

CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY 2020

2014 My Most Elusive Ancestor

by Marilyn Long

My Most Elusive Ancestor

Tristram Moore, convicted rebel, six-foot tall, stout made, with dark ruddy complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes(1) arrived in the Colony in 1802 on *Atlas 2*. He spent the rest of his life with Catherine Johnson of the First Fleet *Prince of Wales*. She died in 1838, and he a year to the day later. They are buried together at Wilberforce Cemetery. I am descended from their first daughter, Margaret Jane Moore.

For too long this is all I knew about Tristram Moore together with some information from: Peter Mayberry's site "Irish Convicts to NSW 1788-1849" which revealed he was 35 when transported, tried at Newtown (Limavady) in Co Londonderry his native place, DOB 1767 and he was a Rebel with a sentence of Life(2); NSW State Archives Colonial Secretary's Correspondence 1788-1825 had four references for "Tristram Moore "Atlas", Oct 1802" including "1810 Feb 15 Apothecary to General Hospital Dispensary"(3).

His Irish background pre-Colony was a mystery. Aged 35 he was transported after near half his life in County Derry. I needed to know more about my elusive ancestor's life in Ireland – did he have a family, what was he like, what was his ancestry?

The lack of Irish BD&M records is a difficulty so a researcher in Northern Ireland was engaged for a genealogical investigation(4). A Report was provided including information only accessible in person at PRONI in Belfast.

It was left to me to interpret and calculate lineages. For two years I placed the information, and much more from my own research, into a date-ordered table with two columns - Carrowreagh and Carrowclare - to show who was where and when. These are the two townlands in County Derry, near Limavady, which were occupied largely by Moores over 200 years.

The table was to see if a story emerged and indeed it did.

I realised that land records would be the key when the Report included an exciting document - a 1700 Land Indenture for half the townland of Carrowreagh with the name Tristram Moore on it(5). Subsequent land and other documents expanded information about the Moores. And surveys from the late 1700s through the 1800s augmented the land records: "1796 Flax Growers List"(6); "Tithe Applotment Books 1823-1837" (1826 County Derry)(7) which listed the occupiers liable for the tithe on agricultural land; "Names of Householders listed in 1831 Census Returns for the County of Londonderry"(8) which only listed predominantly male heads of households - women are hidden in this story; "Names listed in the Printed Griffiths [Tenement] Valuation 1858-9 for County Londonderry"(9) which was the first survey of property ownership in Ireland, conducted by the Ireland Valuation Office between 1848 and 1864.

The cross-referencing was crucial to devising the relationships of the Moores based on the lots they occupied by lease and the trail of succession through the seven lots of Valuation Revision Books of Griffiths 1858 up to 1933(10). The changing names and other details were crossed out and new information written adjoining in different colour inks. The succession on lots was complicated and non linear as many left Ireland for America and elsewhere, and leases often passed to siblings, nephews, cousins and others. I diligently tracked the Moores in the Revisions for the townlands. Identifying specific people and differentiating the ones with the same name(11) was aided by already having some Wills and more arrived with the Report. I could match names and relationships in Wills giving date of

death with the same names replaced in the Revisions in the same time frame. At one stage there were five Williams to clarify.

From this process of listing records and analysing the data (all 109 pages) some probable lineages amongst these Moores emerged. Some were surprisingly different to those previously supposed.

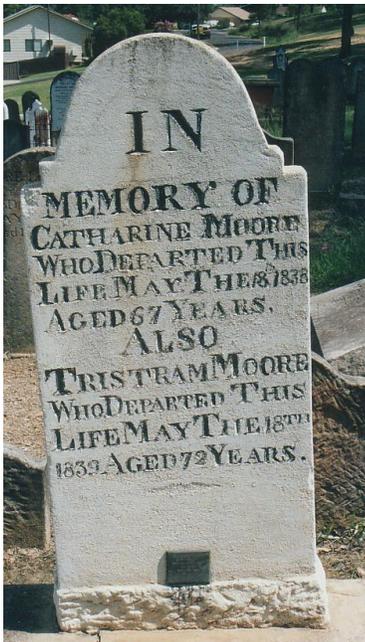
Now I have some understanding of Tristram's Irish background. My Moores were plausibly in Londonderry City by mid 1600s and moved east into the townlands of Carrowreagh and Carrowclare to take up land after the 1641 Rebellion forced landholders to offer good terms to attract tenants(12).

James Moore of the 1700 Land Indenture in Carrowreagh(13), already in occupation by then, was likely born of Edward in 1643 in Londonderry City(14). The three "lives" named included his eldest son Tristram(15). On the latter's death he was replaced by his grandson Tristram on 3rd January 1768. A witness, Tristram Moore, on a 1769 document is likely the son between(16). Now I have five generations from pre-1643 as well as lines of uncles and cousins.

The Moore family was extensive and occupied much of the two townlands. They seemed closely intertwined judging by land succession and families dwelling together. The two townlands in the Vale of Myroe have fertile land good for crops of all kinds. The Moores were primarily in agriculture and the weaving of linen(17).

I don't know whether Tristram had a wife and children in Ireland. I do have two pages from a letter identifiable as written by Tristram Moore(18).

The letter can be dated to 1806 from mention of the river (Hawkesbury) flooding and destroying crops and creating a dire situation for the Colony(19), and the writer stating he has been in the Colony upward of four years. The writing matches a signature of Tristram as witness to a marriage in 1809(20). He states he is the only apothecary at Sydney Hospital. He is writing to his family asking why they haven't replied to his letters and he sounds quite upset. It isn't clear to whom he is writing – he addresses "either" – siblings, uncles, wife, children? He doesn't know "for what his sentence was given as (he) had no form of trial".



The pathos in his own words reveals the person and I also now have some knowledge of his descent and how these Moores lived in Ireland from the late 1600s to the early 1900s. My ancestor Tristram Moore is no longer as elusive as he once was.

Grave of Tristram Moore 1767-1839 and Catherine Johnson 1770-1838, Wilberforce Cemetery, NSW.

FOOTNOTES

- 1:** From an article by George Rude in Historical Studies, Vol 16 (16:62) p 17-35, Australia, 27 January 2009 – “Early Irish Rebels in Australia”. And NSW State Archives and Records: Convict Index 1791-1873 [4/4430; Reel 774, Page 106], dated 31st January, 1818. And “From Tents to Stone” compiled and written by Valerie J. Griffiths - about the first Sydney Hospital in the Colony of NSW, Australia, pp 26-7.
- 2:** Peter Mayberry site – Irish Convicts to NSW 1788 to 1849
<http://members.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/cgi-bin/irish/irish.cgi?requestType=Search2&id=21612>
- 3:** Colonial Secretary Correspondence - http://colsec.records.nsw.gov.au/m/F39c_mo-08.htm#P3508_119781 Detail is also mentioned in “Unfinished Revolution” by Anne-Maree Whitaker (Sydney 1994) - Page 182 – “Tristram Moore (Atlas II) has spent most of the last 7 years as apothecary at the General Hospital dispensary”. I found no record of his having graduated as an Apothecary in the lists of the 1790s relating to the training in Dublin as was done then. Possibly a relative was an Apothecary and he picked up some skills which were of use in the Colony in the absence of any trained Apothecary being available. In a document post 1815 he was referred to as “doctor” and also served on 2 coroner juries. He was well considered in his community on the Hawkesbury and seems to have been looked on as a figure of authority.
- 4:** Robert J Williams (www.ulsterancestry.com) with Pauline Loughran BA Hons MA (Irish History).
- 5:** PRONI ref D/1550 (Doc 3 - 7 pgs) – Public Record Office of Northern Ireland <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>
- 6:** Flax Growers 1796 List – extract from the Report p 44. It can be found by searching on the Failte Romhat site by John Hayes <https://www.failteromhat.com/flax1796.php> and <https://www.failteromhat.com/flax1796.htm> And also on the Bill MacAfee site <http://www.billmacafee.com/1796flaxgrowerslist/1796flaxgrowersderry.pdf> [T3419].
- 7:** Tithe Applotment Books for Derry - PRONI ref Fin/5/A/159
- 8:** 1831 Householders Census Returns - I have used the excel and copies of the originals from the Macafee site as pages 5-6 of the Report with PRONI ref CEN/5A/6 doesn't match the original (some names transcribed wrongly).
<http://www.billmacafee.com/1831census.htm> (There is a PRONI ref of PRONI MIC/5A/5-9B which I cannot locate)
- 9:** Griffiths Valuation 1858 for County Derry <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/> by name or <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml?action=placeSearch> by place (townland)
- 10:** Valuation Revision Books - <https://apps.proni.gov.uk/Val12B/ImageResult.aspx>
- 11:** Both an aid and a difficulty of family history research!
- 12:** Bill Macafee site <http://www.billmacafee.com/sperrins/backgroundpapers/coderryhistoricalbackground.pdf> “County Londonderry, Historical Background Paper-the Plantation of Ulster & creation of the county of Londonderry” p 5.
- 13:** PRONI ref D/1550 (Doc 3 - 7 pgs) - 1700 Land Indenture 04 April 1700.
- 14:** There are 31 records for Moore in “The Register of Derry Cathedral 1642-1703” database on Find My Past, a mix of BD&M. I was also provided with a copy of film from the Family History Library for Templemore baptisms for Moore – total of 16 - which don't exactly match the FMP records.
- 15:** Lives on Land Indentures - these Indentures / Leases were made between the landowner / lessor and lessees in the form of three lives / persons named on the lease along with rents, fees and obligations. As a life/person died they were replaced by another for a fee, and generally by a relative. The life was often a child as this made for a longer lease connected to their name. The new life /person had to be added within three months of the death of the one they were replacing.
- 16:** 01 Aug 1769 – on Find My Past “Crossle Genealogical Abstracts Parcel 1A 32-22 v. M. National Archives of Ireland – Derry Wills – Life Events BDM”. The document is for replacing a life on the 1700 Land Indenture. Crossle is an invaluable resource for Northern Ireland genealogy.
- 17:** Refer to Note 4 for The Flax Growers List 1796.

18: With the Report - a collection with reference number D1550 at PRONI is named as MARTIN, KING, FRENCH & INGRAM Papers and the collection includes D1550/155 Papers relating to Moore families of Carrowclare, Carrowreagh and Crindle and includes PRONI D/1550/155/5 "Part of a letter from [un-named] transported for life to [?Australia] and working as apothecary, N.D. [late 18th or early 19th century". *NOTE: 2 pages exist from the middle of the letter and the Researcher noted "in Moore family Bible".*

19: The Hawkesbury flooded three times in 1806 in March, August and October.
<http://hawkesburyheritage.blogspot.com/2013/06/hawkesbury-river-floods.html>

20: NSW BD&M Records – Marriage of Richard Ridge and Margaret Foster at St Phillips Sydney – Refs 8/1809/V1809 5 and 890/1809 V1809890. This was sighted on film at the Society of Australian Genealogists