

Genealogy Basics – Family History, Educators in My Tobin Family

By Joe Petrie

INTRODUCTION

Many Genealogy organizations have the word History or Historical in the title. For example, Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association (CBGHA) and Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador (FHSNL) are a couple of organizations that use the terms.

In a Genealogy Basic article about the United Kingdom and Ireland web site (Genuki), I used the Genuki site's definition of Family History. Suggest that you read it. The article is in cbgen Records\Research. It is labeled "Genealogy Basics – An Amazing Irish Web Site". My title of the article indicates that the Genuki site had a fantastic Getting Started link. Other tabs on the site were not reviewed.

My simple view of Family History is: If the author includes non-verifiable oral history, it is a Family History document. My Register Reports in Records\Family are Family History Reports.

Please note that a report by a paid professional genealogist often will only include verifiable facts. Some professionals go beyond one verifiable fact. For example, members of the Association of Professional Genealogists try to verify using two verifiable sources.

Also, please remember that most genealogy teachers encourage students to start with relatives. A few teachers even say that the facts should be verified. Some teachers start on-line with Census records. Latest US Census records are for 1940. Canada Census records are for 1921.

BACKGROUND

I'll cover eight of generations of my Tobin direct line family or siblings who taught (or still teach) starting with Patrick Tobin who immigrated from Gowran, Kilkenny, Ireland to Northern Bay, Bay DeVerde, Newfoundland in the early 1800s.

A number of Tobin cousins provided oral history.

Generation 1 – Patrick Tobin

Patrick was my 3 great-grandfather.

Edward-Vincent Chafe was the major source of official information. He is the CEO of Chafe Genealogic Services. His contributions to Newfoundland and Labrador Genealogical research are too long to mention.

Ed is a certificated Canadian Genealogist. Ed provided Tobin ancestors' Christening and Marriage information before it was published in Newfoundland Grand Banks database and later published in the official Newfoundland and Labrador web site. Ed has published books on Northern Bay. He taught in Northern Bay.

Another source of the first Generation and family is Ancestry: Missing Friends, page 378 where Patrick, his wife Judith Keefe, and some sons are identified by Michael. a son. Specifically, Michael identified his brothers Richard and Patrick. His brother James was not identified.

Oral History: He was employed as a teacher. My assumptions: During the fishing season, he probably fished. During the Seal Hunts, he probably went on the Ice to hunt.

Generation 2

Richard Tobin, son of Patrick and Judith Keefe, is my 2 great-grandfather. Oral history: he was a teacher. Supposedly he taught at Blackhead, Newfoundland. My assumptions: During the fishing season, he probably fished. During the Seal Hunts, he probably went on the Ice to hunt.

Generation 3

I can't prove that any of Richard's children taught. I have researched his children but can't find records for his daughters. Most sons are listed in directories as fishermen. I wonder whether one or more of the daughters became Nuns and taught.

Generation 4

One of Richard's sons, Richard Francis Tobin, was my great-grandfather. He was a Sea Captain who operated out of Channel, St Pierre and North Sydney. Richard Francis' family was really into education.

His son, my grandfather, William Richard was a Barrister in North Sydney and Glace Bay. Grandfather was member of the School Committee in Glace Bay.

Two of grandfather's siblings were Sisters of Charity in Halifax. The older sister was Sister Maria Loretta (Mary Elizabeth Tobin). Sister Loretta's mission was the care of elders and the care of sisters who taught etc. She is buried in North Sydney, NS.

Grandfather's younger sister was Sister Joseph Aloysia (Annie Bridget Tobin). She taught in Nova Scotia, Bermuda and Boston, Massachusetts. She taught grade 5 at St. Patrick's School in Roxbury, Boston when she passed away. She is buried in Needham, MA. A story about her is in "Genealogy Basics – A North Sydney Tobin Family Family History". John W McCormack, a student of hers, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives gave her a 50th Anniversary gift of an all-expenses paid trip for 2 to Washington DC. The Speaker took them to the White House where they met Harry Truman the President of the USA. President Truman had them sit in his chair in the oval office.

Another sibling was a Nurse in Massachusetts and New York. She married a New York City Judge.

The final sibling, John ran the family business in North Sydney after his father died. John's family moved to Massachusetts where he managed for A&P (Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company). His son, Rev. Benedict J. Tobin OSB, (Pierce John, Jackie) was a Benedictine Priest who taught Latin at St. Anselm College, in Manchester, NH. One of John's daughters married a City of Boston school teacher.

Finally, Richard Francis's niece Allie Ahern became a judge and was a Recipient of the Order of Canada.

Generation 5

My grandfather, William Richard, had two daughters who taught. My aunt Mary Aloysia (May) Tobin taught French for about 50 years in Halifax and Musquodoboit. My Aunt May was legally blind since age 12. Every 3 years, she spent the summer with my family and taught me French. She was amazing! When she retired, she discovered that she had earned enough credits at Laval to be awarded a Masters Degree.

My mother taught in Glace Bay for 3 years before she migrated to the Massachusetts. Before I went to college, Mom often was a substitute teacher at the Oakdale School in Dedham. It was an easy walk from our house. Because she never graduated from college, she could not teach full-time in Massachusetts.

Generation 6

I was a teaching Fellow at Boston College where I studied for a Doctorate in Economics. When I earned my Masters, I passed a required French exam. At that time, the student could not take anything into the classroom. I thank my Aunt May who spent hours teaching me French. (Two languages were required for the Doctorate. I did not pass the other language requirement.)

I graduated from St Anselm College a year after my class with a degree in Economics and Business. Due to illness, I had to leave college in my first semester of my Junior year. I spent the Spring Semester at a computer school in Boston. Later in 1960, I was a Special Student at Stonehill College. St. Anselm College accepted my credits and I graduated in June of 1962.

Sometime after I left Boston College, I applied for jobs at NASA. Eventually, I used my computer training at NASA and at the US Department of Transportation.

With my supervisors' permission, I taught as an Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at 2 colleges. When I retired from USDOT after 35 years of service, I taught as an Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at MassBay Community College for 10 years.

Generation 7

Our youngest son David graduated Summa Cum Laud from Framingham State University. He was a Doctoral Candidate and Teaching Fellow at Iowa University. He has a Master Degree in Communications.

After a number of years as a manager at a publishing company where for the last few years he was the Director of Advertising, he left for a Director position at Vermont Academy.

Generation 8

Lisa, our granddaughter, graduated from Brandeis University and from Lesley University. At Brandeis she majored in French. She taught in France for a year. Next Fall she will be a teacher in grade 4 in Everett MA. She is bilingual in French and Italian.

Summary

Most of the above information is Oral History. Why? It is not verified.

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Your corrections, comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please Email me at:

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AB (Economics and Business – St. Anselm College, 1962)

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Student at other Colleges: (Special Student, Stonehill College. Northeastern University Federal Government Sponsored MPA Program}, and Newbury College (Norwood Campus)

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Please note that Friends of Irish Research is the repository for my published genealogy articles in the *Newfoundland Ancestor*; and in *EZINE*, the electronic magazine of the Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association. (Please see friendsofirishresearch.org specifically: the Tabs for Publications and Joe's Free Web Sites.) Also, please note that I am the author of the Genealogy Basics Series.

Membership in Ireland Reaching Out (irelandxo.com) is free. It has an Electronic Magazine named XO Chronicles (irelandxo.com/irelandxo/history-and-genealogy). One of the three XO Chronicles Series is XO People. XO People focus on the Irish Diaspora (people who immigrated and never returned permanently). XO People has seven of my XO People articles about ancestors. My relatives are: John Cummings (Thurles Parish, Tipperary, Newfoundland and Langan, Cape Breton Island); Patrick Tobin (Gowran Parish, Kilkenny and Newfoundland); and Judith Keeffe (Gowran Parish, Kilkenny and Newfoundland). My wife's relatives are; John McGrath (Ballyphilip, Kilcockan, Kockanore, Waterford); Helena O'Brien (Fermoy, Youghal, Cork, Boston); Peter Connolly (Kilcummin, Galway, Boston) and Mary A (Nee) Connolly (Kilcummin, Galway, Boston).