

Researching Martin J Healey of Newfoundland (Martin J Haley of Lingan)

By Joe Petrie

The title probably should have been “Researching Martin J. Haley of Lingan also known as Martin J. Healey of Blackhead, Newfoundland“.

For background: Periodically, I read Ancestry’s Genforum and Rootsweb for Cape Bretoners. Sometimes, because I have records for the surname in my database, I volunteer to help research the family. For Haleys for example, I had over 50 records for individuals with the Haley surname. (That does not include spouses and children of the Haley female family members.)

Initially, I sent the client the following information from the Automated Census of Canada; for 1901, Bridgeport NS pages 29 and 30 specifically to ensure that I found the correct Haley family.

Haley Martin	M	Head	M	Aug 8	1851	49
Haley Mary	F	Wife	M	Aug 15	1852	48
Haley Margret	F	Daughter	S	Jan 16	1877	24
Haley Edward	M	Son	S	Apr 15	1878	22
Haley Leonard	M	Son	S	Jun 22	1879	21
Haley Annie	F	Daughter	S	Nov 26	1881	19
Haley William	M	Son	S	Nov 22	1883	17
Haley Cathrine	F	Daughter	S	Mar 15	1886	15
Haley Mary	F	Daughter	S	Nov 15	1888	12
Haley Martin	M	Son	S	Nov 15	1888	12

The client responded that I had the correct family and further that the goal was to determine where in Newfoundland Martin was from and where his ancestors came from in Ireland. The client eventually found both from a cousin in Newfoundland. (I can’t take credit for that information.)

Please note that both can be difficult – due to the paucity of records in both places. Connecting a Newfoundlander to a place in Ireland is often complicated by the fact that the individual left Ireland before the RC parishes began recording vital information (Christenings and Marriages) in the 1790s. Sometimes I simply cannot find either or both. For example, my Hogan and Tobin families from Northern Bay Newfoundland left Ireland at a time period when only a few RC Parishes were recording Vitals. (They practiced their religion in hiding.)

Sometimes, especially in Nova Scotia, grave stones contain information on date and place of birth. They often show a name change like my ancestor Thomas MacKey whose descendants surname was Mackie.

I searched for Martin J. Haley and his wife Mary Campbell, a Cape Breton native, in NovaScotiaGenealogy.org, FamilySearch.org and cbgen.org. I did not find many records.

I searched for their children in the same places. I think that I found nearly all of them.

Catherine's (Kate) and Annie's christenings were in FamilySearch's Community Trees for the Antigonish Catholic Diocese. Also, Annie was in my database – she married Daniel Merlin whose mother's maiden name was Petrie. In addition, Edward Patrick was in my database because he married Margaret I. Petrie.

My notes from NovaScotiaGenealogy.org for the other family members follow:

- Margaret's birth record.
- Leonard who married Annie Carroll is not listed but his son William David Carl's birth is.
- William David's marriage to Dorothy McEachern.
- Martin James death record. (His twin Mary is listed on the death certificate.)

After I provided the client with the information, the client shared a very recently acquired Register Report for Healeys from Blackhead, Conception Bay, Newfoundland which included the Cape Breton ancestor Martin. Martin's Healey family was from County Wexford, Ireland.

I found Martin Healey's death and marriage records in NovaScotiaGenealogy.org . He died in December 1911 (probably the 24th) and is buried in Ocean Av. Cemetery in Dominion. He married Mary Campbell on January 25, 1874. His parents were William and Annie. He was born in Blackhead Newfoundland. Her parents were John and Catherine. Both Martin and Mary were listed as being from Lingan.

Finally, I wonder how many of Cape Breton's Haleys are really Healey descendants from Blackhead, Newfoundland and County Wexford, Ireland.

For a postscript: I do not charge for research. Usually, all my research is assigned by one of the Chairmen of the Friends of Irish Research (a CBGHA affiliate). The eight volunteers at the Friends of Irish Research volunteer our services fee-free. Donations to the organization are accepted and are used exclusively to purchase materials for our library, especially digital books.

Also, in the small world category, Richard Tobin, my great, great maternal grandfather of Northern Bay, Newfoundland who was originally from Gowram, Kilkenny, Ireland, once lived (and I suspect even taught) in Blackhead.

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