

The family of Peter Melvin (c1813 – 1877) of County Mayo

Generation One

1. Peter MELVIN (son of Andrew MELVIN (of Knockmore)), d. Jun Qtr. 1877 in Birmingham, b. 1813?. When Peter and Winifred married in 1838 in the Parish of Backs their residence was given as Burnswood. The witnesses to the wedding were Pat Melvin and Mary Reddington. They had five children baptised in Cloonyvollow, Kilbelfad, Ireland before moving to Birmingham where John Martin and Patrick were born. Only Thomas seems to have survived to adulthood of the children born in Ireland. In 1851 they were living at Court 9, John Street, Birmingham Peter was aged 50, a labourer; Winifred was aged 35 a washerwoman and Thos. their son was aged 12 a shop lad, all born in Ireland. The 1861 census finds the family at Court 3, 1 Lichfield Street, Birmingham. Peter is a bricklayers labourer aged 50, Winifred is a 41 year old hawker, Thomas is aged 20 also a hawker all born in Ireland, John aged 10 and Patt aged 7 are both scholars born in Birmingham. The family were back in John Street in 1871 Peter as a 66 year old dealer in skins, Winifred was listed as a 60 year old hawker, 20 year old son John was also a dealer in skins and son Patrick was aged 17 and a hawker. Peter died in Jun Qtr 1877 in Birmingham area aged 64. In 1881 Winifred was a 60 year old widow living with her son John at 11 John Street, Birmingham and in 1891 she is living at 44 Dalton Street, Birmingham with the family. He married Winifred COSGRAVE, 21 Jan 1838 in Knockmore, Co. Mayo., b. 1810? in Backs, Co. Mayo, Ireland., d. 8 Mar 1896 in Birmingham area.

Children:

- i. Thomas MELVIN, christened 15 Nov 1839 in Cloonalough, Backs, Co. Mayo.
- ii. Cate MELVIN, christened 31 Oct 1842 in Cloon?, Backs, Co. Mayo.
- iii. Mary MELVIN, christened 24 Mar 1844 in Cloonyvollow, Kilbelfad, Co. Mayo.
- iv. Kate MELVIN, christened 23 Oct 1844 in Backs/Knockmore, Co. Mayo.
- v. John MELVIN, christened 29th Mar 1846 in Cloonyvollow, Kilbelfad, Co. Mayo.
- vi. John MELVIN b. 29 Mar 1851.
- vii. Patrick MELVIN b. 1854.

Generation Two

2. John MELVIN, b. 29 Mar 1851 in Court 9, John St., Birmingham., d. 7 May 1940 in St. Bernards Grange, Olton. John was born at Court 9, John Street, Birmingham on 29th March 1851. In 1861 he is listed as a 10 year old scholar living at Court 3, 1 Lichfield Street, Birmingham. By 1871 the family were living back in John Street and John was a 20 year old dealer in skins. He married Catherine Davis daughter of Martin Davis on 4th August 1875. In 1881 John was living at 11 John Street, St. George, Birmingham aged 30 a rabbit skin merchant born in Birmingham, with him were his wife Katherine aged 26 born Birmingham, his mother Winefred aged 60 born Backs, Mayo, his brother Patrick Melvin aged 27 a rabbit skin dealer born Birmingham and his children Kate 4; Martin 1; Marie 7 months. In 1891 the family were living at 44 Dalton Street, Birmingham John aged 40 a game salesman and skin merchant, Katherine aged 34, Martin 11, Marie 10, Agnes 9, Adalina 8, John 5, Honora 4, Madaline 2 and Winefred a widow aged 70. According to the Birmingham Daily Post of August 1891 John was chairman of the Birmingham Fruit Dealers Association. By 1901 the family had moved to St. Bernard's Grange, Olton, Nr. Solihull, Birmingham. Catherine had died in 1900 and John was now a poultry salesman aged 50, Martin aged 21 was an assistant poultry salesman, Katherine was 24; Marie 20 working as a clerk and Agnes was 19. Mary Cosgrove was still working for them as a servant and her birthplace is given as Foxhill, Co. Mayo. The family were still at Olton in 1911, John was aged 60 a general merchant of foreign produce. His son Michael Joseph was aged 19, Honora Cecilia was 24 and Magdalen was 22, they were all still single. John's son in law 45 year old Francis Bernard Callaghan, a retired fruit merchant born in Cardiff was also at St. Bernards Grange along with 2 housemaids and a cook. In the London Gazette of 21st April 1936 John Melvin was Chairman of The Birmingham Household Supply Association Limited when the company was voluntarily wound up. Sir Martin John Melvin, Bart, J.P. of Billesley Manor, Alcester was appointed one of the liquidators. John died on 7th May 1940 at St. Bernards Grange, a wealthy businessman. Obituaries appeared in the local paper and when his will was proved by his children, Sir Martin John Melvin baronet and Agnes Josephine Melvin spinster (Effects £423412 6s 6d) he had a net estate of £396,716.14s.11d, on which he had paid £153,441.1s.6d in Estate Duty and interest. He made various bequests to local convents and of the remainder of his estate half went to Sir Martin and the rest was divided between his other 7 children. He married Catherine DAVIS, 4 Aug 1875 in Birmingham area, b. 1855 in Birmingham, Warwickshire. (daughter of Martin DAVIS), d. 1900 in Birmingham.

Children:

4. i. Katherine MELVIN b. Mar Qtr. 1877.

ii. Martin MELVIN, b. 8 Jun 1879 in 11 John St., Birmingham., d. 11 May 1952 in Billesley Manor, Alcester, Warwickshire. Martin was born on 8th June 1879 at 11 John Street, Birmingham the son of John Melvin, a skin merchant and Catherine (nee Davis). His father had been born in John Street, Birmingham on 29th March 1851 to

Peter Melvin, a labourer and his wife Winifred (nee Cosgrave). In 1891 Martin was an 11 year old scholar living with his family at 44 Dalton Street, Birmingham and by 1901 the family were living at St. Bernards Grange, Olton, Solihull and Martin was an assistant poultry salesman. There is a record of a 21 year old Martin J. Melvin, produce merchant sailing on the Lusitania from Montreal to Liverpool arriving on 12th June 1901. Martin was educated at Mount St. Mary's College, Chesterfield and Nantes, France. In 1911 he was staying at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, Westminster, London. He is listed as being a 31 year old merchant. His sister Agnes appears to be staying at the same hotel. He was knighted on June 27th 1927 for political, public and philanthropic work in Birmingham. He bought the Universe Catholic Newspaper in 1917 and was responsible for its spectacular growth after the War. The Court Circular in the Times of October 20th 1927 informs us that Sir Martin Melvin has left Claridge's for Leamington! On June 3rd 1933 Sir Martin Melvin J.P. was created a Baronet for political and public services in Birmingham. The Times of October 23rd 1935 has a report of Sir Martin winning a prize at the British Dairy Farmer's association show for a Dairy short horn cattle - Wild Eyes Duchess 4th and again at the Oxfordshire Show in 1937. In the London Gazette of 21st April 1936 John Melvin was Chairman of The Birmingham Household Supply Association Limited when the company was voluntarily wound up. Sir Martin John Melvin, Bart, J.P. of Billesley Manor, Alcester was appointed one of the liquidators. He purchased Billesley Manor in 1934. In 1938 he was awarded an LL.D (Doctor of Laws) from the National University of Ireland. In November 1940 he attended the funeral of Neville Chamberlain in Westminster Abbey. He was the benefactor of many Catholic organisations in Ireland and donated the Melvin Trophy to Irish Scouting. He died in May 1952 aged 72 years. Probate for the estate of Sir Martin John Baronet Melvin of Billesley Manor, Alcester and Dalton Street, Birmingham was granted on 7th July 1952 to Agnes Josephine Melvin, spinster. His estate was valued at £451,084 12s 11d.

iii. Marie Winefrede MELVIN, b. Sep Qtr. 1880 in Birmingham. By 1911 Marie was a 30 year old widow born in Warwick and living at Oaklands, Streetsbrook Road, Solihull. She had had four children and three were still alive. Living with her were Brigid Mary aged 5 and Agnes Josephine aged 3 both born in Moseley, Worcestershire. They also had a servant Sarah Westwood. Marie's eldest daughter Catherine Mary (Kitty) aged 6 was at a Private school for girls at Olton Convent, Olton. She married Timothy Joseph SLATTERY, Sep Qtr. 1903 in Solihull area 6d 1094, b. 1873 in Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland, d. Dec Qtr. 1908? in Kings Norton area. In 1901 Timothy is a meat salesman (butcher) born in Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland living with his brother Stephen and his wife at 466 Moseley Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham. There is a death recorded in Dec 1908 Qtr. for a Thaddeus Joseph Slattery aged 35 in the Kings Norton area.

iv. Agnes Josephine MELVIN, b. Mar Qtr. 1882 in Birmingham, d. after 8 Jun 1967 in codicil to will made. In 1911 Agnes was staying at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, Westminster, London at the same time as her brother, Martin. When Agnes made her

will in 1967 she was living at "Liss", Cold Ash, Newbury.

v. (Ada) Imelda MELVIN, b. Sep Qtr. 1883 in Birmingham, d. after May 31st 1952. In 1911 Imelda is staying at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, London with her sister Agnes and brother Martin. Her husband Francis is at Olton with her father. There is a Callaghan/Melvin birth listed Martin F.M. Callaghan in the Cardiff area in the Sep Qtr. 1911. She married Francis Bernard Callaghan, 12 Oct 1910 at Church of the Immaculate Conception, Olton, b. Mar Qtr. 1866 in Cardiff area.

vi. John Patrick MELVIN, b. Sep Qtr. 1885/1886 - 6 in Birmingham, d. Dec Qtr 1894? in Birmingham (John Patrick age 9).

vii. Honora (Norah) Cecilia MELVIN, b. Mar Qtr .1887 in Birmingham, d. after 1978. In 1901 Nora was a 14 year old pupil at St. Anne's Convent, Aston, Birmingham. In 1911 she is living at Olton Grange with her father aged 24 and single. In 1977 Honorah was a spinster living at "Liss", Cold Ash, Newbury but the next year she moved to Edgecombe Nursing Home, Hamstead Marshall Near Newbury.

5. viii. Magdalen (Madge) Theresa MELVIN b. Mar Qtr. 1889.

ix. Michael Joseph MELVIN, b. Dec Qtr. 1892 in Birmingham, d. after 1966 in mentioned in Agnes's Will. In 1901 Michael was a pupil at a boarding school in Alton. In 1911 he was aged 19 and still living with his father at Olton Grange.

3. Patrick MELVIN, b. 1854 in Birmingham, England, d. 15 Mar 1893 in 128 Gooch Street, Birmingham. In 1861 Patrick was a 7 year old scholar living at Court 3, 1 Lichfield Street, Birmingham and by 1871 the family were living in John Street, Birmingham Patrick was a hawker. He is living with his brother's family at 11 John Street in 1881 a 27 year old unmarried rabbit skin dealer. He married Ada in 1883 and in 1891 they were living at 128 Good? Street, Edgbaston, Warwickshire. Patrick was 37 years old and a Fruiterer & Potato Merchant and they had two children, Katherine and Adelaide. Patrick, described as a fruiterer, died at the early age of 39 on 15 March 1893 at 128 Gooch Street, Birmingham. Letters of administration were granted to his widow Ada Jane on 26th March and his effects were £4,906 5s. 0d. The Birmingham Daily Post of April 1st 1893 had an advertisement for the sale "By tender of the established and well-to-do and well-known business of a greengrocer, fruiterer and fish salesman, carried on by the late Patrick Melvin at No. 128 Gooch Street, Birmingham and also a similar well-to-do business in Hope Street, Birmingham"

. He married Ada Jane DEVIS, Jun Qtr 1883 in Birmingham area 6d 265, b. Jun Qtr 1859 in Birmingham area, d. 28 Jun 1916 in Small Heath, Birmingham. Ada married Patrick Melvin in 1883 in the Birmingham area. Patrick died in 1893 and on the 1901 Census Ada is a 41 year old widow living at Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, Birmingham

"living on own means" with two daughters, Katherine W. Melvin aged 17 and Adelaide M. Melvin aged 10, both born in Birmingham. In 1911 Ada Jane was a 50 year old widow born Sherlock Street, Warwick, living at 26 Tennyson Road, Small Heath, Birmingham. Her daughter Adelaide is a 20 year old student, 27 year old daughter Katherine is married and has a 2 year old son Martin Reeve. Ada died on 28th June 1916 at Clovelly, Tennyson Road, Small Heath, Birmingham. She made a will and probate was granted to Martin John Melvin, merchant. Her effects were valued at £601.17.1d.

Children:

6. i. Katherine Winifred MELVIN b. 1884.

ii. Adelaide Marie MELVIN, b. Mar Qtr. 1891 in Kings Norton area, Birmingham. There are 6 births listed to Kavanagh/Melvin, the first being Mary P. Kavanagh March Qtr. 1920 then John P M, Sep Qtr. 1921, Kevin F. Jun Qtr. 1923, Brian M. Sept Qtr. 1924, Paul A. Mar Qtr. 1927 and finally Gerald M. Sep Qtr. 1929. She married John H. KAVANAGH, Jun Qtr. 1919 in Birmingham area.

Generation Three

4. Katherine MELVIN, b. Mar Qtr. 1877 in Birmingham. In 1911 Katherine was aged 34 living with her husband George Frederick Downes a 31 year old solicitor at Enniscrone, Ashleigh Road, Solihull. They had three children John Frederick aged 7 born in Sutton Coldfield, Katherine Imelda aged 4 born in Solihull and Patrick Thomas aged 1 also born in Solihull. There was also a servant (nurse) Lily Francis Lydia Smith. She married George Frederick DOWNES, Jun Qtr. 1903 in Solihull 6d 1157, b. 1880 in Feckenham, Worcestershire.

Children:

i. Patrick Thomas DOWNES, b. Jun Qtr. 1909? in Solihull area 6d 651. He married Eileen M. Mackie, Mar Qtr. 1944 in Birmingham area.

5. Magdalen (Madge) Theresa MELVIN, b. Mar Qtr. 1889 in Birmingham. In 1901 Madge was a 12 year old pupil at St. Anne's Convent, Aston, Birmingham. In 1911 Magdalen was living at Olton Grange with her father aged 22 and single. She married at Westminster Cathedral in July 1928, their engagement having been announced in The Times in June of that year. She married Herbert WARD, July 1928 in Westminster Cathedral.

Children:

i. Wilfrid John Francis WARD, d. 19 Dec 1992, b. Dec Qtr. 1931 in Isle of Wight. The will of Honorah mentions the children of Wilfred Ward - John Ward and Joanna Ward. He married Jean ?.

ii. Evelyn M. WARD, b. Sep Qtr. 1934 in West Ham, London.

6. Katherine Winifred MELVIN, b. 1884 in Birmingham. In 1911 27 year old Katherine is visiting her mother at 26 Tennyson Road, Small Heath, Birmingham with her son Martin Reeve aged 2. She married Edward REEVE, Sep Qtr. 1907 in Aston area.

Children:

i. Edward Martin REEVE, b. Jun Qtr. 1908 in Aston area.