

## **The Norris Family of Tamlaghtmore, County Tyrone, Ireland**

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**1. JOHN<sup>1</sup> NORRIS** was born ca. 1815 (calculated from age at death); died of heart disease on 5 March 1898, a farmer and widower aged 83, at Tamlaghtmore, County Tyrone, Ireland.<sup>1</sup> His son, John Norris, was present at the death. On 27 June 1898, his will was entered into probate and granted at Armagh to John Norris [Jr.] of Tamlaghtmore and William Booth of Elagh, both in County Tyrone. John's farmer's effects were valued at £369.<sup>2</sup>

John Norris of Tamlaghtmore married in the Parish of Ardboe, 30 December 1840, **NANCY** [also known as Ann] **BOOTH** of Elagh. Witnesses were George Booth, Henry Hamilton, George Norris, and Eliza Hamilton.<sup>3</sup>

Although too young to be listed himself, the 1826 Tithe Applotment Book for Ardboe, County Tyrone, townland of Tamlaghtmore listed two Norrises next to each other: Wm Norris (#62) and Widow Norris (#63), as well as a Tho<sup>s</sup> Norris (#82).<sup>4</sup> One of these is probably a parent of John.

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<sup>1</sup> Death register, 1898, District of Stewartstown, Union of Cookstown, Co. Tyrone; General Register Office, Joyce House, 8-11 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2, Ireland.

<sup>2</sup> Index to Wills, 1898, National Archives of Ireland. Evidently, the will did not survive the fire at the Four Courts in Dublin in 1922.

<sup>3</sup> Marriages 1837-1843, Brigh Presbyterian Church Records, MIC/1P/13, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast. Record abstracted in May 2003 by Bob Murray, 299 Finaghy Rd. North, Belfast BT11 9EH, e-mail: your.irisheyes@ntlworld.com.

<sup>4</sup> Tithe Applotment Book, 1826, Ardboe Parish, Co. Tyrone, FHL #258444; the original, FIN/5A/14, was viewed at PRONI.

In the townland of Elagh, there were three Booths listed together: Benjm Booth (#68), James Booth (#69), and John Booth (#70).<sup>5</sup>

John Norris was listed on Griffith's 1859 Valuation, County of Tyrone, Poor Law Union of Cookstown, Baronies of Middle and Upper Dungannon, townland of Tamlaghtmore.<sup>6</sup> He resided on Lot 1Aa, B, and C, with the Reverend W. Chiehester O' Neill as the immediate lessor. The property consisted of houses, offices, and land. Lot 1Aa consisted of a little more than seven acres, property B a little more than nine acres, and property C a little more than nine acres. John subleased the adjoining property to William McConnell and William Marshall. Also in 1859, a James Norris leased property from Rev. W. Chichester O'Neill, Lots 5Aa, and B, consisting of a little more than twenty-seven and five acres respectively, and subleased adjoining property to Thomas Allen and John Bradley.<sup>7</sup>

In 1870, John Norris took over lot 2 from Robert Hamilton, which had the caretaker's house and land. John Norris continued to be listed as the occupier for lots 1Aa, B, C, Ba, Ca, and 2, with the lessor now Hon. Rob<sup>t</sup> T. O'Neill.<sup>8</sup> James Norris, who was listed as the occupier for Lot 3a was crossed out in 1881, and John S. Norris took over the lot.<sup>9</sup>

John Norris Jr. was added to his father's listing in 1894. John Norris Sr. and John Norris Jr. continued to occupy lots 1Aa, B, C, and 2 until 1899. When John Sr. died in 1898, the occupier became John Jr. in 1899. After John Jr.'s death in 1900, his brother, David, who had immigrated to America, returned and was the occupier listed as of 1902. In 1903, John Kennedy became the occupier, and in 1911, James Booth.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Tithe Applotment Book, 1826, Ardboe Parish, Co. Tyrone, FIN/5A/14, PRONI

<sup>6</sup> Griffith's Valuation, 1859, p. 15, FHL #258755.

<sup>7</sup> Annual Revision Book, Townland of Tamlaghtmore, Co. Tyrone, VAL/12B/37/10B, O/S #39, PRONI.

<sup>8</sup> At PRONI, look at 1907-1929, O'Neill, Hon. R.T., LR1/726/1/A-C, Box #726, EC 06001; also O'Neill, E. 1786-1929, LR1/112/1/A-C, box 112, EC 07619.

<sup>9</sup> Annual Revision Book, Townland of Tamlaghtmore, Co. Tyrone, VAL/12B/37/10C, O/S #39, PRONI.

<sup>10</sup> Revision Books, VAL/12B/37/10F, O/S#39, PRONI.

In the townland of Elagh, George Booth occupied Lot 6a, James Booth Lot 6b, and Margaret Booth Lot 6c.<sup>11</sup> Evidently, George died by 1892, as “Reps.” was added to the revision book.<sup>12</sup> In 1897, the representatives of George Booth were crossed off, and William Booth was added. His name was crossed off the following year, and John Booth was added.<sup>13</sup>

Children of John and Nancy (Booth) Norris, all born presumably in Tamlaghtmore, County Tyrone, Ireland:

- 2 i THOMAS WILLIAM<sup>2</sup> NORRIS, b. October 8, 1841, bpt. 14 March 1844, Ardboe.<sup>14</sup>
- 3 ii GEORGE<sup>2</sup> NORRIS, [date blank], bpt. 14 March 1844, Ardboe.<sup>15</sup>
- 4 iii ROBERT<sup>2</sup> NORRIS, b. April 7, 1848, bpt. July ?, 1848, Ardboe.<sup>16</sup>
- 5 iv JOHN<sup>2</sup> NORRIS, b. ca. 1848 [calculated from age at death]; d. of heart disease on 18 August 1900 at the age of 52 in Tamlaghtmore. He was a farmer and bachelor. His cousin, Robert Henry Norris, was present at his death.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Annual Revision Book, Townland of Elagh, Co. Tyrone, VAL/12B/37/10A, PRONI; see also Griffith's Valuation 1859, p. 12, FHL #258755.

<sup>12</sup> Annual Revision Book, Townland of Elagh, Co. Tyrone, VAL/12B/37/10D, PRONI

<sup>13</sup> Annual Revision Book, Townland of Elagh, Co. Tyrone, VAL/12B/37/10E, PRONI

<sup>14</sup> Albatt Presbyterian Church Records, MIC/1P/13, PRONI, Abstracted in May 2003 by Bob Murray, 299 Finaghy Rd. North, Belfast BT11 9EH, e-mail: your.irisheyes@ntlworld.com.

<sup>15</sup> Albatt Presbyterian Church Records, MIC/1P/13, PRONI, Abstracted in May 2003 by Bob Murray, 299 Finaghy Rd. North, Belfast BT11 9EH, e-mail: your.irisheyes@ntlworld.com.

<sup>16</sup> Albatt Presbyterian Church Records, MIC/1P/13, PRONI, Abstracted in May 2003 by Bob Murray, 299 Finaghy Rd. North, Belfast BT11 9EH, e-mail: your.irisheyes@ntlworld.com.

<sup>17</sup> Death register, 1900, District of Stewartstown, Union of Cookstown, Co. Tyrone; General Register Office, Joyce House, 8-11 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2, Ireland.

- 6 v ANN JANE<sup>2</sup> NORRIS, b. July 6, 1850, bpt. [—] 7, 1851, Ardboe.<sup>18</sup>
- 7 vi WILLIAM<sup>2</sup> JAMES NORRIS, b. 12 June 1854, bpt. 30 August 1854, Albany.<sup>19</sup>
- +8 vii DAVID<sup>2</sup> NORRIS, b. 8 June 1860, bpt. 4 July 1861, Albany.

### **Other Norrises in Tamlaghtmore**

John S. Norris, the occupier of Lot 3a, and his wife Louisa Norris lived in Tamlaghtmore in 1901. He was 61 (born ca. 1840), Presbyterian, able to read and write, born County Tyrone; Louisa was age 56 (born ca. 1845), also born County Tyrone.<sup>20</sup> Also in their household was James Norris, son, age 25, farmer's son; and Fred Jos. Norris, age 14, scholar. John Stewart and Luisa Irwine were married 5 June 1869 at Brigh in the parish of Ballyclog, County of Tyrone. John, a farmer, was born in Tamlaghtmore, the son of James Norris. Luisa was born in Kilminagh, the daughter of Thomas Irwine. Witnesses were John McNeely and Isabella Brown.<sup>21</sup>

In 1901, Robert Henry Norris, age 39 [b. ca. 1862], Presbyterian, a national school teacher, born County Tyrone. Robert was married to Kate, Presbyterian, age 24, born County Tyrone. Also living in the household were William Norris, brother, Presbyterian, age 52 [b. ca. 1849], farmer, not married, born County Tyrone; Mary Martha Norris, daughter [to Robert], Presbyterian, age 15, scholar, born Co. Tyrone; John James Norris, son [to Robert], Presbyterian, age 14, scholar, born Co. Tyrone; Martha McDonald, servant, Irish Church, age 17, general domestic

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<sup>18</sup> Albatt Presbyterian Church Records, MIC/1P/13, PRONI, Abstracted in May 2003 by Bob Murray, 299 Finaghy Rd. North, Belfast BT11 9EH, e-mail: your.irisheyes@ntlworld.com.

<sup>19</sup> Albatt Presbyterian Church Records, MIC/1P/13, PRONI, Abstracted in May 2003 by Bob Murray, 299 Finaghy Rd. North, Belfast BT11 9EH, e-mail: your.irisheyes@ntlworld.com.

<sup>20</sup> 1901 Ireland census, Co. Tyrone, the townland of Tamlaghtmore, Barony of Dungannon, Parish of Arboe, Poor Law Union of Cookstown, Form B13, FHL #855982.

<sup>21</sup> General Marriages of Ireland, v. 6:553, FHL #101543.

servant, not married, born Glasgow; and Eliza Jane McDonald, visitor, Irish Church, age 14, scholar, born County. Tyrone.<sup>22</sup>

In 1911, Robert H. Norris and John S. Norris resided next to each other. John S. Norris was age 71, his wife Louisa Norris was 66, and they had been married 41 years. She was the mother of nine children with seven living. Living with them was Thomas W. Norris, son, age 33, single, farmer's son. In the next household, Robert Henry Norris was age 49, a widower and school teacher. Living with him were his brother William Norris, age 62, a single farmer; Mary Martha Hamilton, daughter, age 25, married under a year, no children; Kate Norris, daughter, age 8, scholar; Joseph George, son, age 7, scholar; Winifred Norris, daughter, age 4; and Mary Jane Wilkinson, servant, age 16, single.<sup>23</sup>

**8. DAVID<sup>2</sup> NORRIS** (*John<sup>1</sup>*) was born 8 June 1860 in the townland of Tamlaghtmore, County Tyrone, Ireland; baptized on 4 July 1861, Albany Presbyterian Church;<sup>24</sup> died 22 August 1902 from heart disease at the age of 42 years, 2 months, and 16 days in Greenwich, Connecticut.<sup>25</sup>

### **Immigration to America and Marriage**

David immigrated about 1878.<sup>26</sup> In 1887, David was a mechanic,<sup>27</sup> but he also worked as a day laborer.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> 1901 Ireland census, Co. Tyrone, the townland of Tamlaghtmore, Barony of Dungannon, Parish of Arboe, Poor Law Union of Cookstown, Form B18, FHL #855982.

<sup>23</sup> 1911 Ireland Census, Co. Tyrone, Poor Law Union of Cookstown, townland of Tamlaghtmore, Barony of Dungannon Upper, Parrish of Ardboe, FHL #2106421.

<sup>24</sup> Birth and baptism information were abstracted by Mr. Kee, an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Cookstown, as the request of Bob Murray, 299 Finaghy Rd. North, Belfast BT11 9EH, e-mail: your.irisheyes@ntlworld.com, from the Baptismal Register for the Albany Congregation, June 2003.

<sup>25</sup> Death certificate, Town Clerk's Office, Greenwich, Conn.

<sup>26</sup> 1900 federal census, Connecticut, Fairfield Co., Greenwich, ED 72, Sheet 23A, #391-457.

<sup>27</sup> Birth record of first child, Mary Ann Norris, Town of Greenwich, Conn.

David married likely in America about 1886,<sup>29</sup> **BRIDGET/DELIA GORDON**<sup>30</sup> (see **GORDON GENEALOGY**) who was born in the townland of Ardvarney, parish of Cloonclare, County Leitrim, Ireland, and baptized on 29 April 1859 in the parish of Cloonclare;<sup>31</sup> died 19 April 1925 from endocarditis (inflammation of the heart lining), supposedly at the age of 57 years, 11 months, and 21 days, in Greenwich, Fairfield County, Connecticut.<sup>32</sup> She immigrated to America, likely with her twin sister Mary Gordon in 1885.<sup>33</sup> Delia worked as a laundress in 1920.<sup>34</sup> Delia was buried with her sister, Mary (Gordon) Clark, in St. Mary's Cemetery, Greenwich, Connecticut<sup>35</sup>

### **Return to Ireland**

No doubt prompted by the death of his father in 1898 and then his brother in August 1900, David, Delia, and their family returned to Ireland by November 1900.<sup>36</sup> Since the whole family went, and the children were immediately enrolled in school, perhaps the Norrises had intended to stay in Ireland. They returned to Ireland sometime between 6 June 1900, when they were enumerated on the 1900 U.S. federal census, and 6 November 1900, when two of their daughters were admitted to the Ballymaguire National

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<sup>28</sup> 1920 federal census, Connecticut, Fairfield Co., Greenwich, ED 118, Sheet 22, #366-452.

<sup>29</sup> 1900 federal census, Connecticut, Fairfield Co., Greenwich, ED 72, Sheet 23A, #391-457. David was not found during a page-by-page search of the 1880 census for Greenwich.

<sup>30</sup> She was baptized Bridget, and Delia was a common nickname for Bridget. On her children's birth records (see notes of children's births for citations), Delia's name was recorded as Delia, Adelia, or Bridget—all variations. Her surname was usually given as Gordon, but a couple recorded it as "Golden," and one as "Golich."

<sup>31</sup> Baptismal registers, parish of Cloonclare, Co. Leitrim, Ireland.

<sup>32</sup> Death certificate, Town Clerk's Office, Greenwich, Conn. See also "Conflicting Data" essay, beginning on page 57. Place of birth from family lore.

<sup>33</sup> See chapter 1, note 1 for discussion.

<sup>34</sup> 1920 federal census, Connecticut, Fairfield Co., Greenwich, ED 118, Sheet 22, #366-452.

<sup>35</sup> Tombstone inscription, St. Mary's Cemetery, Greenwich, Conn.

<sup>36</sup> School Registers, Female Students, 1868–1929, Ballymaguire National School, Parish of Ardboe, Co. Tyrone, SCH/944/1/1, PRONI.

School in the Parish of Ardboe, County Tyrone. Nellie Norris, age 11, born 18 March 1889 [*sic*], and Katherine Frances Norris, age 6, born 19 June 1896 [*sic*] were admitted 6 November 1900; Mary Anne Norris, age 13, born 1 July 1887, was enrolled on 7 November 1900; Margaret Elizabeth Norris, age 12, born 28 October 1888, enrolled on 4 December 1900; and “Jeanie” [Jane] Norris, age five [no birth date given], enrolled on 12 August 1901. All were recorded as Presbyterians.<sup>37</sup>

The Norrises were enumerated on 12 April 1901, although the census day was 31 March. They were living in County Tyrone, the townland of Tamlaghtmore, Barony of Dungannon, Parish of Arboe, Poor Law Union of Cookstown.<sup>38</sup> The household consisted of David Norris, head of family, Presbyterian, can read and write, age 41, farmer, married, born Co. Tyrone; “Dalia” G. Norris, wife, Roman Catholic, can read and write, age 42, no occupation, married, born County Leitrim; and their unmarried children, all Roman Catholic and born in America: Mary Ann Norris, daughter, Roman Catholic, can read and write, age 14, scholar; Marg<sup>t</sup> E. Norris, daughter, can read and write age 13, scholar; Ellen Norris, daughter, can read and write, age 12, scholar; John George Norris, son, can read and write, age 10, scholar; Catherine F. Norris, daughter, can read only, age 8, scholar; Jane Norris, daughter, cannot read, age 7; Rose Norris, daughter, cannot read, age 5.

The family lived in a private dwelling with ten buildings on the property: a stable, a cow house, a calf house, two piggeries, a fowl house, a barn, a turf house, a potato house, and a shed. The house they lived in had walls of stone, brick, or concrete with a thatched or wood roof. The house contained three rooms with five windows in the front of the house and was considered a second class house. “The criteria used to classify housing were the quality

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<sup>37</sup> 1900 federal census, Connecticut, Fairfield Co., Greenwich, ED 72, Sheet 23A, #391-457; and School Registers, Female Students, 1868–1929, Ballymaguire National School, Parish of Ardboe, Co. Tyrone, SCH/944/1/1, PRONI. Unfortunately, the available register for male students spanned 1915–1930, beyond the time when the Norrises were there.

<sup>38</sup> 1901 Ireland Census, FHL #855982.

of building materials, the number of rooms and the presence of windows.”<sup>39</sup>

According to the 1901 Ireland census, David was the landholder for the property on which he lived, as well as for the property on which Alex<sup>r</sup> Wilkinson and John Smith lived, property that was adjoining John S. Norris. Robert H. Norris was the landholder on his own property as well as the property adjoining David Norris (where John Smith lived), occupied by David Wilkinson.<sup>40</sup>

### **Back to America**

For reasons not known today, the Norrises decided to return to America a little more than a year after being in Ireland. On 6 November 1901, David, Delia, and their children returned to America on the ship *Oceanic*, sailing from Queenstown on 31 October 1901. They were all listed as American citizens.<sup>41</sup>

Just a few weeks later, on 21 November 1901, David Norris and Delia Norris (“husband and wife”) of Greenwich, purchased for \$1 “and other good and valuable considerations” from Fannie B. Grigg (unmarried), of Greenwich, a parcel of land in Greenwich.<sup>42</sup> During 1901 and 1902, David and Delia made payments on the land to the Greenwich Savings Bank.<sup>43</sup>

On 20 January 1902, a writ of attachment was delivered in favor of Lawrence Larson and Miels Larson of Greenwich against David Norris of Greenwich for \$75 in damages and costs of suit.

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<sup>39</sup> E. Margaret Crawford, *Counting the People: A Survey of the Irish Censuses, 1813-1911* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2003), 49.

<sup>40</sup> 1901 Ireland Census, FHL #855982.

<sup>41</sup> Passenger arrival list for the Norris family, *Oceanic*, leaving the Port of Queenstown, 31 Oct. 1901, arriving the Port of New York, 6 Nov. 1901, FHL #1403984, NARA T715, vol. 381, roll 234, [3d page of passengers]. A naturalization record for David has not yet surfaced. In the census where David was first identified, he was listed as naturalized: 1900 federal census, Connecticut, Fairfield Co., Greenwich, ED 72, Sheet 23A, #391-457.

<sup>42</sup> Greenwich Land Records, Deed Book 84:462, FHL #1434435. The witnesses were Nathaniel A. Knapp and James R. Mead. See the narrative for the land description.

<sup>43</sup> Town of Greenwich, Mortgage Book 87:373, 390, 409.

The writ made an attachment of all right, title, and interest in David's land in Greenwich, which he had purchased in 1901.<sup>44</sup>

Not quite a year after they were back in America, David died from heart disease, as did his father and brother, on 22 August 1902. He died intestate, and Delia was appointed the administratrix. The inventory of his estate was recorded on 2 September 1903.<sup>45</sup>

On 3 January 1907, Delia was appointed guardian of her children, all minors, although two daughters were apparently married by this time: Mary A. Cooper, age 19; Margaret F. Norris, age 18; Ella Fox, age 16; John G. Norris, age 15; Catherine Frances Norris, age 13; Jane Norris, age 11; Rose Norris, age 10.<sup>46</sup>

Children of David and Delia (Gordon) Norris, all born in Greenwich, Fairfield Co., Connecticut:<sup>47</sup>

- +9 i MARY ANN<sup>3</sup> NORRIS, b. 1 July 1887
- +10 ii MARGARET<sup>3</sup> ELIZABETH NORRIS, b. 28 Oct. 1888
- +11 iii ELLA/ELLEN/NELLIE<sup>3</sup> NORRIS, b. 18 Mar. 1890
- 12 iv JOHN GEORGE<sup>3</sup> NORRIS, b. 23 Oct. 1891;<sup>48</sup> unmarried; d. from exposure 5 Jan. 1948 in a one-room shack on Almira Dr., Greenwich, Conn.; bur. St. Mary's Cemetery, Greenwich, Conn.<sup>49</sup> In 1920, John lived with his sister and

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<sup>44</sup> Town of Greenwich, Conn., Deed Book 71:480.

<sup>45</sup> Death certificate, Town Clerk's Office, Greenwich, Conn.; Greenwich Probate District Records and Inventories 28:622-23, FHL #1434415; Town of Greenwich, Conn., Deed Book 91:282.

<sup>46</sup> Greenwich Probate District Records 35:191-93, 197; 37:88-92, 96.

<sup>47</sup> Birth records of all children, Town of Greenwich, Conn. See also 1900 federal census, Connecticut, Fairfield Co., Greenwich, ED 72, Sheet 23A, #391-457, and 1910 federal census, Connecticut, Fairfield Co., Greenwich, ED 79, Sheet 37A, #562-737, Delia "Morros," head of household.

<sup>48</sup> Birth record, Town of Greenwich, Conn.

<sup>49</sup> Death certificate, Town Clerk, Byram, Conn.; "J.G. Norris, 56, Dies of Exposure in One-Room Home," *Greenwich Time*, 7 Jan. 1948, pp. 1-2; tombstone inscription, St. Mary's Cemetery, Greenwich, Conn. See also "Over-Exposure Fatal to Man Living in Shack," *The Daily Item*, Port Chester, N.Y., 7 Jan. 1948, pp. 1, 13.

brother-in-law, Jane and Ralph McCue, in Manhattan. At that time, he was a fireman working for the city.<sup>50</sup>

On 23 Dec. 1913, John was committed by his sister Mary Cooper to the Connecticut Hospital for the Insane at Middletown, to be transferred to the Norwich Hospital for the Insane, in Preston, Conn.<sup>51</sup>

John served in the 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Marine Corps in World War I.<sup>52</sup>

- +13 v KATHERINE "KATIE"<sup>3</sup>FRANCES NORRIS, b. 19 June 1893
- +14 vi JANE<sup>3</sup>NORRIS, b. 2 July 1895
- +15 vii ROSE MARY<sup>3</sup>NORRIS, b. 30 Oct. 1896

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<sup>50</sup> 1920 federal census, New York, Manhattan, ED 1262, sheet 5, #13-111.

<sup>51</sup> Greenwich Probate District Records 37:385, 1131:332-35. See the narrative for more information.

<sup>52</sup> Veterans' Deaths, Connecticut State Library; obituary, *The Daily Item*, Port Chester, N.Y., 7 Jan. 1948, pp. 1, 13.