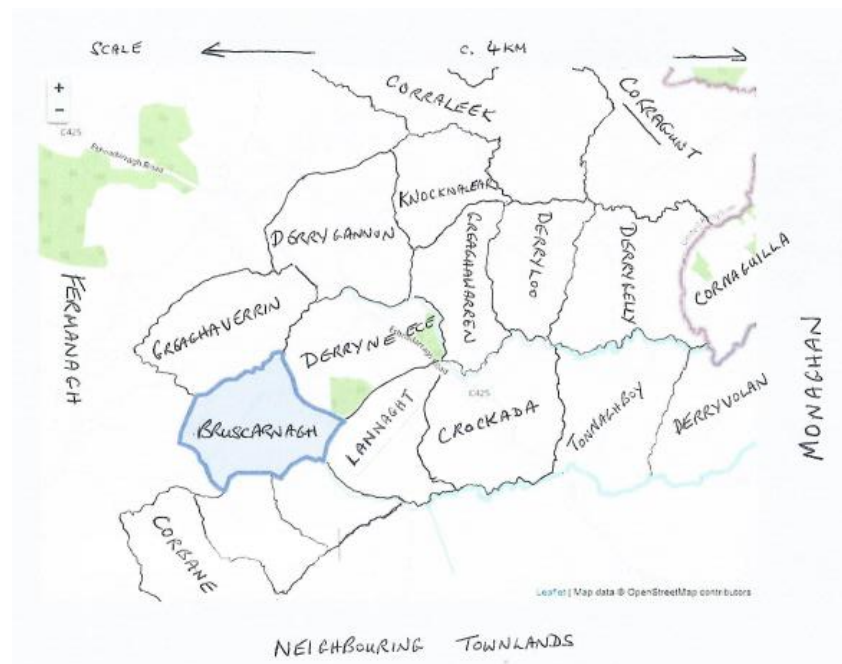


Mary Murphy's sorry tale (1892 – 1932).

I decided to find out more about Grandmother Ellen's older sister Mary, who was married for a short time in the 1920s and then abandoned by her husband. What follows is a tale of interconnected families and emigration, which I hope you enjoy.

Four families all lived within a few miles of each other near Roslea, East Fermanagh. The Murphy's/McAloon's (our great grandparents) lived in Corragunt. The Quigleys and Beggans farmed adjacent land in the neighbouring townland of Greaghawarren. The Cosgroves lived about a mile away in the townland of Corbane. They all had large families typical of the period – the late 19th and early 20th century. Many of the McAloons, the Beggans and the Cosgroves emigrated to the United States, particularly to Providence, Rhode Island. I will come back to the McAloons in a future update.



For the purpose of this story I will start with the emigration of Patrick Beggan in 1893 to Providence. Mary Cosgrove followed him in 1895 (aged 23), and they were married in the US three years later in 1898. They reared a family and lived the rest of their lives in Providence. Mary sent money home to pay for the passage for her sister Ellen to join her. Ellen arrived in 1899 and married Patrick Beggan's nephew John in Providence in 1905 and lived in the same neighbourhood as Mary. Mary also sent money home for her brother John Thomas to join her and he emigrated in 1900 (aged 24). He travelled via Liverpool on the Ivernia.

No. on list.	No. of Contract Ticket.	NAME IN FULL.	Age Yrs. Mos.	Sex.	Married or Single.	Calling or Occupation.	Able to Read. Write.	Nationality.	Last Residence.	Seaport for Landing in the United States.	Final destination in the United States. (State, City or Town.)	Whether having a ticket to such final destination.	By whom was passage paid.	Whether in possession of money, if so, whether more than \$30 and how much if \$30 or less.	Why if \$
1	474	Murphy Michael								Boston					
2	95	Roche Bridget		F	S	Laundress	yes yes	Irish	Blydebank		District of Columbia	yes	Sister	\$30 ⁰⁰	m
3	6	Koster Mary	36	F	m	H. Wife		Am. citizen	Rockdale		Providence R.I.		Husband		b
4		Ellen	5	F	S			Born in Providence							
5	6253	Lutton Mary	56	F	Wid	H. Keeper		English	Nadfield		Fall River		Daughter	\$16	
6		John		M	S										
7		Salomon		M	S										
8		Davies Margaret	27	F	S	Laundress		Irish	Dublin		Boston		Aunt	\$7 ⁵⁰	
9	6317	Domeicat John	30	M	m	Labourer		Scottish	Glasgow				Bro. in-law	\$25 ⁰⁰	
10		Ann	25	F	m										
11	6322	Mary	20	F	S	Servant		Irish	Blundalk				Aunt	\$5 ⁰⁰	
12	6361	Cosgrove John	23	M	S	Labourer		Irish	Roslea		Providence R.I.	yes	Sister	\$11 ⁰⁰	

Passenger list from the Ivernia, showing John Cosgrove from Roslea, passage paid by his sister in Providence.

John Thomas stayed in Providence, initially with his sister Mary and later with his sister Ellen. At the time of the 1920 census he was working in the shipyard in Providence and was a naturalised US citizen.

Meanwhile Catherine Murphy (Mary's sister) married Patrick Quigley, a neighbour of the Beggans, and moved into Greaghawarren. John Thomas visited Fermanagh in the early 1920s, and probably met Mary while visiting his Beggan in-laws. He married Mary in 1924 in Roslea church. John Thomas was 48 years old and Mary was 32 at the time. She would have been considered "on the shelf" but their age difference is still striking. John Thomas appears to have left very soon afterwards and the local view was that he married her for her dowry. This was about £150 which was a significant amount of money in the 1920s.

Marriage full view

[Report an amendment](#)

[Order certificate](#) >

Image

GRONI-For Personal Use

1924 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Church of M. Tierney in the Registrar's District of Moskela
 in the Union of Fermanagh in the County of Fermanagh

No. (1)	When Married (2)	Name and Surname (3)	Age (4)	Complexion (5)	Rank or Profession (6)	Address at the Time of Marriage (7)	Father's Name and Surname (8)	Rank or Profession of Father (9)	Marriage No. 16
16	14 th July 1924	John Thomas Beggs	48	Dark	Farmer	Carbans	Peter Beggs	Farmer	Registered by this
	1924	Mary Murphy	32	Fair	"	Carraig	Patrick Murphy	Farmer	day of July 1924

Married in the Roman Catholic Church of M. Tierney according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, D. Bradley

This Marriage was solemnized between us, John Thomas Beggs and Mary Murphy in the Presence of us, Edward Beggs and Mary Anne Rooney

GRONI-For Personal Use

Registration details

The short-lived marriage

It is not clear where John Thomas went immediately after his marriage, but we have records of him returning to the US in 1929 via Belfast. It appears that he remained in Providence until he retired.

Poor Mary moved in with her sister Catherine Quigley in Greaghawarren. So, while John Thomas was living with the Beggans of Greaghawarren in Providence, his wife was living next door to the Beggans in Greaghawarren, most probably unaware of the connection! Mary died on 22nd April 1932 at the Quigley home of chronic kidney disease.

John Thomas must have been kept informed about his wife, because he declares he is widowed in the 1940 US census. He did not remarry. After he retired, he returned to Ireland to his home place in Corbane, less than a mile from where his wife lived and died. He was looked after by his nephew James Cosgrove until he died in 1961 at the age of 84 and he is buried in Roslea Cemetery. Since he had retained his US citizenship, the death was noted by the US consular services.

Handwritten: Office of Special Consular Services, Form FS-102, 1-19-61, 1961, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Copy to HEN

OFFICE OF SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FORM FS-102
1-19-61
1961

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN

Belfast, Northern Ireland, March 16, 1961.
(Place and date)

Name in full John Thomas COSGROVE Occupation Retired

~~Native or~~ naturalized before United States District Court for the Last known address
District of Rhode Island at Providence, Rhode Island on May 15, 1920
in the United States Pine Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Date of death January 15, (Not known) 1961 Age 84
(Month) (Day) (Hour) (Minute) (Year) (As nearly as can be ascertained)

Place of death Corbane, Roslea, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland
(Number and street) or (Hospital or hotel) (City) (Country)

Cause of death Stated in official death certificate to have been: Myocardial
Degeneration Senility Certified. (Include authority for statement)

Disposition of the remains Interred in Roslea Catholic Cemetery, Roslea,
County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

Local law as to disinterring remains Remains may be disinterred at any time with the
permission of the Ministry of Health and Local Government, Northern Ireland
and the respective cemetery authority.

Disposition of the effects James Cosgrove assumed charge.

Death full view

Report an amendment

Order certificate 

Image

	1932						Chronic Parenchymatous	Catherine Duigley	Third	
373	Twenty-second				42	Farmer's	Apoplexy 1 1/2 months Right	Sister	May	
	April	Mary Cosgrove	Female	Married	years	Wife	Hemiplegia - syncope	Present at death		F. B. D'Arcy
	Greaghaven						2 days - Certified	Greaghaven	1932	Registrar

Registration details

Registration number D/1932/156/1019/12/373

Registration district Lisnaskea(pre-1973 Q4)

Registration sub-district Rosslea

Deceased details

Deceased name(s) Mary Cosgrove