

THE AGI SAMPLE REPORT ON A GENEALOGICAL SEARCH

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INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE CLIENT

At the outset the client stated that Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney was a barrister who lived in Dublin and that he died in 1924. His wife was Edith Margaret, whose maiden surname was believed to be Kershaw. She died in 1945. It was believed that his father was a wine merchant and that her family had some connection with the linen industry in Ulster. Joseph and Edith's known children were Vincent, Kathleen,¹ Georgie, Harold, Adam and Bella.

The family was identified in the 1911 census, living in Grosvenor Road, Rathmines. It showed Joseph J. McSweeney as a 43 year old barrister and his birthplace was stated as Cork City. His wife Edith M. was stated as aged 39 and born in Dublin City. The census indicated that she was married 13 years and had four children born alive, all of whom were still living. Also resident in the house were Joseph's children; Vincent C. (aged 11), Kathleen M. (9), Georgina E. (6) and Harold J. (2), as well as a domestic servant named Bridget Byrne. All four children were stated as born in Co. Dublin. Joseph and the two sons were recorded as Roman Catholic, while Edith and the two daughters were Church of Ireland. An attempt to identify the family in the 1901 Census was unsuccessful.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE SEARCH

The client wished to learn something of Joseph's career as well as identifying the addresses where the family lived throughout the first half of the twentieth century. There was some uncertainty as to where Joseph and Edith were buried and it was hoped to clarify this. The main aim of the search was to uncover Joseph and Edith's immediate background and trace their ancestry.

OBSERVATIONS

It is worth noting that in Ireland in the nineteenth century the children of a marriage between a Roman Catholic and a Protestant might be raised in either faith. Often the sons were brought up in the father's religion and the daughters in the mother's. This would appear to be the case with the McSweeneys. After the *Ne Temere* decree on performing marriages came into effect in the R.C. church in 1908 such arrangements were no longer countenanced.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The birth record of Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney's son, Vincent, born ca. 1900, was sought. As well as the record confirming Edith's maiden surname, it would reveal the family's address close to the time of the 1901 Census, hopefully helping to locate them in the census. Civil registration in Ireland commenced in 1845 with non-Catholic marriages only. Registration was extended to all births and deaths, and Roman Catholic marriages, in 1864.

¹ Kathleen was the client's grandmother.

The records for civil registration for Ireland are complete. They were not damaged or destroyed at any point between 1864 and the present day, though a certain number of events did go unregistered, particularly in the early years.

The General Register Office (GRO) is responsible for these civil records. Its annual indexes to births, marriages and deaths may be consulted in the GRO's Search Room in Dublin. There is a free online database of the indexes on the government-sponsored Irishgenealogy.ie website. In most cases the database includes the image of the record itself. It should be remembered that the database is not entirely complete and it may be necessary to consult the records in the GRO's Search Room.

The Civil Records database on Irishgenealogy.ie was checked for a Vincent McSweeney birth in the period 1898-1902, but without success. Luckily, the database includes the mothers' maiden surnames for part of this period. Confining the search to McSweeney births in the Dublin South Superintendent Registrar's District (SRD), there was no relevant entry, but in Dublin North SRD there was a result. It was found that a Cornelius MacSweeney was born there on 25 January 1900 with the 'Mother's Birth Surname' listed as Kershaw.²

The image [**below OR in Appendix 1**] shows that Cornelius Vincent was born at 15 Sherrard Street Lower in Dublin North SRD on 25 January 1900 to Joseph J. MacSweeney, barrister, and Edith MacSweeney formerly Kershaw. The informant was the mother, Edith McSweeney (*sic*) of 15 Sherrard Street Lower, and the birth was registered on 13 February 1900.

It will be noted that the surname was recorded as 'MacSweeney' rather than 'McSweeney'. This spelling was most likely written by the registrar, as it will be noted that the mother signed as 'McSweeney'.³

The 1901 Census of Ireland was compiled in the first weeks of April 1901, over a year after the birth of Cornelius Vincent (or Vincent Cornelius, as he was later known). Nevertheless, a search of the census found the family still residing in Sherrard Street. It should be noted that the 1901 and 1911 censuses are the only complete returns for Ireland currently available for consultation. Both are held by the National Archives of Ireland (NAI) but the NAI hosts a free online database. This database was searched geographically, selecting Dublin, then Rotunda Ward and finally Lower Sherrard Street. The McSweeney family was found at Number 15.⁴

On the transcript page the surname was recorded as 'Mc Sweeney', rather than 'McSweeney'. This may explain why the family had not been found during a previous search of the 1901 Census, as stated by the client.

² https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/birth_returns/births_1900/00996/1768078.pdf, accessed 12 Jan. 2020.

³ The signature in this image is not that of the mother. She would have signed the local registrar's book. This is an image from the return made to the General Register Office, which was transcribed from that book.

⁴ <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai0037697086/>, accessed 12 Jan. 2020.

The image [**below OR in Appendix 2**] shows that Joseph J. Mc Sweeney was the head of the household. He was a barrister, aged 32, born in Cork (without noting if this referred to the county or the city). His wife was recorded as Edith M. Mc Sweeney, aged 29, born Dublin (again, without noting if this was county or city). Also in the household were his son Vincent, aged one year, born in Dublin, and his mother-in-law Elizabeth Kershaw, aged 67, a widow, born in Co. Antrim. Joseph and Vincent were noted as Roman Catholic while Edith and Elizabeth Kershaw were Church of Ireland. Only Joseph was recorded with an occupation and all in the house could read and write other than Vincent.

The Civil Records database was searched for the birth records of the other three children of Joseph and Edith noted on the 1911 Census. Additionally, the search was continued up to 1918 and a further two children were found.⁵ The images of all five appear [**below OR in Appendix 3**]. The details are as follows.

Kathleen Margaret was born at 15 Sherrard Street Lower on 2 April 1902 to Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney, barrister, and Edith Margaret McSweeney, formerly Kershaw. The informant was Elizabeth Kershaw, grandmother, of the same address, and the birth was registered on 15 April 1902.⁶

Georgina Elizabeth was born at 15 Lower Sherrard Street on 12 October 1904 to Joseph J. McSweeney, barrister, and Edith Margaret McSweeney, formerly Kershaw. The informant was Elizabeth Kershaw, grandmother, of the same address, and the birth was registered on 29 October 1904.⁷

Harold Joseph was born at 43 Grosvenor Road, Rathmines, in Dublin South SRD on 5 November 1908 to Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney, barrister-at-law, and Edith M. McSweeney, formerly Kershaw. The informant was the mother, Edith McSweeney of 43 Grosvenor Road, and the birth was registered on 1 December 1908.⁸

Adam Bernard McClure was born at 43 Grosvenor Road on 18 May 1912 to Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney, barrister-at-law, and Edith McSweeney, formerly Kershaw. The informant was the father, J.J. McSweeney of 43 Grosvenor Road, and the birth was registered on 30 May 1912.⁹

Delia Bella was born at 43 Grosvenor Road on 2 November 1914 to Joseph J. McSweeney, barrister K.C.,¹⁰ and Edith Margaret McSweeney, formerly Kershaw. The informant was Jane

⁵ Currently the Civil Records database only includes births up to 1918, marriages up to 1943 and deaths up to 1968.

⁶ https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/birth_returns/births_1902/00996/1768083.pdf, accessed 12 Jan. 2020.

⁷ https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/birth_returns/births_1904/00996/1798298.pdf, accessed 12 Jan. 2020.

⁸ https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/birth_returns/births_1908/00996/1778094.pdf, accessed 12 Jan. 2020.

⁹ https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/birth_returns/births_1912/00996/1898108.pdf, accessed 12 Jan. 2020.

¹⁰ King's Counsel.

Kershaw, present at birth, of 6 Brighton Road, Rathgar, and the birth was registered on 14 November 1914.¹¹

The next step was to search for record of the marriage of Joseph McSweeney and Edith Kershaw. The 1911 Census return had noted that Joseph and Edith had been married for 13 years, and thus their marriage should have occurred in or about 1898. Using the Civil Records database, the marriage was identified, registered in Dublin North SRD in 1897. In some cases of mixed marriage (or marriage between individuals of different faiths) two separate ceremonies took place. Apparently it was not the case in this instance, as only one entry appeared in the database for this couple. It should be noted though that the database is known to have omissions.

The image [**below OR in Appendix 4**] shows that the marriage took place at St Mary's Church of Ireland parish church, Howth, Co. Dublin. Howth is a civil and C. of I. parish covering a peninsula on the northern extremity of Dublin Bay. Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney married Edith Margaret Kershaw on 20 November 1897. Both were of full age (over 21) and previously unmarried. He was stated as a barrister resident at 15 Sherrard Street Lower. His father was stated as Cornelius McSweeney, merchant. She was resident at Island View, Howth, and her father was recorded as Adam J. Kershaw, merchant. The witnesses were Timothy J. McCarthy and Bella J. McClure.¹²

Before delving further into the earlier history of Joseph and Edith's families, the client's request for information on Joseph's career and their later life was addressed. *King's Inns Barristers 1868-2004*, edited by Kenneth Ferguson contained an entry for Joseph, giving the following information:

MCSWEENY, JOSEPH JEREMIAH (b. 28 Apr. 1868) 2nd son of Cornelius McSweeney of Montenotte, Cork, and Catherine Cotter; M 1888, 1891/M/14. K.C., 20 Feb. 1914. Died 11 Oct. 1924

What the abbreviations indicate is that he was admitted as a student in Michaelmas term 1888, that he was called to the Irish Bar in Michaelmas term 1891 (14 being the archival reference number), and that he became a King's Counsel in 1914.

The annual *Thom's Directory of Ireland* includes a listing of Dublin property occupiers, street by street, as well as an alphabetical listing. The more prosperous residents are usually included. An examination of the alphabetical listings in various years between 1901 and 1945 allowed for compiling a rough outline of the family's addresses throughout the first half of the century:

1901-1906	15 Sherrard Street Lower
1907-1931	43 Grosvenor Road, Rathmines

¹¹ https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/birth_returns/births_1914/00996/1098299.pdf, accessed 12 Jan. 2020.

¹²

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/marriage_returns/marriages_1897/10399/5786493.pdf, accessed 12 Jan. 2020.

1932-1945 1a Sycamore Villas, Rathgar

To determine where Joseph McSweeney was buried, the *Irish Times* online newspaper archives was consulted for a death notice. The following notice was found as appearing in the *Irish Times* on 12th October 1924, p. 12:

MCSWEENEY, Joseph Jeremiah, barrister of Grosvenor Road, Rathmines, deeply regretted by his loving wife and children, grandson, brothers and sister, colleagues and friends. Funeral tomorrow 9.30 o'clock St. Peter's, Rathmines, burial to Mt. Jerome.

Mount Jerome Cemetery was traditionally, but not exclusively, a place of burial for Protestant families. The registers (and the contemporary indexes to them) may be consulted on microfilm in the Dublin City Library and Archive. The burial register for October 1924 was examined and the entry for Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney (No. 375) was found. It showed that Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney of 43 Grosvenor Road, Rathmines, aged 56, was buried on 13 October 1924. Vincent C. McSweeney made the burial arrangements. The plot number was noted as Garden Section B54.

Knowing the plot number it was possible to establish the names of all the others interred in the same grave. The following were the other people recorded:

1897

No. 245, Adam J. Kershaw of Howth, buried on 1st September 1897, age 80.

1909

No. 23, Elizabeth Kershaw of 15 Sherrard Street, buried on 23rd February 1909, age 77.

1915

No. 138, George Kershaw of Island View, Howth, buried on 6th May 1915, age 47.

1945

No. 49, Edith M. McSweeney of 1a Sycamore Villas, Rathgar, buried on 2 April 1945, aged 73.

Evidently Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney was buried in the Kershaw family plot. The burial records, added to the other information accumulated thus far, would appear to establish that Edith Margaret Kershaw's parents were Adam J. Kershaw, a merchant, born ca. 1817, died 1897, and Elizabeth _____, born ca. 1832 in Co. Antrim, died 1909. It would seem that Edith had a brother, George, born ca. 1868, who died in 1915.

Regarding Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney, at this point it was known that he was born on 28 April 1868 in Cork City, son of Cornelius McSweeney, a merchant of Montenotte, and Catherine Cotter. Evidently the McSweeney family was Roman Catholic.

There were various directions that the search might have taken at this juncture, bearing in mind the client's objectives, but it was decided to attempt to establish more about the McSweeney line. Montenotte was a suburb of Cork City on its north side, which developed in the nineteenth century as a fashionable residential area for the more prosperous middle

class. The city and its immediate environs were within Cork SRD. A search of the Civil Records database on Irishgenealogy.ie failed to identify reference to the birth of Joseph Jeremiah.

Turning to the Index of Births for 1868 at the General Register Office Search Room, it was found that an unnamed male child of the surname McSweeney was registered in Cork SRD. There are various reasons why a child's birth might have been registered without the forename being stated. In many cases it is because the birth was in a hospital and was registered by the authorities without seeking the first name. In any case, a photocopy of the record was purchased and it proved to be that of a child of Cornelius McSweeney and Catherine Cotter.¹³

The image [**below OR in Appendix 5**] shows that the male child was born at River View, Montenotte, on 28 April 1868 to Cornelius McSweeney, merchant, of the same address, and Catherine McSweeney formerly Cotter. The informant was Mary Barry, midwife, of Old Chapel Lane, who was present at birth. It was registered on 29 April 1868. It is possible that the midwife did not know the child's given name.

The Montenotte area, which is not an exact geographical location, appears to have been covered by St. Patrick's R.C. parish. In order to confirm that the above was the birth record of Joseph Jeremiah, a search was made for the child's baptism. The National Library of Ireland's microfilm copies of R.C. parish registers have been digitised and they may be examined on the free website 'Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI'. It should be noted that the website has digitised images but it is not indexed, so a search of individual pages of the register was necessary.

The baptismal register for St. Patrick's parish was examined for the end of April and beginning of May 1868. The relevant entry was found, confirming that the birth record related to Joseph Jeremiah.¹⁴ The details were as follows:

Baptised on 30 April 1868, Jeremiah Joseph, the son of Cornls. McSwiney and Cath. Cotter. Michl. McSwiney and Norah Cotter stood as sponsors to the baptism.

Baptismal sponsors, or godparents, usually were relatives, neighbours or friends of the family. They might be grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins or even older siblings of the child. The surname in this record was 'McSwiney', a variant spelling of McSweeney. It will be noted also that the forenames of the child are reversed in this case, as they were on the birth record of Joseph Jeremiah's son Vincent Cornelius.

The 'Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881' database on FamilySearch.org is part of the International Genealogical Index (IGI), compiled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the LDS or Mormon church). It contains abstracts from a large proportion of civil records of birth from the first decade and a half of registration. Using this database, it was possible to identify three children of Cornelius McSweeney and Catherine Cotter, though

¹³ Ref.: Cork, 1868/10/339.

¹⁴ <https://registers.nli.ie/registers/vtls000633189#page/195/mode/1up>, accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

there was no reference to the birth of Joseph Jeremiah himself. The three birth record abstracts, all from Cork SRD, were:

Born on 17 November 1865, Michael James, the son of Cornelius McSweeney and Kate Cotter

Born on 25 April 1871, Catherine Maria, the daughter of Cornelius McSweeney and Catherine Cotter

Born on 4 December 1874, Julia Honora, the daughter of Cornelius McSweeney and Catherine Cotter

A search was made in the Civil Records database for record of the marriage of Cornelius McSweeney and Catherine Cotter prior to November 1865. Unfortunately, as already stated, civil registration of Roman Catholic marriages only commenced in 1864. No reference to the marriage of Cornelius McSweeney and Catherine Cotter was found in 1864 or 1865. Of course, there are omissions from that database and examination of the Index of Marriages at the General Register Office Search Room would be necessary if no other record of their marriage were found.

Turning to the Irish Newspaper Archives, the database was searched for references in the *Cork Examiner* newspaper in the period 1855-1865, using 'Cornelius', 'McSweeney' and 'Cotter' as search terms. The *Cork Examiner* is listed in the database under its current title, *Irish Examiner*. A notice for the marriage was found published on 3 December 1863, p. 2

Marriages

On 30th November at St. Patrick's, Cornelius McSweeney, wine merchant, of this city to Catherine, daughter of Jeremiah Cotter, farmer of Ballincollig.

The marriage register of St. Patrick's parish was examined for November 1863 on Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI.¹⁵ Unfortunately, the register only recorded the names of the bride and groom and their witnesses:

Married on 30 November 1863, Cornelius McSweeney and Catherine Cotter, Ballincollig, James McSweeney and Anne Kelly stood as witnesses and John Browne carried out the ceremony.

It is interesting to note that the marriage does not appear to have taken place in the home parish of Catherine Cotter, which would appear to have been Ballincollig.

Returning to the 1901 Census, a search identified what would appear to be the father of Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney, living in 10 River View Villas, North East Ward, Cork.¹⁶ The image [**below OR in Appendix 6**] shows that his stated age was 68 (thus born ca. 1833). He was a wine merchant, born in Cork City. His wife was noted as Kate, aged 58 (thus born ca. 1843), born in Ballincollig, Co. Cork. Living with them were his son Michael McSweeney (36;

¹⁵ <https://registers.nli.ie/registers/vtls000633188#page/60/mode/1up>, accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

¹⁶ <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai0037622086/>, accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

married; wine & spirit merchant), his daughter-in-law Alice McSweeney (28), his daughter Julia Webster (26; widow), his daughter Delia Jane McSweeney (18; not married), his grandchildren Anthony McSweeney (7) and Delia McSweeney (4), and two domestic servants, Honoria O'Sullivan (42; not married; cook; born Co. Cork) and Margaret Crowley (23; not married; housemaid; born Co. Waterford).

All family members except for Kate were stated as born in Cork City. All occupants of the house were Roman Catholic. All could read and write, except for four year old Delia. The only person recorded as speaking Irish was Honoria O'Sullivan. She could speak Irish and English. Details in the 1911 Census (noted below) confirm Alice as Michael's wife and Anthony and Delia as their children.

The 1911 Census was checked for River View Villas (then in Cork No. 3 Urban Ward) and it was found that the McSweeney family was still residing at No. 10, although by then Cornelius evidently was deceased.¹⁷ The image [**below OR in Appendix 7**] shows that the family was headed by Michael McSweeney (46; wine & spirit merchant). He was living with his wife Alice (38), his children Delia (13), John (9), William (5) and Con (6 months), his mother Catherine McSweeney (71; widow; born Co. Cork), and two domestic servants, Hannah Sullivan (55; not married; cook; born Co. Cork) and Ellen Murphy (21; not married; housemaid; born Co. Cork).

All family members except for Catherine were stated as born in the City of Cork. All occupants were Roman Catholic. The children Delia and John, as well as Hannah Sullivan, were noted as speaking Irish and English. Alice McSweeney was stated as having been married for 19 years and having had five children born alive, of whom four were still living. Though this information was not asked in relation to widows, the form contained similar details for Catherine McSweeney. Although these details had been crossed through by the enumerator it is possible to read them. Catherine was stated as having been married for 47 years and having given birth to nine children, seven of whom were still living.

The Civil Records database identified nine Cornelius McSweeney (or variants) deaths within Cork SRD between 1901 and 1911. Following inspection of each record, one of these proved to be correct.¹⁸ The image [**below OR in Appendix 8**] shows that Cornelius McSweeney (*sic*) died at Maria Lodge, River View Villas, Montenotte, on 7 April 1908 aged 77 and a married wine merchant. The certified cause of death was cardiac disease over five months. The informant was his son Florence McSweeney (*sic*) of Albert Terrace, Cork. Registration was on 16 April 1908.

A short obituary was found on the Irish Newspaper Archives for Cornelius in the *Cork Examiner* in an edition dated 10 April 1908. It noted that he was:

a prominent wine and spirit merchant of the city, as had been his father, Michael McSweeney, before him. His eldest son, Mr Michael McSweeney,

¹⁷ <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai0087699187/>, accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

¹⁸

https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths_returns/deaths_1908/05500/4540729.pdf, accessed 21 Jan. 2020.

succeeds in the family business which has for upwards of 70 years stood at the corner of Patrick's Street and Marlborough Street. His son Joseph is a noted barrister residing in Dublin and another son, Rev. Laurence McSweeney, is a Jesuit, residing in Manchester, England.

Further, the piece noted that the burial had taken place at St Finbarr's Cemetery in Cork and among the mourners were various relations including his son-in-law James O'Dwyer, Junior, and his nephews William, Florence and Michael Brady.

It was possible to identify an image of the memorial on the McSweeney family plot on the HistoricGraves.ie website.¹⁹ The inscription reads as follows:

*In Loving Memory
of
Michael McSweeney,
Merchant of this City
Who died 22 June 1871 aged 74
And of his Wife Johanna who died 19 November 1874 aged 65
Also their infant son Garrett who died 8 March 1842 aged 7
Their daughter Sarah died 2 April 1867 aged 22
Also their son Cornelius who died 7th April 1908 aged 77
and his wife Catherine who died 19 September 1915 aged 75.*

At this point it had been established that Cornelius McSweeney was born in Cork City about 1831-1833, the son of Michael McSweeney, a wine merchant, and his wife Johanna. Cornelius's siblings included Garrett (b. ca. 1835) and Sarah (b. ca. 1845). His father Michael was born ca. 1797 and his mother Johanna was born ca. 1809. Michael died in 1871. As he was a merchant it was quite likely that he left a will. The Calendar of Wills and Administrations for the period 1858-1920 is searchable online on the Genealogy section of the National Archives of Ireland website. It was checked for a Michael McSweeney (or variants) with the date of death as 1871. An entry was found showing that probate was granted four years after his death.²⁰

The image [**below OR in Appendix 9**] shows that Michael McSweeney (*sic*) of Patrick's Hill, Cork, merchant, died on 22 June 1871 and probate of his will was granted at the Principal Registry on 22 April 1875 to Cornelius McSweeney (*sic*), merchant, of Montenotte, Cork. The effects amounted to £3,895-15-9, a very substantial sum at the time.

The Cornelius McSweeney who was named as executor by Michael most likely was his son, who succeeded to the family business. The will was proved in the Principal Registry, rather than in the Cork Registry, indicating that Michael's estate extended outside the Cork area. As a merchant he might have had stock elsewhere in Ireland. The vast majority of wills proved prior to 1900 perished in 1922, when the Public Record Office was destroyed by fire during the Civil War. Unfortunately, no will book for the Principal Registry survives for 1875.

¹⁹ <https://historicgraves.ie/st-finnbarr-s-cemetery/co-sfbr-0905/grave>, accessed 21 Jan. 2020.

²⁰ http://www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/reels/cwa/055018891/075014891_00655.pdf, accessed 21 Jan. 2020

Had the will been proved at Cork there would have been a surviving transcript in the Cork Will Book.

In the hope of ascertaining the extent of property possessed by Michael McSweeney at the time of his death, an initial search was made at the Registry of Deeds. To explore the possibility of a transaction relating to his estate following his death, the Index of Grantors for the period 1870 to 1879 was checked under the name Cornelius McSweeney. One relevant reference was found. The index reference showed that the grantee was Brady and the property involved was in Cork City and Co. Kerry. The reference was 1876 2 134. The transcription book (Vol. 2 of 1876) was examined and the relevant entry (134) was found. The entry is a transcript of the memorial (or copy) of the original deed. The memorial was presented for registration and lodged at the Registry of Deeds.

The transcript was examined. The deed was an extensive one, revealing considerable detail about the family and their property. The contents are summarised in Appendix 10.

The Michael McSweeney who took the lease in 1779 may have been the grandfather of the Michael who died in 1871 and the Cornelius McSweeney who obtained the new lease in 1810 may have been his father. What is certain is that when Michael (b. ca. 1797) died in 1871 he left two surviving children, a daughter Ellen who married William Brady, a draper from Tralee, and a son Cornelius. Cornelius was the father of Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney who married Edith Margaret Kershaw.

The surviving baptismal records Tralee R.C. parish date from 1772. They are covered by transcripts in the Church Records database on Irishgenealogy.ie. To conclude this search the database was checked for Michael McSweeney baptisms in Tralee R.C. parish in the period 1795-1800. One such entry was found. The details are as follows:

Baptised on 28 January 1796, Michael, the son of Cornelius McSweeney and Ellen Barry of Gurane. Edmund Barry and Delia Barry stood as sponsors to the baptism.

While it seems likely that this entry relates to the relevant Michael McSweeney, further research would be necessary to confirm this. It is possible that the transcripts have omissions or that the original records are incomplete, so an inspection of the records themselves could be made using the digitised images on the Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI website.

There is scope for further research in various directions, should the client wish to continue. It is possible that the Registry of Deeds may contain information about the transactions mentioned in the 1876 deed. The first generation of the McSweeneys in Cork City has not yet been explored. Little has been done so far in relation to the Kershaws. It would depend very much on the client's priorities if it is decided to continue researching this family.

Attached is a sketch pedigree based on the information amassed to date. It may assist the client in understanding the findings.

APPENDIX 10

Registry of Deeds

Index of Grantors, 1870-1879, under Cornelius McSweeney

- only reference of potential relevance

1876 2 134 dated 13 February 1876; registered 17 February 1876

Cornelius McSweeney, Montenotte, Co. Cork, merchant, sole executor of the last will and testament of Michael McSweeney, late of St. Patrick's Hill, City of Cork, merchant, deceased, his father (1); William Brady, Tralee, Co. Kerry, draper, and his wife Ellen Brady otherwise McSweeney, daughter of said Michael McSweeney (2).

Reciting that said Michael McSweeney died on 22 June 1871 having made his last will on 16 June 1871, appointing his son (1) as sole executor. By this will he left his entire estate to his two surviving children (1) and said Ellen Brady, share and share alike. It was subsequently agreed between (1) and (2) that a division of his real estate property would be made between them. Probate was granted at the Principal Registry on 22 April 1875.

According to his will said Michael McSweeney was possessed of a premises on The Mall in the Town of Tralee, known as The Grand Hotel, and the lands of Doon, Cloonalour and Garrane in the parish of Tralee, barony of Trughanacmy, County of Kerry, originally granted by lease dated 4 May 1779 by Sir James Denny, Baronet, to Michael McSweeney of Tralee, merchant, for a term of 31 years and subsequently on 1 May 1810 by Sir Richard Denny, Baronet, to Cornelius McSweeney of Tralee, merchant, for a term of three lives renewable forever.

Said Michael McSweeney also was possessed of premises on St. Patrick's Street and Marlborough Street in the City of Cork by a lease granted to him on 29 September 1825 by James Somerset, gentleman, for a term of three lives renewable forever. He also was possessed of three houses on St. Patrick's Hill in the City of Cork, and seven acres of land in Ballinamought in the parish of St. Anne's Shandon, County of Cork, by a lease granted on 25 March 1841 by Mortimer Santry, merchant, for a term of 61 years.

By the present deed (1) and (2) agreed to the division of Michael McSweeney's real estate. (2) would have outright possession of the properties in Co. Kerry and (1) would have outright possession of the properties in Cork County and City.

Witnesses: James O'Dwyer, South Mall, Cork, solicitor, & Richard Brady, City of Limerick, doctor of physic.

Memorial witnesses: said James O'Dwyer & Anthony McCarthy, his clerk.

SOURCES CONSULTED

ONLINE SOURCES

www.irishgenealogy.ie:

Irishgenealogy.ie, Civil Records database

birth Cornelius Vincent McSweeney, 1900 [**& ALL THE OTHERS**]

marriage Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney & Edith Margaret Kershaw, 1897

death Cornelius McSweeney, 1908

Irishgenealogy.ie, Church Records database

baptisms re Tralee R.C. parish, 1795-1800

www.census.nationalarchives.ie:

1901 Census, Sherrard Street, Rotunda Ward, Dublin

1901 Census, Cork, for Cornelius McSweeney

1911 Census, River View, Cork No. 3 Urban Ward, Cork

www.irishtimes.com/archive:

Irish Times Archive Newspaper Archive

death notice for Joseph Jeremiah McSweeney

https://registers.nli.ie:

Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI

St. Patrick's parish, Cork City baptisms, April-May 1868

marriages, November 1863

www.familysearch.org:

FamilySearch, Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881 database

www.irishnewsarchive.com:

Irish Newspaper Archives

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