Ireland. He died 15 April 1976 in County Hospital, Mullingar Co. Westmeath Ireland.

1. LETITIA MEALY - daughter of Laurence Mealy & Letitia Lewis. Born June 1868 at Tristernagh, Co. Westmeath Ireland. She died in 1913 at Ballynacargy, Co. Westmeath, Ireland.

GEORGE FREDERICK FARRAR & LETITIA MEALY were married 21 November 1904 at St. Catherine Parish, Dublin South. They had 3 children.

- i. **LOUISA ALICE FARRAR**. Born 30 July 1905 at Ballynacargy, Co. Westmeath Ireland. Louisa died 3 December 1984 at Toronto, Ontario Canada.
 - 1.** Louisa married Hugh Yeaman in 1926 at St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Toronto. Hugh died at Toronto in April 1929. They had 1 child.
 - i) **Frances Elizabeth Yeaman**. Born 4 October 1926 at Toronto. Frances married Ronald George Swift in 1948 in Toronto. They had 3 children.
 1. **Marilyn Elizabeth** - issue
 2. **Leslie Louise** [*writer of this article – Ed.*] - issue
 3. **Kathy Diane** - issue
 - 2.** Louisa married Frederick Madill in 1935 in Toronto. Frederick died at Toronto in 1973. They had 3 children.
 - i) **Florence Letitia** - issue
 - ii) **David George** - issue
 - iii) **Charles Frederick** - issue
 - ii. **GEORGE FARRAR**. Born 30 July 1905 at Ballynacargy, Co. Westmeath Ireland. He died 15 April 1976 in County Hospital, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath Ireland. He had 1 adopted child.
 - i) **Violet** - issue
 - iii. **STEPHEN FARRAR**. Born 26 December 1907 at Ballynacargy, Co. Westmeath Ireland. He married Isabella (Bella) McGuire in Co. Westmeath, Ireland. He died on 03 June 1980 in Doncaster, England. They had 3 children.
 - i) **Letitia** - issue
 - ii) **Cecil** - issue
 - iii) **Georgina** - issue

2. MARGARET TIMMS

GEORGE FREDERICK FARRAR & MARGARET TIMMS were married about 1915. They had 7 children.

- i. **SAMUEL FARRAR.** Born in 1916 at Ballynacargy, Co. Westmeath Ireland. He married Mary (Molly) Forestal in Co. Westmeath, Ireland. He died on 03 April 2008 in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath Ireland. They had 4 children.

- i) **John Farrar** married Geraldine Huston in Ireland. They had 3 children.

1. **Clement**
 2. **Jonathan**
 3. **Diane**

- ii) **George** - issue
 - iii) **Beatrice** - issue
 - iv) **Louise** - issue

- ii. **MAY FARRAR.** - issue
- iii. **JAMES (Jimmy) FARRAR.** - issue
- iv. **ELIZABETH (LIZZIE) FARRAR.** - issue
- v. **HARRY FARRAR.** - issue
- vi. **SUSAN (SUSIE) FARRAR.** - issue
- vii. **JOHN FARRAR.** - issue