

Belfast Road
Ballynahinch
April 20th, [19]-28

Dear Cousin, [Joseph Mateer]

I am ashamed at not answering your kind letter before this time Uncle Robert or your father used to say that procrastination was the thief of time. I remember him being over a short time after I was married. I see from your letter you have plenty of snow in winter too. We have had a very wet winter not so much snow as we used to have formerly, now. the people as [are] very busy putting in their Seeds, such as Oats, potatoes etc it is late for them owing to such wet weather Spring is bitterly cold. Frosts all the time or rain, not the nice Spring as was in former days. However we are hoping for a nice Summer. I had a letter from your Son Ed so will answer just now. I was trying to find out what I could but there are no Friends or neighbours can enlighten me very much. Miss Hunter has not come over yet so I dont know when either one or the other will come or go as Annie & her Husband have not got a start made yet.

It was Joseph the[y] called your Grandfather & I think it was Margaret was your Grandmothers name. I just merely remembered her. I was just 3 years old when she died. they were both buried in Loghaghry Churchyard just at the foot of the lane of your Fathers old Home & where I lived before I was married. Your Grandfather was 93 years of age when he died & I cant remember your Grandmothers age but I may find out yet. Yes, I think there was 8 of a Family. there was John, Jas, Joe, Robt, your Father & there was Nancy, Eliza, Jennie & Mary Ann, but I dont remember any of them only your Father when he came over on a visit I think it was Jennie was Miss Hunters Grandmothers name but she could let you know more sure & her Family was Eliza Jane who married a Mr Hunter Mary Ann who married a Mr Irvine & Margaret [ditto] Mr Douglas. there were 2 or 3 brothers Miss Hunter said there was one she called Thomas, & I dont know the others names

It was an Uncle of Mrs[?Mr] Campbells that died recently in California. He was the last Brother living of my Husbands. there were 4 of them went to California. my Husband, & the youngest one was a Doctor in Dromore, where the Revd John McKee was a minister of one of the Churches there. He was a Cousin of your Fathers.

there were 6 boys and one Girl who married a Mr. Bennett. they all passed of[f] very quickly.

Robt my eldest did fall in pretty lucky. His Uncle asked him if he would look after him and he did so to the best of his ability for several years he had no other relatives near.

I hope this will find you continuing in good health & I'm sure it will require you to [be?] careful. I also hope Mrs. Mateer is quite well & the Boys. I had a turn of the Flu at Christmas it did not last too long but it leaves on[e] weak for some time.

I will now start a letter to Edward
will finish this letter with love to all
Maggie McKee

Names & Dates of Maggie's Family [presumably her daughter]

Norman Moorhead Born August 3rd 1921
Ian McKee " " August 31st " 23 [I have more on this line]
Margaret Roberta " " April 23rd " 26

Name of Willies Baby [presumably her son]
Maurice Edgar McKee Born 24th October 1924

Nellie or Willie are short or pet names. As soon as I can gather up any more of my Aunts & Uncles Dates I will let you know.

Hoping you can follow up what I have got.
Your loving Friend
Maggie McKee

Names & Dates of my Family

Robt McKee	Born	November 9 th	1887
<u>Samuel</u> John McKee	"	March 14 th	" 89
Mary	"	April 6 th	" 90
Annie Elizabeth	"	January 6 th	" 92
<u>Ellen</u> Rebecca	"	May 24 th	" 93
<u>Samuel</u> John	"	July 25 th	" 94
James Mateer	"	August 28 th	" 96
Margaret	"	August 3 rd	" 99
William	"	January 16 th	1902

Names of Marys Family

Sara	Lawther	Born	April 27 th	1911
Margaret	"	"	May 10 th	" 12
James McKee	"	"	June 5 th	" 13
<u>Mary</u>	"	"	June 18 th	" 14
<u>William</u>	"	"	July 10 th	" 15
John Ringland	"	"	March 28 th	" 20
Robert	"	"	August 14 th	" 21
Jane Elizabeth	"	"	December 23 rd	" 22
Samuel McKee	"	"	February 19 th	" 24
Doreen Maud	"	"	July 24 th	" 25
Frederick Stevenson	"	"	September 4 th	" 27

Those marked [underlined] are the ones that died

Belfast Road
Ballynahinch
July 10, 1928

Dear Edward [Mateer]

I am a long time in answering you. I am very glad you sent me back the Chart for correction. I have went round & got the names more correctly. I thought I could commit them from memory, but I made some mistakes. I have got a good many of the Dates. I am trying to get Grandfather's & Grandmother's Dates.

My Daughter & her Husband that is "Campbell," left here for a visit to California they will call with a Sister of his, on their way Samuel J. Bell is coming over for a visit in December.

I hope your Father & mother & all are quite well. Now I will start & give you the names more correctly & what Dates I have gathered up, on another page. please let me know if you can gather these names up & dates up. I have sent & over to California for the Dates of Bobs 2 Boys but hasn't got them yet.

Names of Eliza Jane or Lizzie Bells Family

Samuel John	Bell	Born	December 16 th	1900
William Andrew	"	"	May 8 th	1902
Elizabeth Evelyn	"	"	January 25 th	1904
Annie	"	"	May 20 th	" 06
Maggie Eileen	"	"	July 3 rd	" 09
Mary Isobel	"	"	April 20 th	" 11
Robert	"	"	November 15 th	" 12
Frederick Percival	"	"	December 24 th	" 14

Belfast Road
Ballynahinch
Sept. 1st, 28.

Dear Edward

You will surely think me careless in being so long of writing to you, but I have only got word lately from the Clerk of the Union of Lisburn so he said there were no records of Dates of Birth kept so far back nor that we couldn't get them in Dublin either.

I was just speaking to the present Minister (Revd J. N. Moorhead yesterday, of Loughaghry Church That is the Church the Mateers went to; so I asked him if the Dates could be traced so far back. he took the names & said he would lookup the Books for me either of their Birth or Babtism he said he would send me word as soon as possible.

I will write you again as soon as I hear from him.

Neither have I got the Dates of my eldest Sons two Boys of California.

I hope your Father & mother are quite well also your Brother & Sister.

Annie & her Husband that is Mrs Campbell have arrived in California a short time ago. I had a letter form her about two weeks ago she says the weather is pretty Hot and there different from here we had a lot of rain this Summer & still has yet & very little Heat.

Now I will write you sure when I hear from Revd Moorhead. he was my minister before I came here. He was telling me he remembers your Fathers Uncle Joseph he said he taught some of his Elder Sisters before he went to America

Mr Moorhead is a few years over 80 years of age & Still preaching, has a great memory, & can walk a good distance yet.

Its my youngest Daughter that is married to his Son.

Now I will finish this letter & might be writing soon again

Kind regards to all
Your loving Friend
Maggie McKee

Belfast Road
Ballynahinch
15th Dec. 19 [1928?]

Dear Cousin

At last I have got a Start made again. I had heard from Mr. Moorhead & I am sorry to tell you he had no Books of Births that dated so far back & I was told that at the time of some trouble in Dublin all the papers were burned So I'm afraid they cant be got.

Enclosed you will find a picture of Loughaghry Church but it is soiled. it is one I had in the House. This church was renovated since my Fathers Death. I was trying to get a late photo of it taken as the Shrubs etc have grown about it & looks much better, the person I asked to have it taken couldn't get it properly, owing to such a long spell of wet, dull weather but as soon as it can be got I will send it to you. This is also a picture of your Grandfathers Old Home it is got somewhat renovated too, & these are my two Brothers, Joseph & John. you cant see the House very well but I will have it taken later on.

My Daughter & her Husband are coming Home again from California. He couldn't get into what business would suit him, so they wouldn't stop unless he would get into some position, last letter I had they said they were leaving California 2nd week in December & would stop with his Sister in Canada till Christmas, I don't know if they would touch near you or not.

Miss Hunter is quite well and working away as hard as ever.

You were saying your Father had an enormous quantity of Grapes last season, Hope you got them all well saved. you Couldn't have managed them in this Climate.

We have had awful rain for the past 3 months & looks as if it will be dull till after Christmas

The principal Crops in this County are potatoes, Oats, wheat, & Turnips & Hay. most of these require good weather to have them preserved.

I have corrected a few in this record Sheet & all now are as correct as I can get them. I'm only sorry that I cant get the Births of my Fathers Ancestors dated further back & I don't know any who Could.

Hope your Father, Mother & all are quite well.

please excuse this soiled picture as it is they only one I could get at present.

Hope you will all
have a very enjoyable Christmas & a bright New Year.

Yours very Affectly
Maggie McKee



Other pictures referred to in the letter are probably those on the first two pages of the "Irish Cousins" document.

JAMES ROBERT Nov 22nd 1910 ROBERT M^CKEE
 NOV 9 1887
 FREDERICK MATTHEW April 6th 1912 MARY COX

SAMUEL JOHN M^CKEE *
 MAR 14 1889

SARA APR 27-1911
 MARGARET MAY 10-1912
 JAMES M^CKEE JUNE 5-1913
 * MARY JUNE 18-1914
 * WILLIAM JULY 10-1915
 JOHN KINGLAND MAR 28-1920
 ROBERT AUG 14-1921
 JANE ELIZABETH DEC 23-1922
 SAMUEL M^CKEE FEB 19-1924
 DOREEN MAUD JULY 24-1925
 FREDERICK STEVENSON SEP 4-1927

MARY M^CKEE
 TWELVE APR 6 1890
 JAMES LAWTHOR

MARGARET MATEER
 OCT 1861
 JAMES M^CKEE

ANNIE ELIZABETH M^CKEE
 JAN 6-1892
 ALBERT JOSEPH CAMPBELL

JOSEPH MATEER
 APR 1863

ELLEN REBECCA M^CKEE *
 MAY 24-1893

NANCY MATEER *
 1865

SAMUEL JOHN M^CKEE *
 JULY 25-1894

ELLEN MATEER
 TWENTY 1867
 WILLIAM JAMIESON

JAMES MATEER M^CKEE
 AUG 28 1896
 MARTHA SCOTT

JOHN MATEER
 August 1869

NORMAN AUG 3-1921
 IAN M^CKEE AUG 31-1923
 MARGARET ROBERTA APR 23-1926

MARGARET M^CKEE
 AUG 3 1899
 WILLIAM MOORHEAD

WILLIAM JAMES MATEER *
 1871

JOHN MATEER
 MAR 1868

MAURICE EDGAR OCT 24-1927

WILLIAM M^CKEE
 JAN 16 1902
 FRANCIS JANE BEATTY

ANNA M^CKEE
 1837

SAMUEL JOHN DEC 16-1900

WILLIAM ANDREW MAY 8-1902

ELIZABETH EVELYN JAN 25-1904

ANNIE MAY 20-1906

MAGGIE EILEEN JULY 3-1909

MARY ISOBEL APR 20-1911

ROBERT NOV 15-1912

FREDERICK PERCIVAL
 DEC 27-1914

ELIZABETH JANE MATEER
 FEB 1874

ROBERT WILLIAM BELL

WILLIAM MATEER *
 1878

This is the chart referred to in the letter, drawn up by Edward Mateer and corrected by Maggie McKee.