

Project #9236

August 2015

RESEARCH PLAN

OBJECTIVES

The client wishes to research Mary Oxe b. 1831 in Co Cavan, Ireland who emigrated to Australia in 1850, under the Earl Grey scheme.

To achieve this, the client has nominated goals which, once obtained, will start to piece together the life of Mary Oxe which is the ultimate objective. These goals are to ascertain whether:

- Mary Oxe stayed in the Moreton Bay area after immigration to Australia
- Her 27 May 1850 agreement with Daniel Enright lasted until the end of her contract
- She married
- She had children, and
 - Whether she is likely to have 21st century descendants
- And when she died

As the first step towards meeting these goals and achieving the objective, the client has commissioned this project, the scope of which is to establish a research plan focused on the following:

- Determine if there is any extra information behind the index entries the client supplied (see Known Facts)
- Make specific recommendations for further research

Once the client has reviewed the research plan, determinations regarding future research will be made. It should be noted that the scope of this project does not include conducting research or following the established plan until/unless such determinations are made.

KNOWN FACTS

In support of the clients' stated goals and ultimate objective the following information has been supplied as Known Facts upon which the required outcomes of this project will be built:

Fact(s)	Source	Detail
Baptism record (1831) of Mary Ox	RootsIreland website	Church Baptism Record Name: Mary Ox Date of Baptism: 26-Dec-1831 Address: Cargah Fitzsimons Parish/District: LURGAN Gender: Female County: Co. Cavan Denomination: RC Father: Philip Ox Mother: Brigid McGrath Sponsor 1: James Healy Sponsor 2: Brigid McGrath
Baptism record (1835) of Margaret Ox	RootsIreland website	Church Baptism Record Name: Margaret Ox Date of Baptism: 14-Apr-1835 Address: Cargah Fitzsimons Parish/District: LURGAN Gender: Female County: Co. Cavan Denomination: Roman Catholic Father: Philip Ox Mother: Brigid McGrath Sponsor 1: Hugh Fitzsimons Sponsor 2: Margaret Ox

Fact(s)	Source	Detail
<p>Mary Oxe went out to Sydney on the John Knox in April 1850, as part of the Earl Grey scheme. She then appears to have gone on to Moreton Bay.</p>	<p>IRISH FAMINE MEMORIAL Sydney: Famine Orphan Girl Database</p>	<p>Surname: Oxe First Name: Mary Age on arrival: 16 Native Place: Mullagh, Meath Parents: Phillip & Bridget (both dead) Religion: Roman Catholic Ship name: John Knox (Sydney Apr 1850) Workhouse: Meath, Kells Shipping: house servant, reads only, no relatives in colony. Register 2, No.730, 27 May 1850 agreement with Daniel Enright.</p>
<p>ditto</p>	<p>Findmypast 7/11/2014: Queensland Early Pioneers Index 1824-1859 Transcription</p>	<p>First Name Mary Last Name Oxe Title - Date 29 April 1850 Nationality British (Scottish/Irish) Status - Gender Female Record shipping (arrivals/departure) Source Passenger shipping lists relating to arrivals at Moreton Bay directly from overseas 1848-1859. Queensland State Archives [IMM series] Microfilm references are Z598 & Z599 at the Archives & A2.44 & A.2.45 at the John Oxley Library. Location :a2.44:37: Country Australia State Queensland Record set Queensland early pioneers Category Immigration & Travel Record collection Migration Collections from Australia & New Zealand</p>

In addition to the client-supplied Known Facts listed above, the Researcher has photographed the following information from the book “Barefoot and pregnant?: Irish famine orphans in Australia” by Trevor McClaughlin¹ whilst onsite at the State Library of Victoria. This appears to corroborate key Known Facts.

O'Neil, Mary	18	Middleton Cork	William and Anna (mother living at Middleton)	RC
Oxe, Mary	16	Mullagh Meath	Phillip and Bridget (both dead)	RC
Other:	Register 2 No. 730 27 May 1850 Agreement with Daniel Enright.			
Parsons, Margaret	15	Cluness Monaghan	Henry and Margaret (both dead)	C of E

WORKING HYPOTHESIS

By reviewing the information available at present a basic outline of Mary Oxe’s life can be theorised as follows:

- Born in rural Ireland at a time of famine and high mortality
- Parents die and Mary is placed in a workhouse
- Earl Grey scheme identifies Mary as potential migrant and transports her to Australia
- Mary becomes indentured to Daniel Enright
- Mary served the family of Daniel Enright until her indenture expires
- Mary continues life in Australia as a free woman until her death or further migration

RESEARCH STRATEGY

Whilst there are listed in the Known Facts section information provided by the clients’ own research, to ensure that the foundations of any future research carried out by others are solid, these Known Facts should be reviewed/confirmed for accuracy and logic. The Researcher is not suggesting that the data is incorrect in anyway, more that there are further questions to investigate which this information brings to the fore.

¹ Trevor McClaughlin, Barefoot and pregnant? : Irish famine orphans in Australia, Volume 2, (Melbourne : The Genealogical Society of Victoria, c1991- [2001]), page 268.

For example the following points should be reviewed as they raise questions which could possibly be simply answered nonetheless they should be investigated:

- Brigid McGrath appears as both the mother and sponsor of Mary Ox (Baptism record)
- Margaret Ox appears as her own sponsor (Baptism record)
- “Passenger shipping lists relating to arrivals at Moreton Bay directly from overseas 1848-1859” is cited as part of a source; however it is known that the *John Knox* called at Newcastle and Sydney only. This citation appears to be the only mention of Moreton Bay (at this stage of the research) and should be considered but not thought of as fact, yet. Likewise Moreton Bay should not be discounted as a destination for Mary as there were Irish orphans who travelled overland to that area from Sydney.
The FindMyPast record set cited is a collection of 75 sources; findmypast.co.uk describes the collection as *“This index was a Bicentennial Project of the Queensland Family History Society (1988), endorsed by the Queensland Committee of the Australian Bicentennial Authority. The index contains 156,760 references to approximately 50,000 names, taken from 75 sources located in Brisbane. It has been compiled from primary sources and contains references to those who were living in what is now Queensland (former Moreton Bay Region) prior to separation from New South Wales at the end of 1859.”*²
- The geography should also be queried; the county associated with baptisms referred to in the Known Facts (Co. Cavan) differs from that of the workhouse (Co. Meath). The counties share a border.
- If the year of baptism of Mary is correct (1831), then she would be 19 in 1850 (the year of arrival in Australia), however the shipping list entry notes her as 16.

Following the review of existing information, research can be taken forward. It is of use in scenarios such as this to step logically through the timeline. Therefore it is suggested that future research of Mary Oxe should start in Ireland (for her early years), continue through her voyage and relocation to Australia and end at her death. As research is conducted opportunity to ‘flesh-out’ the story further will arise.

The *John Knox* arrived in Sydney on 29 April 1850 having departed on 6 December 1849. Known Facts direct us to the workhouse of Kells, Co. Meath in Mary’s listing and so it seems a logical step to investigate the records of that establishment for any pertinent information relating to Mary prior to her departure date. It should be understood that the *John Knox* departed from the English port of Plymouth³ meaning that Mary would have had to have been transported to that port from Kells which would have taken time i.e. she would have to have departed Kells

² “Queensland Early Pioneers”, findmypast.co.uk, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/queensland-early-pioneers>)

³ “Emigration from Plymouth”, Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier, 08 December 1849, findmypast.co.uk, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000876%2f18491208%2f083>: accessed 16 August 2015) p. 4, col. 7; citing original

workhouse well before 6 December 1849.

Information of interest in the workhouse records would be explanation(s) as to why she found herself in the workhouse in the first place, when her parents died and how long she had been an 'inmate'. It is also possible that Mary's sister, Margaret⁴ was at the same workhouse, similar searches for her name should be undertaken as well.

Preservation microfilms of the Minute Books for Kells Poor Law Union covering the period up to the departure of the *John Knox* have been located at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah⁵. These can be viewed at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah or ordered for viewing at local Family History Centers⁶.

Shipping was reported in newspapers of the time and therefore worth reviewing for details of the departure of the *John Knox*. For example the following is taken from the Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier of 8 December 1849.⁷

EMIGRATION FROM PLYMOUTH.—PLYMOUTH, DEC. 3.
—On Friday last a number of Irish girls arrived in one of the Cork steamers at Plymouth, and were landed at the Emigration Depot, under the superintendence of Mr. Postlethwaite, the agent to Messrs. J. Marshall and Co., of Birch-lane. To-day a fresh batch arrived, and were also landed at the depot, the whole number being 285. The girls have been taken from the different unions in Ireland, and are those who have borne the best characters, and are the healthiest and cleanest. To-day 145 of those who first arrived were shipped on board the *John Knox*, an emigrant ship chartered by the Government, where they will be provided with a free passage to Sydney. On board the *Reliance*, another vessel chartered by Government, 237 married couples and single men were also shipped to-day, and they are likewise destined for Sydney. On the 6th the *Glentanner* is expected to arrive, when the remainder of the Irish girls, at present living at the depot, will be sent off, along with any fresh arrivals that may take place in the interval.

⁴ See Known Facts - Baptism record (1835) of Margaret Ox

⁵ Kells Poor Law Union, "Board of Guardians minute books, 1839-1917", "Minute books 21 Mar 1846 - 24 May 1851". FHL microfilm 1597254. (<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/611761>). Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah

⁶ <https://familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator>

⁷ "Emigration from Plymouth", Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier, 08 December 1849, <http://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000876%2f18491208%2f083>: accessed 16 August 2015) p. 4, col. 7; citing original

Similarly, the ships' arrival was reported in The Sydney Morning Herald of 30 April 1850.⁸

April 29.—John Knox, ship, 1194 tons
Captain Davidson, from Plymouth the 6th December, and the Cape of Good Hope the 10th March. Passengers—Mrs. Greenup and five children, Mr. Bell, Miss Flower, Miss Brodie, Miss Dewind, 344 government immigrants, and Mr. Richard Greenup, surgeon superintendent.

www.irishfaminememorial.org reports some information of “Famine Orphan Girls” once they had arrived in Australia. The website has lists of ships and individuals and holds data on Mary Oxe as per the client supplied Known Fact.

The website states that *“Much of the material in the database, particularly for those who landed in NSW, is provided by the Board of Immigration in State Records of New South Wales [SRNSW] and appears on the ‘shipping lists’”*. Therefore it is not expected that shipping lists alone will provide more detail (although they should be checked to ensure no significant piece of information was left off the transcription). The shipping lists can be viewed either onsite at the State Records of New South Wales’ reading room in Kingswood, NSW or via the ‘Online’ microfilm of shipping lists. The *John Knox* appears on microfilm reel 2136, [4/4786] p.577⁹.

“Register 2 No. 730, 27 May 1850 agreement with Daniel Enright”¹⁰ should be followed up. This information is reported by the website as *“Register... 2... held in SRNSW 4/4715-4717 is the ‘Register and applications for orphans’ and gives information about their early days in the colony.”* This appears to be the best lead for information relating to Mary Oxe and should be followed up, again at State Records of New South Wales’ reading room in Kingswood, NSW¹¹. This source is on microfilm only and not available online.

Consulting the “Now & Then” eNewsletter published by State Records New South Wales (edition 67 – April 2014) it is found that “4/4715-17” relates to Immigration Agent; Registers

⁸ “Shipping Intelligence, Arrivals”, The Sydney Morning Herald, 30 April 1850, trove.nla.gov.au, (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/12917534?searchTerm=john%20knox&searchLimits=l-decade=185||l-year=1850||l-month=4>: accessed 16 August 2015), p. 2, col. 1; citing original

⁹ “‘Online’ microfilm of shipping lists”, digital images, State Records of New South Wales (http://srwww.records.nsw.gov.au/ebook/list.asp?Page=NRS5316/4_4786/John%20Knox_29%20Apr%201850/4_478600518.jpg&No=11 : accessed 16 August 2015), John Knox, 29 Apr 1850, stamped p. 587, line 217, Mary Oxe, age 16.

¹⁰ “Famine Orphan Girl”, database, Irish Famine Memorial, (<http://www.irishfaminememorial.org/orphans/database/?surName=oxe&firstName=&age=0&nativePlace=&parents=&religion=0&ship=0> : accessed 16 August 2015), entry for Mary Oxe

¹¹ Immigration Agent, “Registers and indexes of applications for orphans 1848-51”. NRS 5240, 4/4715-17; microfilm copy SR Reel 3111. State Records of New South Wales, Kingswood, NSW

and indexes of applications for orphans 1848-51. State Records NSW describes these records thus *“Each entry records the progressive number and date of the application, name and address of the applicant, type of employment offered, and result of the application.”* Rather disappointingly, also stated is *“Note: Applications have not survived”*.¹²

It is hoped that, whilst the actual application no longer exists, the register and index of the applications provide information which will assist to progress the research.

Focus should be placed on Daniel Enright in an attempt to ascertain his whereabouts as it seems likely that Mary Oxe would be found (if not in the same house) close by. Whilst conducting these searches it should be kept in mind that the state of Queensland (where Moreton Bay is located) was proclaimed in December 1859, this *may* make locating records for 1850 more difficult. Searches should be made in records held by New South Wales and Queensland to ensure no potential sources are missed.

Sources to review for mentions of Daniel Enright include (but are not limited to) the following. At this point it is prudent to note that many of these sources are available online at websites such as Ancestry, FindMyPast and those run by the various state records organisations; however searches should not be restricted to those sources only.

- Australia, Government Gazettes, 1853-1899
- Australia Newspaper Vital Notices, 1851-1997
- New South Wales, Australia Historical Electoral Rolls, 1842-1864
- New South Wales, Australia, Returns of the Colony, 1822-1857
- New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Naturalization, 1849-1903
- Sands Directories: Sydney and New South Wales, Australia, 1858-1933
- New South Wales, Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages, 1856-
- New South Wales, Early Church Records, 1788-1855
- New South Wales Will Books 1800-1952
- Queensland, Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages, 1856-
- Queensland, Church Records, Baptisms and Burials, 1829-1856
- Queensland, Church Records, Marriages, 1839-1856
- Queensland Wills Index 1857-1940
- Queensland Early Pioneers
- Queensland Government Gazette
- Queensland Land Orders 1861-1874
- Queensland Land Records 1856-1859

¹² “Now & Then” *eNewsletter of State Records of New South Wales*, Edition 67 – April 2014, (<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/now-then-eneewsletter/now-then-67-april-2014#spotlight-on-irish-orphans> : accessed 16 August 2015)

Further shipping and migration records (including Naturalisation) should not be overlooked and newspapers should also be reviewed. The National Library of Australia via trove.nla.gov.au holds digitised national, state and local newspapers from 1803 to 1954.

The National Archives (nationalarchives.gov.uk) have produced two guides which may be of use to help guide research on the topic of migration to Australia, they are:

- Emigrants - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/emigrants/>
- Emigration - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/emigration/>

With the aid of these guides it may be of interest to located records pertaining to the “Emigration Depot” at Plymouth mentioned in the article of the Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier of 8 December 1849 (refer page 7).

There also exist some record collections which are not often remembered but can prove to be extremely useful when trying to locate an individual. These include collections which relate to unclaimed letters, police gazettes, postal directories, criminals and convicts. It should be noted that the 1828 census is the only complete Australian census that has survived to present day¹³.

The Researcher can confirm that entries for a “Daniel Enright” do exist in records relating to Australian convicts and that whilst further investigation must be undertaken, one specific entry relates to a Certificate of Freedom granted in April 1846 to a 21 year old native of Limerick, Ireland.¹⁴

In the same manner as mentioned above, searches should be made to identify and locate Mary Oxe in Australia. Even if she never married or had children, her death should be recorded somewhere. This is dependent on her remaining in Australia of course; further migration (including a return to England or Ireland) should not be ruled out if she is not located within the records of Australia.

It would seem logical to search for Mary Oxe and Daniel Enright together as one would expect for their lives to be intertwined, at least for a time (Known Facts support this hypothesis).

¹³ “About this collection”, “Australian Census Records”, ancestry.com.au (<http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/group/AUSCENSUS> : accessed 18 August 2015),

¹⁴ “New South Wales, butts of convicts' certificates of freedom 1827-1867”, NRS 12210, reels 982-1027 & 604, State Records Authority of New South Wales, findmypast.co.uk (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=anz%2fauscertooffreedom%2f00017709> : accessed 17 August 2015), entry for Daniel Enright, Prisoner No. 40/322

As with all genealogical research projects future searches are built on the outcomes of prior searches (whether positive or negative results are obtained) and it is these which determine the exact path that the research will take next. Negative search results should not be discarded and should be considered and analysed in the same manner as positive ones. This Research Strategy should be used as a guide to finding initial records upon which further strategies should be built.

EXCLUSIONS

The client has categorically stated that *“the Walter Charles Oxx from the UK who turns up in the early 20th century on those sites [Ancestry and FindMyPast]”* is of no interest and therefore excluded from the scope of this project and any future research.

SOURCES & REFERENCES

The following list is a compilation of the footnotes found in this document which contain the sources identified and references made by the Researcher in constructing this Research Plan. They are reproduced here for ease of future reference.

1. Trevor McClaughlin, Barefoot and pregnant? : Irish famine orphans in Australia, Volume 2, (Melbourne : The Genealogical Society of Victoria, c1991- [2001]), page 268.
2. “Queensland Early Pioneers”, findmypast.co.uk, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/queensland-early-pioneers>)
3. “Emigration from Plymouth”, Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier, 08 December 1849, findmypast.co.uk, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000876%2f18491208%2f083>: accessed 16 August 2015) p. 4, col. 7; citing original
4. See Known Facts - Baptism record (1835) of Margaret Ox
5. Kells Poor Law Union, “Board of Guardians minute books, 1839-1917”, “Minute books 21 Mar 1846 - 24 May 1851”. FHL microfilm 1597254. (<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/611761>). Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah
6. <https://familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator>

7. “Emigration from Plymouth”, Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier, 08 December 1849, findmypast.co.uk, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000876%2f18491208%2f083>: accessed 16 August 2015) p. 4, col. 7; citing original
8. “Shipping Intelligence, Arrivals”, The Sydney Morning Herald, 30 April 1850, trove.nla.gov.au, (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/12917534?searchTerm=john%20knox&searchLimits=-decade=185||-year=1850||-month=4>: accessed 16 August 2015), p. 2, col. 1; citing original
9. “‘Online’ microfilm of shipping lists”, digital images, State Records of New South Wales (http://srwww.records.nsw.gov.au/ebook/list.asp?Page=NRS5316/4_4786/John%20Knox_29%20Apr%201850/4_478600518.jpg&No=11 : accessed 16 August 2015), John Knox, 29 Apr 1850, stamped p. 587, line 217, Mary Oxe, age 16.
10. “Famine Orphan Girl”, database, Irish Famine Memorial, (<http://www.irishfaminememorial.org/orphans/database/?surName=oxe&firstName=&age=0&nativePlace=&parents=&religion=0&ship=0> : accessed 16 August 2015), entry for Mary Oxe
11. Immigration Agent, “Registers and indexes of applications for orphans 1848-51”. NRS 5240, 4/4715-17; microfilm copy SR Reel 3111. State Records of New South Wales, Kingswood, NSW
12. “Now & Then” eNewsletter of State Records of New South Wales, Edition 67 – April 2014, (<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/now-then-eneewsletter/now-then-67-april-2014#spotlight-on-irish-orphans> : accessed 16 August 2015)
13. “About this collection”, “Australian Census Records”, ancestry.com.au (<http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/group/AUSCENSUS> : accessed 18 August 2015),
14. “New South Wales, butts of convicts' certificates of freedom 1827-1867”, NRS 12210, reels 982-1027 & 604, State Records Authority of New South Wales, findmypast.co.uk (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=anz%2fauscertoffreedom%2f00017709> : accessed 17 August 2015), entry for Daniel Enright, Prisoner No. 40/322