

## The Search for A Chief—A Trip Report—Part 2

By Stuart Robinson

*This is the second week of my three-week trip to Scotland, Ireland and No. Ireland. The report features our search for descendants of the Galbraiths of Cappard (earlier known as Cappahard - newly recognized as important in the Chief search), which has generated conflicts of information, mysteries, and the discovery of significant questions about the sale of Balgair. I admit I was so intrigued with solving some of the issues in the Cappard story (with the help of Bob Galbraith of Ottawa and Sr. deLourdes Fahy, my main County Galway contact) that I had lost sight of the fact that this was to be a “trip report” and not a report on follow-up. More will come on the report of week 3 in Scotland and in a separate report on the Galbraiths of Cappard when most of the remaining issues have been resolved.*



When last we met, I was boarding a plane at Glasgow Airport heading for Belfast, Northern Ireland. Transportation was by Flybe Airline, one of the many cut-rate airlines in Great Britain. They achieve their low rate in part by cutting out almost everything but the seat. For instance, the fare doesn't include stored luggage, charged by the bag with a higher rate if the luggage fee is not paid in advance. (I learned that first-hand. My travel agent must have forgotten to do so for my return trip.)

The flight was fine and less than an hour. There was a slight delay at the airport in Belfast. I had flown into Belfast City Airport but the car reservation had been made at Belfast International Airport. At this time of year, it was no problem. After my experience the week before, I decided to change from manual drive to automatic.

Up to this point in the search, my personal focus had been on Scotland, and to a lesser degree, England. I had depended upon other researchers who had focused on the Galbraiths of Ireland. In part because of the growing recognition by Bill Gilbreath and me of the potential importance of a branch of Galbraiths referred to as the Galbraiths of Cappahard (now Cappard), I decided to include Ireland on this trip. This was a branch that had settled in Ireland but, for various reasons discussed below, it had not caught the interest of Galbraith researchers. I realized that in researching in Ireland, with the exception of that branch, as I tried to get up to speed, I would necessarily be looking at many records that had already been reviewed by other researchers, including CGA members Dave Colwell and Eve Gray.

With just a week planned for Ireland/Northern Ireland, I had to make some compromises. The Public Registry Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) was a must. I had been there years ago when I was researching the Galbraiths of Kilkeel, County Down, and knew what a wealth of information was held there. When I was there earlier, I spent most of my time reviewing church records. PRONI had the records of all the churches of Kilkeel dating back as far as the 1820s. I assume this is true of

other areas, at least for the six counties now constituting Northern Ireland.

Among the other outstanding collections at PRONI are extracts of wills, including “. . . . extract pedigrees from wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Ireland, 1536-1899, compiled by Sir William Benham, Ulster King of Arms, and copied for his own use by Benham's successor, Sir Bernard Burke.... Indexes to [Burke's set of 42 large volumes of Pedigree charts] are available....” at PRONI.

Another set of records of great value to genealogists is the Groves Manuscripts. ”Tenison [sic] Groves, a Belfast genealogist, spent more than forty years compiling a vast collection of transcripts, abstracts, notes, etc. from records held in the Public Record Office in Dublin prior to its partial destruction in 1922. The part of the collection that relates to Northern Ireland was purchased by PRONI in 1939. The 9,000 plus items includes seventeenth-century muster rolls, militia lists and family pedigrees.”

Extracts from and/or copies of wills are extremely important to genealogists—made even more important because of the number of originals that were destroyed by fire in Dublin in 1922 during the Civil War. Sir Arthur Vicars, in *Index to the Prerogative Wills of Ireland 1536-1810* (in which he listed 14 Galbraith entries from 1673 to 1800), wrote “Amongst the various sources of information open to the genealogist, it is generally admitted that wills occupy the most important place. From a testamentary document, it is often possible to obtain particulars of three or four generations of a family, besides a general insight into the extent of civilization and social position of our ancestors.” There are pros and cons of using extracts from rather than exact copies of the originals. The originals were generally hand-written and often hard to read, whereas the extracts are mostly typed and easier to read, although there may, of course, have been typos and/or incomplete transcriptions.

I made copies or notes on all Galbraith wills and pedigrees extracted from wills at PRONI and added to them at the Armagh County Museum and Letterkenny, Donegal, Library and have been using the data in updating the data base of Chief descendants.

As I was completing this report, I received a message from Bill Gilbreath with a summary, with his comments, of Galbraith wills in Ireland from records copied by the Mormon Church, which he had gathered in Salt Lake City. It contains most of the records I had accessed and several I hadn't and should be quite useful to the search. We'll be trying to resolve any questions either of us have.

Harry Pirie Gordon, the eminent English genealogist, who wrote the most comprehensive report on Galbraith genealogy, based much of his analysis of Galbraith lines in Ireland on wills, sometimes not attributed. In

particular, he provided information on the Scotland-Ireland link of certain important branches, which had eluded other researchers. For instance, he asserted that the link between Scotland and Ireland for the so-called Blessingbourne, County Tyrone, line had gone from John Galbraith of Glasgow, descendant of the line documented in Burke's Peerage, through emigrant Archibald, acquirer of Mountcastle, to John of Blessingbourne.

The validity of this descendancy was questioned by Galbraith researchers, in part because of the absence of the name Archibald among his purported descendants. Bill Gilbreath was the first of us to discover the will of John of Blessingbourne which, fortunately, documented that his father was Archibald of Mountcastle and grandfather was John Galbraith, thus substantiating the Pirie Gordon assertion (the naming of a grandparent is a rarity among will writers).

Because of the fire of 1922, many of the other valuable sources of genealogy data, such as censuses prior to 1901, are no longer available. There are small bits of data that have been found from early censuses but it would be a long shot to find relevant information. I reviewed a book titled Ireland: 1841/1851 Census Abstracts (Northern Ireland), ed. by Josephine Masterson, and it had only two Galbraith families, one headed by a William and Mary in Coleraine, County Londonderry, the second by Joseph and Margaret in Strabane, County Tyrone. No connection to chief descendants has been found for either entry as yet.

When I was in Dublin in the late 1990's reviewing the 1901 and 1911 censuses for townlands in Kilkeel Parish, I was shocked to find I was given the original data sheets. I had expected that after the experience of 1922, the originals would have been archived and only copies would be available.

In Scotland, the work of the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) has been of great value to genealogical research in the period prior to the start of official collection of vital records (birth, death and marriage) in 1855. Their emissaries have copied the records of the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) parishes (most of the Scottish parishes of the era) back to the early days of their record-keeping (usually mid-17th century), which they have made available on records referred to as the Old Parochial Records (OPR). The Mormons apparently have not been given similar access to parish records in Ireland, although they have been given access to many other records, including vital records from the time they were required nationally. Government registration of non-Roman Catholic marriages began in 1845; registration of all births, marriages and deaths were required beginning in 1864. There is an International Genealogical Index (IGI)

for Ireland, but the entries are sparse, most of them of the mid-1860s. Before I had left on the trip, I printed out the pages with Galbraith entries. Only a few tied into the Chiefs database.

Because of the great interest of émigrés in their heritage in Ireland, the government has established a large number of Family History Centres (also referred to by different names, e.g., Heritage Centres, Genealogy Centres), with at least one in most counties. In his excellent book, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, John Grenham wrote (pp. 517ff) of the centers, "In the early 1980s, as part of a series of government-sponsored youth employment and training schemes, in the Republic of Ireland, local history and heritage societies and other interested bodies began to organize the indexing of local parish records. With some exceptions, at the outset little thought was given to the potential value of these records. In the mid-1980s the number of areas covered by the indexing project grew, and their efforts were co-ordinated by an umbrella body, the Irish Family History Council, later to become the Irish Family History Foundation. An ambitious plan was drawn up under the aegis of this body to transcribe and computerize not only all



of the parish records of all denominations for the entire country but also all other sources of major genealogical interest: the Tithe [Applotment] Books, Griffith's Valuation, the civil records of births, marriages and deaths, the 1901 and 1911 census returns and local gravestone inscriptions. Increased government funding was secured for this plan, known as the Irish Genealogical Project. In 1990 four centres in Northern Ireland were added and the International Fund for Ireland also became involved.

"The overall aim of the Project was to realize the tourist potential of Irish genealogy by creating a single organization that could combine the experience and expertise of professional genealogists with the speed and accuracy of the local databases to provide a comprehensive, affordable, Ireland-wide research service. Unfortunately, this aim is unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future. The very strengths that made the local centres possible - their voluntary ethos, diversity of funding and structure and solid local roots - have made it virtually impossible to co-ordinate their activities into a single service . . . . the local centers continue to index and to provide research services and some of these services are excellent. None of the centres allows direct access to its records. Instead, all research is carried out by the centre, for a fee."

More on my experience with the centres later.

Most of what we know of Galbraith history in Ireland is of families of Ulster, especially counties Donegal and

Tyrone and to a lesser degree, Armagh, Antrim, Down, and Fermanagh (Ulster was one of the four provinces of Ireland. In the partition, most of Ulster became part of Northern Ireland but Donegal was left in the Republic.) I had decided to stop in several of the heritage centers and public libraries, in particular Armagh, Tyrone, and Donegal and, because of our increased interest in the Galbraiths of Cappahard, Galway was added. In looking at trade-offs, I opted for PRONI and the Galbraiths of Cappahard (Cappard) in Galway with as many of the other areas as time permitted, but was not able to make time for Dublin or Kilkeel on this trip.

After landing and renting a car, I headed for PRONI. I lost a little time getting temporarily “lost” in the notorious Shankill district before finding my way to PRONI. Since it was going to be open late, I spent only a short time getting reoriented before getting a recommendation on a B&B near the University. As in many areas of Northern Ireland, B&Bs are rarer than in most of Scotland. I was able to get checked in and get an early dinner before heading back to PRONI.

The amount of Galbraith relevant material is impressive. Procedures for requesting documents and having them copied are efficient. Requests for documents are normally requested on-line, although the computers were down the first day I was there. The manual system worked fine.

In the parts of two days I spent at PRONI, I reviewed all of the Galbraith material that was indexed and looked to be of interest. Most of them were deeds and wills, including the documents that contained pedigrees derived from wills. I am still incorporating all the data into the Chief database. It would have taken another couple of days at least to search for Galbraith data in microfilmed church records.

I left PRONI early afternoon Friday and headed for the heritage center in Armagh, main town in County Armagh. Since (I thought) the centers were open until 5, if there was not much to review in Armagh, I could go on to the Tyrone/Fermanagh Center in Coalisland (pronounced Coal Island). The center in Armagh is in a tourist welcome center. The lady in charge was very helpful; however, the man in charge of the heritage center had been ill for several weeks and it was unlikely he’d be back for several weeks more. He was the only individual involved. She knew there was little of relevance to family history in the local library and while the County Museum was worth visiting it was not known to have material of relevance to family history. Unfortunately, while the centers were open Monday to Thursday until 5, on Friday they were open only to 4, leaving me with no time to get to Coalisland and accomplish anything.

Since Coalisland was not much out of the way on the road to Donegal, I decided to drive there for the evening, anyway, and to plan to stop at the Armagh County Museum the next week on the way back to Belfast to fulfill a promise made to Bill Gilbreath (see below). In

Coalisland, I found no B&B signs but was able to locate the only B & B in town - over a bar. It turned out to be comfortable and at £20 only half the usual cost.

On Saturday, after confirming the location of the local heritage center, it was on to Galway the long way by way of Donegal, noting locations of Galbraith relevance along the way as possible stops on the return trip. The most northern stop was in Rathmelton, confirming the location of the Donegal heritage center, not open on Saturday. I next drove to Raphoe, center of Raphoe Parish, and the likely destination of sons of Robert Galbraith, 17<sup>th</sup> Chief, if not Robert himself. Raphoe is a reasonably large town but its library does not have useful historical information. The library in that part of Donegal with a reputation of having a good local history department is at Letterkenny. I planned to spend some time there on the return from Galway.

Galway city is about halfway down the West coast of Ireland, several hours’ drive from Raphoe. I planned to spend Sunday trying to locate the locales and individuals who might know of the Galbraiths of Cappard and also to locate the heritage center in Galway. There were B&B signs north of Galway city and I stopped for two nights at an excellent one.

Before telling about my investigation, first a few words about the Galbraiths of Cappard (originally known as “Cappahard”). It is a well-documented branch, although most (but not all) of the documentation stops in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and contains many conflicts of information between the various sources. I added to that documentation and the conflicts of information on this trip. As indicated, earlier we had paid little attention to this Galbraith branch, but with the recognition of its seniority and so many descendancies brought current or near current, there is no doubt that many Chief candidates are in this branch.

As followers of the Chief search know, many of the well-documented branches tie into the Burke’s Peerage article on the ancestry of Lord Strathclyde. The article traces that ancestry through John Galbraith of Hill of Balgair to a Humphrey Galbraith, said to have been the third son of Andrew Galbraith, Chief #11. While I believe the progenitor was likely a Humphrey Galbraith, I find the assertion that he was a son of Andrew to have been based on faulty analysis. However, we have not been able to establish a credible alternate heritage. The other favorite possibility is Humphrey “the Tutor”, undoubtedly the second son of James Galbraith, Chief #13 and the choice of several Galbraith historians. While I had accepted this alternative during the search to date, while still possible, it has been credibly called into question by Galbraith researchers. To oversimplify the problem, if we accept for now that the progenitor Humphrey was a son of Chief #11 as indicated by the Burke’s genealogy, then any descendants of James #13 would have greater seniority, including descendants of his son Humphrey “the Tutor” and younger son Robert (descendants of legitimated “natural son” James, likely James’ oldest son, already had seniority). (Remember that

Thomas, Chief #12, apparently died childless.) If true, this pushes the branch headed by Robert Galbraith, generally recognized as the third legitimate son of James, into more prominence than we had given him previously. This is another well-documented branch that, because of the assumption about Humphrey “the Tutor” being the progenitor, we had given little attention to in the Chief search. Remember that we had decided that no branch would be considered which had less seniority than that documented in the article in Burke’s Peerage.

In tracing descendants of Robert, there were early indications that his lines were extinct. Only one line seemed to have continued for many generations, that one descended from Robert’s son Andrew (from his second marriage). The only known son of Andrew was named Hugh. As “Maj. Hugh Galbraith of Ireland”, he was designated as 3<sup>rd</sup> Substitute in the entail of James Galbraith, first Galbraith owner of Balgair (a large estate, farmed by Galbraiths for several previous generations, in Balfron Parish just to the west of Culcreuch Castle in Fintry Parish). The most well known legal battles in Galbraith history involved the identity of this Maj. Hugh Galbraith. The details of the two court cases have been well documented and are beyond the scope of this report, except to summarize that Hugh of Cappahard was confirmed and reconfirmed as the intended 3<sup>rd</sup> substitute. Balgair remained as a holding of Hugh’s descendants until sold by James Galbraith, a descendant of Hughs’ in Manitoba, Canada, in early 20<sup>th</sup> century, an action now shown by our analysis to be much more controversial than understood before. The circumstances of the sale led many researchers to conclude that the male lines of the Galbraiths of Cappard had become extinct. We now understand that there were literally dozens of male descendants alive at the time.

In part because of the weakness of some of the testimony in the court cases, the decisions have remained controversial among some Galbraith researchers up to the present. However, the consensus now seems to be that the court decisions were correct and that the Hugh Galbraith who became a Major in Ireland and bought the estate then known as Cappahard (later Cappard) was the son of Andrew Galbraith, son of James Galbraith, Chief #13.

The history of the Galbraiths of Cappard begins with the marriage of Hugh Galbraith to Catherine (identified as “Jane” in some histories) Persse, daughter of the Very Rev. Dudley Persse of Roxborough, County Galway, one of the most powerful men in that area of Ireland. The story has been much told. A typical telling was that of Sir Hanry Blackall who paraphrased “... Lecky [who used the Galbraith-Persse story] as an instance of the forcible abduction of heiresses prevalent in Ireland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He does not mention Galbraith by name, but describes him as a major in King William’s army, quartered in Loughrea [a few miles east of Roxborough], who formed an attachment to a rich heiress, the daughter of Dean Persse, who, however, refused his consent to their

marriage. Shortly after ‘a previous arrangement having been made’, the gallant major surrounded Roxborough House with a troop of Dragoons and peremptorily demanded the lady’s hand. On being questioned by her father Jane [sic] declared herself ready to marry, whereupon the Dean, yielding to necessity, performed the ceremony.”

The couple later settled at the nearby estate of Cappahard (Cappard). How the major acquired Cappard was implied by Blackall’s quote (from *History and Antiquities of Kilmacdnach*, p. 355, by Canon Fahy) who wrote that Hugh “. . . was able to appropriate the Cappard district hitherto the O’Fahy property.” There were many reasons through the years for the local Irish to hate the Protestant “invaders”.

I planned to find what I could of the Persses of Roxborough and the Galbraiths of Cappard, not knowing if any of the properties still existed or if any descendants still lived locally. I had read that both properties were just East of the town of Gort, less than an hour’s drive south from Galway city, so I started my search in Gort, a fairly large town. I was able to get general directions to Roxborough. I stopped at a petrol station in the area. The first person I asked seemed to know where Roxborough was and said that I should follow him and his wife and they would lead me to it. (This was typical of people I met on the trip—not just answering the question but going further to help.) It turned out that he didn’t know exactly where it was, but in asking people in the area, he eventually was able to lead me to the home of an individual who was described as a local historian. He was not home. A neighbor gave me his name (Carty), but I was unable to contact him during my time in the area.

Next, I went back to the same petrol station and asked a patron about the location of Cappard and was directed to a dirt road beyond the village of Peterswell. After several miles down that dirt road I came to a T intersection. While stopped, pondering whether to go left or right, a lady (Anna Connors) pulled up next to me and asked whether she could help. I explained that I was hoping to find descendants of the Galbraiths of Cappard. She responded that her husband had bought the home of the last Galbraith in the area, Thomas Galbraith, about 8 years before. She understood that he had moved to England. Later, while as I was taking pictures of the modest home, she and her husband stopped by. It turned out that he had not dealt directly with Thomas, but with a representative after Thomas had moved to England.

They added some additional information, which I later heard from others. The following is a summary of information from them as corroborated by and added to by others. Some of it should be considered in the classification of “local legends”, some of it wrong. First, Thomas was unlikely to be interested in discussing family history. Thomas’ grandfather, also named Thomas Galbraith, had infuriated his father by marrying a Cappard domestic, a Catholic. He was the second son but his older brother, the inheritor of Cappard and Balgair, was at that

time unmarried (he later married but died childless). His father, James Galbraith, disinherited Thomas from Cappard. However, he was kept on as farm foreman and allowed to retain his position as inheritor of the property of Balgair. Thomas built the home (to become known as “Farnane”) across the road from Cappard, that his son and grandson, both named Thomas, lived in with their families. I later learned that title to Cappard had been passed to James’ sister Lavinia, who had married James Galbraith, eldest son of John Galbraith, rector of Tuam. Their descendants had emigrated to Australia, New Zealand and the States. The ownership had descended to James and Lavinia’s second son, Richard Seymour Galbraith of Auckland, New Zealand. He had one son, Hugh Galbraith, which is as far as the descendancy has been followed. I also found out later that much of the “local legend” was wrong, including the ancestry of the most recent Galbraith resident of the community.

The manor home of Cappard was no more. In the struggles of 1922, local Irish warned the Galbraiths of Cappard to leave that day or else the home would be burned and they would be killed. They are said to have left but the home was burned anyway. I later learned that the Persses were given the same threat and had also left but their estate was spared. The home of Thomas Galbraith was not bothered.

I next drove down the road in search of others who might have known the Galbraiths and was fortunate in my first stop. Tom Kelliher, the nearest neighbor on the road back to Peterswell, knew them well. He didn’t know Thomas’ address in England but gave me the address and phone number of Thomas’s sister Mary (Galbraith) Finnegan, who was living south of there in County Clare. She had three daughters and had been separated from her husband for some time. He recommended that I talk to a Christy Kelly, a retired businessman in the town of Loughrea. Christy was an in-law of the Galbraiths, although Tom was vague on the exact relationship. After stopping at the pub in Peterswell and failing to find more information, I deferred more interviews until the following day and spent some time exploring Galway city.

The next day was Monday. I began at the heritage centre in Galway. County Galway is unique in having two centres, East Galway and West Galway. Looking at the map, I assumed Cappard was in West Galway and went to that center, which is in the city of Galway. I was wrong. . The line between East and West was just West of Cappard, so most of the information I was seeking was in the East center, some distance away.

The senior researcher was out that day but an associate helped me. I was impressed with his diligence in locating Galbraith data. Most of that data involved a branch of the Galbraiths of Cappard headed by Rev. John Galbraith, who, for several years until his death in 1850, was rector of a large Church of Ireland church in Tuam (pronounced “Choom”) a few miles north of Galway city. He and his wife Sarah (Courtney) had 11 children, most

born in Tuam. The next to youngest was Charlotte, one of the Cappard Galbraiths who wrote a history of the branch (Family Tree of the Galbraiths of County Galway, Ireland) and an associated family tree chart, written in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It detailed the descendancy from Hugh Galbraith, 1<sup>st</sup> of Cappard, to her father John Galbraith and all her siblings and their descendants known to her.

I was given extracts of the birth records of those who had been born in Tuam and a few extracts of death records. After John’s death, Sarah apparently moved to Dublin with several of the children, including Charlotte. The center did have Charlotte and her mother’s death records, both of whom had died in Dublin, but none of the many other children who had left Tuam. Charlotte’s paper listed a very large number of male descendants of her brothers who had spread afar (Australia, New Zealand, U.S.) by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. They would include a large number of potential candidates to be Chief of the Galbraiths, true also of several other lines of the Galbraiths of Cappard.

I also received records, including Griffith’s Valuations and Tithe Applotments (documents important in Irish genealogical research), of the few other Galbraiths in the West Galway database, including another family in Tuam which I haven’t identified yet. I was also given a marriage record of a Cappard descendant married in Western Galway, which was to prove a clue in deciphering a family mystery.

As I was thanking the researcher for what I thought was very helpful assistance for over an hour at no cost (he hadn’t hinted there was a charge), I got handed a bill for 91 Euros and was told that was the standard minimum fee. I was shocked but decided not to make waves.

I next headed for Loughrea, hoping to track down Christy Kelly, the retired Galbraith in-law. It wasn’t hard. Loughrea is a large town, but at the first shop at which I stopped I was told his address. He was very hospitable and pleased that I was researching the Galbraiths. He provided me with still another study of the Galbraiths of Cappard, this one titled imaginatively *The Galbraiths of Cappard*, written by Sir Henry Blackall, Q.C., L.L.D., first published in the *Irish Genealogist*. This paper added considerably to the contents of previously known papers. It had been given to Christy by Ian C. J. Galbraith of England, a name we had heard earlier as an uncle of David Galbraith of Maine, a correspondent of Bill Gilbreath. Ian had visited Christy several years earlier. Ian and David are descendants of John Galbraith, the Tuam rector.

Christy confirmed that he was an in-law of the Galbraiths but he was vague about the precise tie and I didn’t push it. In addition to the new paper and confirmation of some previous facts, Christy provided the name of Sister de Lourdes Fahy, a member of the convent in Gort, whom he described as a Galbraith family historian.

I promised to stay in touch with Christy and decided to head back to Gort where I was able to meet Sister de Lourdes. She is a very bright, likable person. She had taught Mary Galbraith, the sister of the last Galbraith who

lived in Cappard. She also had a copy of the paper given to me by Christy and had added to it additional facts she had discovered or deduced. She made me a copy. The facts she had added and some suppositions she had made were in conflict with other papers on the Galbraiths of Cappard. The information she gave me included monument inscriptions from the Peterswell Cemetery, which she thought had been of earlier generations of the Cappard Galbraiths and she had traced five generations to the last Galbraith who had left the area. Some of her data was confirmed by information I received at the West Galway Heritage Centre.

Subsequent research the following week at the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, research since then by Bob Galbraith of Ottawa into Canadian records and more information from Sr. de Lourdes confirmed the accuracy of her information and the errors of others who had attempted to trace the Galbraiths of Cappard into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The basic reason for the discrepancies now appears to be that no researcher, including Sr. de Lourdes, realized that there were two Galbraith branches and that the ties between the family that she had documented and the known descendants of the Galbraiths of Cappard remains one of the many mysteries of this analysis. Bringing the analysis up to date is beyond the scope of this report. Some additional information gained the following week will be reported with the third trip report (to be published in next quarter's *Red Tower*), but the full analysis, still not completed, must await a separate article. Because of the apparent relatively high seniority of the Cappard branch of Galbraith Chief descendants, answering questions in the descendency are important. There is also the interesting side issue of questionable aspects in the sale of Balgair. For instance, in James Galbraith of Manitoba's petition for approval of the sale of Balgair, he mentioned only one other heir (although he could have listed many more) and then apparently didn't bother to even contact that one, even though he had his address. Pirie Gordon contributed to the general confusion about the descendants of the Galbraiths of Cappard by writing that James had two sons who died in World War I, even though (apparently unknown by Pirie Gordon), James was far too young and wasn't married until shortly before the war. A third among many other examples is the need to resolve the identification of the Galbraith inhabitants of "Farnane", the cottage near Cappard. It had generally been thought to have been the home of th Thomas Galbraith who returned from Canada, but now we've found that it was the home of a different Thomas Galbraith of a Galbraith family presumably related to the Galbraiths of Cappard but whose ties have not been found in any of the many documents which discuss the Cappard Galbraiths.

Sister de Lourdes and I exchanged e-mail addresses and have been corresponding since then. I then headed back north and found a B&B in the Tuam area.

On Tuesday morning I went to the church where John Galbraith was Rector and took a picture before heading for County Donegal. My first stop there was at the Donegal

Ancestry Centre in Rathmelton, where I met with the genealogist Susan McCaffrey. Having learned from the visit to the West Galway Centre, I decided to discuss our project and what might be done for it before getting to the price. For Donegal, unlike Galway, we have made little progress in tracing descendants of Galbraith chiefs. After the discussion, she advised that she was unlikely to be able to help since they were geared to helping individuals trace their heritage back from the recent past. She recommended that the library at Letterkenny was more likely to have useful information about the time period we needed to research.

I later found out that I had actually saved money at this stop and that maybe the 91 Euros I was shocked about in Galway wasn't the hosing I thought (at least by the standards of Donegal). When I read the Centre's handout on pricing, I found that the brief discussion should have cost 15 Euros, but Ms. McCaffrey hadn't mentioned it. The quote: "We provide a consultation service if you wish to call in person to discuss your family history inquiry with our Researcher. A consultation generally lasts about fifteen minutes and costs [euro] 15.00. The consultation fee will be credited to you if a preliminary, staged or full report is commissioned." Other fees: A preliminary report (76 Euros); and a "location search" (45 Euros). The location search is . . . where our researcher will try to identify the place of origin of the ancestor and if successful he will provide a parish map and a copy of the Ordnance Survey map pinpointing the location of the townland. We will include a search of our database to establish if it contains records that may be relevant to your ancestor. If relevant records are uncovered, such as a birth or marriage entry, you will receive a transcript of one relevant record. We will also advise you if it is feasible to carry out further research."

The "preliminary report" (for 76 Euros) will contain ". . . . full details of the sources consulted. Where records are found in the County Donegal sources, we will quote a fee for providing details of the records and compiling a family history report."

I went next to the Letterkenny Public Library, which, fortunately, was open late that night. It has a very good local history department, having among its files Muster Rolls dating from 1630; records of land ownership compiled between 1654 and 1656; Pender's "Census", compiled in 1659, listing persons with titles to land; Hearth Money Rolls, listing householders eligible to pay the Hearth Tax, compiled in 1665; and Abstracts of Wills in the Registry of Deeds, Dublin (1708-1832). I reviewed them all for Galbraiths and related names. The research librarian was on "holiday", but the clerks were very helpful.

The Muster Rolls of 1630, familiar to all researchers of the Galbraiths of Ireland, listed only five Galbraiths (spelled "Galbreath") of Donegal: John, Alexander and Andrew, listed as tenants of undertaker "Lord Duke of Lynox", Martin (an unusual Galbraith given name) ("Lady

Conningham”) and William (“James Conningham”). John and Andrew are names identified by early Galbraith researchers, including the authors of the Burke’s article, as the names of sons of Robert, Chief #17, although one source, the “Patrick Genealogy”, the only source to have given dates of death, had indicated that son John, born in 1593, had died in 1599. The name Alexander as a son of Robert has recently been discovered by Bill Gilbreath and his listing with two other possible sons of Robert, in the area of the Undertaking of the Galbraiths feudal superior, gives some added credibility to that discovery.

The land ownership records for Donegal listed two Galbraiths, both in the Parish of Ray (one of seven parishes in the Barony of Rapho - others were Donoghmore, Lecke, Lifford, Rapho, Stanorlan and Taboyne). In the townland of Dowish, Robert Galbraith, esq. was listed as titleholder, with 27 residents, 14 of whom were English or Scots and 13 were Irish. Dowish was part of the “Undertaking” of “Lord Aubigny” presumably the inheritor of the Lennox. It was described as having 195 acres of “Arable Pasture, Meadow”. Robert Galbraith of Dowish was the second son of James (the “Gudman of Balgair”) and Janet (Buchanan) Galbraith. Robert had three daughters and one son, James, who had only daughters, ending our interest in this line as far as the Chief search goes.

A second listing of a Robert Galbraith (perhaps the same Robert Galbraith) indicated that he was Proprietor of Gortmore, shown as having 210 acres, 60 of which was arable land and 90 pasture, the rest described as shrubs, rocks and bog. He is described as a besieger of Derry and a footnote states “Robt. Galbraith gent & his brother Mr. Humphrey claimeth the Quartr land of Gortmore as Exrs to their brother James Galbraith who purchased the same as a freehold to him & his successors for ever from the pprietor [sic].” Gortmore seems to have been part of an area of 1022 acres under the superiority of “Sr. Jon Colchoun [sic] British Protestant. A footnote adds “Sr. John Colchoun holdeth the above pporcon [sic] of Corky as wee are informed by Patent first granted to Sr. Waltr Stewart of Minto & afterwards purchased by the present pprietors Grandfather Sr Alexr. Colchoun to him & his successors forever. It is bounded on the North with the Quarter of Ray & Bellachen’s land, on the East with Dunduffe’s land [perhaps the residence of the Galbraiths of Dunduff’s Fort, a potentially important Galbraith line], on the south with the Church land of Rapho & on the west with Mr. Basill’s land.”

I had hoped to find more on the Galbraiths of Dunduff’s Fort. Pirie Gordon had addressed them, but admitted that he had not determined their origin. The names he had found were the same as certain of the sons of Robert Galbraith, Chief #17, hinting that they might be connected with the illusive descendants of that chief. I was not successful in adding more information. Ironically, of the many known Galbraith families in early Donegal, either we have found that they are extinct in the male lines

or we haven’t discovered the link back to Scotland.

The Pender Census of 1659 had no Galbraith listing in Donegal, but did in County Fermanagh, Andrew and Robert Galbraith, both named as “gent”s, were listed as “Tituladoes Names” for Tullyvale in Enniskene Parish, having 11 tenants, all Irish. The census also listed several families with which Galbraiths had married, e.g., Sir William Gore, Andrew Knox, Stewarts, Cunninghams and Hamiltons. The only Galbraith I found outside Donegal in the 1659 census was James Galbraith, Esq., in the County of Fermanagh. Sir George Atcheson was listed in the County of Ardmagh [sic].

Among the Letterkenny Library’s books of interest was a copy of a book familiar to some members, *The Wrays of Donegal, Londonderry, and Antrim*, by Charlotte V. Trench. I had seen extracts from it, but never the whole book. This is a well-researched book and includes many Galbraith marriage connections but unfortunately, most of the connections (including with the Gores, Sampsons and Stewarts) were with Galbraith brides and their descendants, so, while of interest, of little value to the chief search. The book (p. 91) is also the main source of the information on James Galbraith, identified as the “Gudman of Balgair” and the reference to his eldest son James as having signed the death certificate of Sir Archibald Acheson as a “kinsman”. The identification by Galbraith researchers of the Gudman as James Galbraith, son of Humphrey and Isobel (Cunningham) and husband of Mary (Buchanan), while controversial among some researchers, is now generally accepted. Unfortunately, all known male lines of descendants have been shown to have become extinct, although there remains speculation that not all lines have been researched. (“*The Wrays . . .*” added a son John to the usual four with the comment, “We have no record that John went to Ireland.”)

Fortunately, there are many B&Bs in the Letterkenny area and I had no trouble in finding a room at one of them after the library closed. The next morning I headed back to Belfast with stops planned at Omagh, the main city in County Tyrone, and the County Museum at Armagh.

County Tyrone was home to many of the Galbraith branches that came to and through what is now Northern Ireland. The local history room at the main Omagh library was good, although it added nothing to the search. The Galbraiths of Tyrone County were mainly resident in Clogher Parish, which is in southern Tyrone just north of County Fermanagh. Among the contents I copied were maps of the parishes and townland listings and historical articles from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, none of which mentioned the Galbraiths. The early Galbraith estate of Blessingborne (now known as 5-Mile Town), was described in a directory of 1856 as “. . . . a small market town, in the parish and Barony of Clogher . . . . about 7 miles w. by s. from Clogher, situated on the confines of Fermanagh county, surrounded by an exceedingly fertile country. . . . Population in 1851, 703.”

The next stop was at the Armagh County Museum

to respond to a request from Bill Gilbreath. When he was at Salt Lake City he discovered extracts from wills and other data in a file attributed to the County Museum. One of the pages was very difficult to read and he asked me to try to find the original. When I got there, I confirmed that the Museum did not collect material of interest to our search but it turned out there were two boxes which had been stored away containing extracts of wills and other papers that had been donated several years earlier by the first Curator at the museum, Thomas G. F. Peterson (1888-1971) and his friend, genealogist Tennyson A. Groves. It had never been catalogued. (The reader is reminded that PRONI purchased Groves' large collection of family pedigrees and other material important to genealogists in 1939.) My impression was that if it had not been for the prominence of the donors, the boxes would have been long gone. The research assistants who helped me find the boxes and review them were derogatory about the

Mormons who had copied the contents and designated them "without regard for the Museum's system" - this in spite of the fact that no system was evident. They had several Galbraith-relevant papers copied for me, including the original that Bill Gilbreath had asked about. Most of the papers copied were deeds and wills, with some duplicating those I had copied at PRONI

It was now Wednesday evening and I headed for the area of the Belfast City Airport. In a frustrating drive around the area I found no B&B signs and even broke with my principles and stopped at a hotel (which was fully booked). After 9 P.M., I stopped at a convenience store and, with the courtesy I had learned to expect (although still surprising), the clerk got on the phone and eventually located a B&B with a vacancy.

The next morning I headed for the airport and returned to Glasgow.

To be continued . . . .