

Illawarra Pioneers

Pre 1900

(Compiled and edited by Illawarra Family History Group Inc.)

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[1271] **McNAMARA, Francis** b 1807 Crusheen CLA to Thomas McNamara & Mary Mitchell. Arr: Sydney 18.09.1841 per *Gilbert Henderson*. Free. Rel: RC. Occ: Farm Labourer. Res: Mt Pleasant 43 years; Gerringong 11 years. Marr: [1] 1828 poss. Crusheen CLA **Bridget CONNORS** [2] 1873 Gerringong **Catherine O'KEEFE**. Died: 10.09.1884 Gerringong, bur: Jamberoo. Iss: **Henry** b 07.07.1829 Doon d 06.12.1914 m 05.10.1853 Raymond Terrace. Son b 1831 d 1831. **Ann** b 00.10.1832 d 1928 Haberfield m 1853 Jamberoo Patrick Larkin. [143]

[1272] **McNAMARA, James** b c1820 IRL to Brian/Bryan McNamara & Mary Ready. Arr: Sydney 06.08.1833 per *Caroline*. Free. Rel: RC. Res: Charcoal Creek; Richmond Vic. Marr: 12.06.1839 Wollongong **Ellen O'BRIEN**. Died: 25.06.1852 Gundagai, bur: Yass. Iss: **Brien** b 1840 Charcoal. **Mary** b 1843. **Patrick** b 1846. **Elizabeth H.** b 08.12.1848 Richmond VIC d Sydney m 27.01.1866 Lott Bruggy. 1 male. [209]

[1273] **McNAMARA, Patrick** b 14.09.1871 Cordeaux
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CHAPTER FOUR

FRANCIS McNAMARA I (1807 - 1884)

During all this turmoil and upheaval in Ireland, the genes of our make-up were slowly creeping down the generations towards us. We know little of the men and women of these earlier years, for Cromwell destroyed most of the Church registers and no official government records were kept until 1846. It is regretful that we made no effort to record the memories of those who could have told us so much.

Fortunately, from the old family Bible, written in Harry McNamara's own handwriting, we have gleaned enough information to reach back to the mid-1700s.

The Beginning.

After Cromwell's destruction of the power of the McNamaras of Clare, most of the men fled to Europe or hid somewhere till the clan was forgotten or presumed destroyed. The name became one of the many Irish names, as the McNamaras lived among the poor, dispossessed Irish, and became many families, instead of the one powerful clan.

John McNamara of Ennis, Co. Clare, is our first recorded ancestor, born about the mid-1700's. His wife's name was Tierney, Christian name, so far, unknown. Among their children was a son, Thomas McNamara, born sometime around the later 1700's, at Inchicronana, Co. Clare. That is the spelling as in their Bible, but, as the early pioneers, could neither read nor write, it could be a guess for the correct spelling of their village name.

Inchicronana is famous for its Augustinian Abbey, situated near Crusheen on the Ennis to Galway road. The Church was granted to the Augustinian canons of Clare Abbey by Donal Mor O'Brien in 1189. By 1302, it had become the parish Church. It is idyllically situated on a quiet peninsula jutting into Inchicronana Lake.

According to the Immigrant Lists in the N. S. W. Archives, the McNamaras are stated as being natives of Winchecronan, Clare.

Crusheen.

Francis was born near Crusheen in 1807. Crusheen is a village lying exactly half-way on the main road between Galway and Limerick. To-day, there stands an old-style pub, "The Highway Inn", commanding a large slice of the left hand side of the village street. On its white-washed gable is a larger-than-life painting of three musicians playing instruments. It was painted by an Ennis artist, Peadar McNamara.

Inside the building, besides a grocery on your right hand, there is a public bar on your left. Here is an open fire place and a large skillet pot. Over the mantelpiece, in white, a fiddler, a piper and a flutist represent the musicians of Clare. The love of old Clare jigs and piping tunes played on concertina, accordion or fiddle are represented by the mural, and experts to-day are trying to locate and record posterity, these Clare melodies before they are lost forever.

Take a sharp turn under a bridge down the street, and you have Crusheen village, part of Tulla parish a few miles away. Like so many areas west of the Shannon, the places seem to be dying slowly, and the people are moving away.

Francis McNamara.

Here, in this village of Crusheen, Francis McNamara lived and worked, eking out an existence as a farmer, scratching the poor rocky soil, and suffering the frequent failure of potatoes and crops.

In 1828, he married Brigid Connors, daughter of Bartholomew Connors, also a farmer, and Catherine Connors. So states Brigid's death certificate. From the Archives in the Mitchell Library, the information is as follows.

From the Ship's manifest:

Name: Brigid McNamara, a female immigrant. Aged 36.
Persons certifying registry of Baptism: None.
Character & person certifying same: T. McNamara & 2 others.
State of Bodily Health: Very good.
Religion: R.C.
Read or Write: Neither.
Any complaints: None.
Not certified by constable.

From Agnes's Immigrant List: Persons on bounty ships
(AONSW ref.: 4/4788)

Name: Brigid McNamara. Aged 36.
Father: Mr. Bathby.
Mother: Kitty O'Connor.

From another record: In the Archives:-

Father: Mr. Bartley.
Mother: Kitty O'Connor.

The only conclusion we can make is that, as neither Francis nor Brigid could read or write, the agents were unable to understand their rich Clare brogue. They may have been unable to speak English fluently, as Gaelic was Clare's own language and still spoken in the west. "Bartley", "Bathby" and "Barty" could have been misinterpreted as a surname, and "O'Connor" instead of "Connors".

The Family.

Francis McNamara and Brigid lived at Doon after their marriage. Three children were born there, the eldest being Henry, born in 1829. Another son, name unknown, died and Ann was born in 1833. Francis was farming either for another or on his own.

Doon Lough lies between Tulla and Broadford in lovely countryside. It was here that the Gores built a magnificent residence, "Derrymore House." The family inherited a considerable amount of property from the O'Brien's, and the house was fashioned with stones taken from the O'Brien royal residence of Clonroad, Ennis. Perhaps, Francis was a farm labourer at "Derrymore House."

There's an old saying that God washes Ireland every day. An Irishman doesn't really expect it to rain every day, just every other day, or two days out of three on the west coast. It rarely rains hard, but it does drip and drizzle most of the time. It is hard to grow crops, or make hay, when the sun can't shine for more than six hours a day. All told, Irish weather is fine for livestock but too cool and damp for crops.

Francis probably heard of the sunshine and wide open spaces of Australia, and, knowing that the west coast of Ireland, above all, Clare, was the poorest and most isolate part, had no hope of bettering life. Talk of immigration was everywhere, and there were partings, then welcomes for the wanderers who returned from abroad, who incited the hopeful with their tales of success.

Migration.

Inquires showed that bounties were paid by the Colonial Government to the agents who transported migrants to the colony where the land was crying out for labourers of all kinds. Nicholas James & Co. were responsible for the load of immigrants on the "Gilbert Henderson" in 1841, and for employment for them on arrival. Often this was not the case, but Nicholas James & Co. had guaranteed the employment of his shipload.

Applications for passage had to have the certification of a constable. Francis did not obtain this, but relatives stated he was a person of good character. He had to find two testimonials to prove this and

a fee of one shilling. Francis was accepted as a farm labourer, his wife as a farm servant, and his two children were taken, too.

Emigrants had to find their own clothing with shirts, towels and soap sufficient for the voyage. These would be inspected by an officer. They were also allowed to bring a few articles of furniture, if they owned any; even a cow or hens, and these were usually kept near them on the boat. The Commissioners supplied free of charge, provisions, medical attention and cooking utensils at their depot and on board ship. Also, new mattresses, bolsters, blankets, a canvas bag for linen, knives, forks, spoons, metal plates and drinking mugs, "which articles will be given after arrival in the colony to the emigrants who have behaved well on the journey."

Francis would have had to make a journey to Limerick, the nearest place for shipping, or overland by cart, or coach to Dublin, where a boat would take them across the Irish sea to Liverpool. Thence, they would again take another ship, if not the same packet, for Plymouth where the "Gilbert Henderson" would embark.

From the Archives of the Mitchell Library the following details are given:

Frances McNamara, a male immigrant, arrived by ship "Gilbert Henderson," brought out by Nicholas James & Co., a native of Inchicronana, Clare, Ireland.

Parents' Names: Thomas and Mary (Mitchell)

Calling: Farm labourer

Age: 34

Persons certifying registry of Baptism: None

Character or person certifying same: T. McNamara & 2 others

State of Bodily Health Strength and probable usefulness: Very good.

Religion: R.C.

Read or Write: Neither. **Any Complaints:** None

Not certified by Constable. £ 58

The same for his children.

Male children exceeding one and under 18 years:

Name	Age	Date of Birth	Bounty
Henry	12	None	£10

Female children exceeding one and under 18 years:

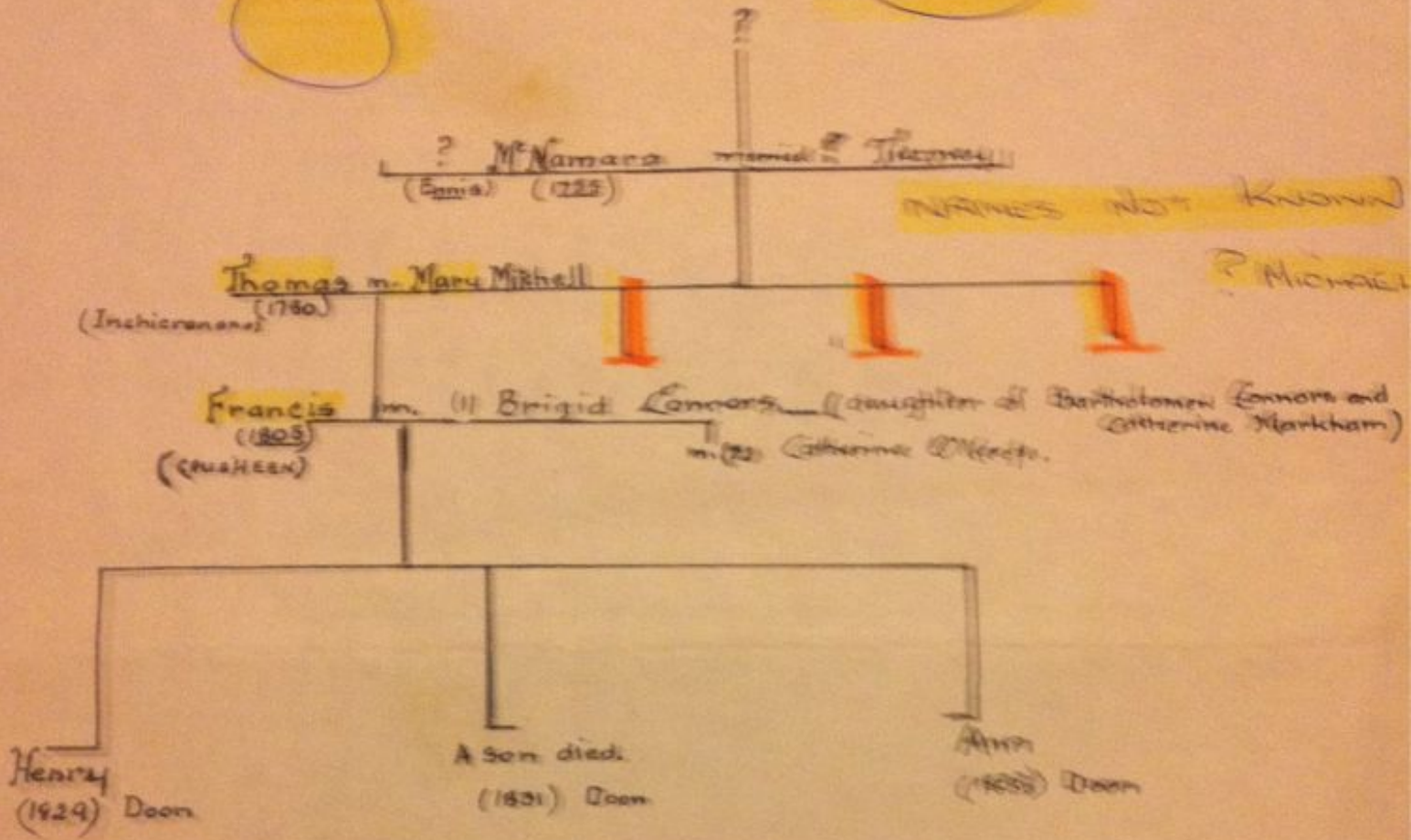
Name	Age	Date of Birth	Bounty
Ann	8	None	£10

The daughter of Francis and Brigid is referred to as Mary, but in the series "Immigration: Entitlement certificates of persons on bounty ships" (AONSW ref.: 4.4869) she is listed as Anne.

PAGE NUMBER

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Date	Description	Total of Cash	Total of Accounts Debit	Total of Accounts Credit	Balance
Dec 12	1854 5th January Mr. Thomas	37.10.0	...	37.10.0	Michael Stephens 40 Thomas Mr. Thomas 25 Mary Mr. Thomas 20 Thomas Mr. Thomas 15 Thomas Mr. Thomas 10 Richard Mr. Thomas 10 Richard Mr. Thomas 10 Thomas Mr. Thomas 10
Dec 13	7th Richard Mr. Thomas	20.0.0	...	20.0.0	James Thomas 35 John Thomas 20 George Pittington 20 George Thomas 20
	John Mr. Thomas	5.0.0	...	5.0.0	Michael Mr. Thomas 50
	Wm. Thomas Mr. Thomas	50.0	...	50.0	

(3)

Office of Immigration for Slaves
 Charles W. ...
 Immigration Board on 27th ...

Case No.	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Place of Birth	Profession	Education	Religion	Health	Character	Disposition	Remarks
1	John	20	M	Black
2	Mary	18	F	Black
3	James	25	M	Black
4
5
6
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