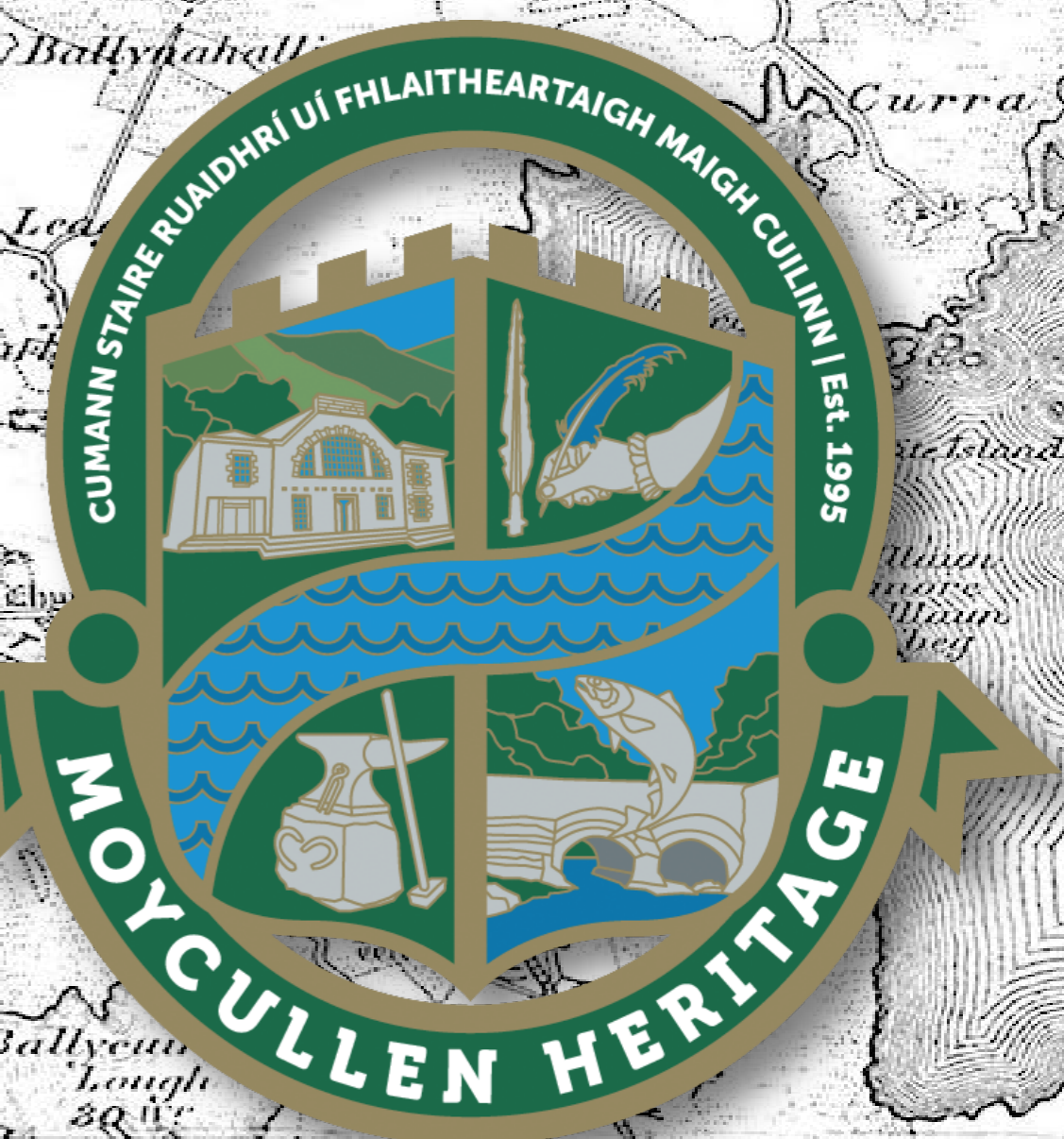


Gathering our Moycullen DNA Family



Group by Moycullen Heritage

TESTIMONIALS FOR MOYCULLEN AREA GENEALOGY/DNA PROJECT

Moria Sullivan Gardner, Santa Rosa, California

"Moycullen Heritage and the Moycullen Heritage DNA Project are of the utmost importance to me.

1. Moycullen Heritage

In 2004 my husband and I made the first of seven trips to Ireland to do genealogy. I had the privilege of meeting four of my mother's first cousins. They were able to tell me stories about the old days and point me in the direction of many more cousins. Currently, I have lost all four of those dear people. Someone once said that when an old person dies, a library of information dies with them. I believe that if Moycullen Heritage can save those stories, they won't be lost to those who come after us.

2. Moycullen Heritage DNA Project

Many of us in America remember our parents' stories about family members who did not emigrate. Usually, this will give us only our grandparents and great grandparents names. Some of our Irish families lived in isolated areas where registering a birth or death was a hardship or just something that time didn't allow. By testing the DNA of older people whose families have lived in the Moycullen area for generations, we get hints or even proof that we are on the right track. For me personally, the DNA tests done so far have been invaluable. They have proved my relationships with families in Tumnashrah, Clooniff, etc. Earlier, I had only family stories to go by. I have donated twice to this project, and I intend to continue to do so because I believe that strongly in its goals.

3. Moycullen Area Genealogy Facebook Group

Moycullen Facebook page has allowed us to build a community of people who share our interests. We get to know them, their family surnames, and townlands. It allows me to communicate with friends in Australia, Ireland, and the East Coast of America. These are people I will never meet in person, many of whom are actual relatives. It's given me a sense of connection. I'm 75 now and may never make it back to Ireland. Facebook gives me a link to Ireland and my cousins.

4. Thank You

In conclusion, my sincerest thank you to Moycullen Heritage for making all this possible. Thank you, Noel and Brian, for all the work you've put into these projects. I want my family to know about the struggles of our ancestors and how they persevered through troubled times. I don't want my ancestors to be forgotten. I also want my children to know their cousins in Ireland and to know how to find them when and if they have the urge.

Sincerely yours,
Moria Sullivan Gardner"

Allyson Moir, Glasgow, Scotland

"I'm 64 and just found out I've got a brother!!!! (My brother is 87) I have since then met my 2 sisters who live in London. I'm in contact via Facebook with some of my nieces, this is one amazing journey. I've got a family I never knew existed and would never have found without the truly wonderful Walter and Hazel and the Moycullen Historical Society. I will never be able to thank you enough for all your help... You really worked miracles on my family tree which is now a forest! My eyes have been like sprinkler systems since August while I've been on this huge emotional journey. THANK YOU!"

Suzanne Garden, Los Angeles, California

"I have very much enjoyed my inclusion and participation in the Moycullen Heritage Project Facebook Group and DNA Project. I feel like my being in the group has brought me closer to my Moycullen roots and kept me focused on my plans to visit Moycullen and meet my distant cousins in the future, as my country and Ireland recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. (I would have returned to Ireland last year, except for the pandemic.) On my last and only visit to Ireland, I knew very little about Moycullen and only spent a day and night there; I didn't really know anything about the history of the town or the geography. Now, when I go back, I want to spend more time there and explore the history and geography of the village more, as well as meet my cousins (who have connected with me through the FB group) and other townspeople. I also learned of genetic connections in Rosmuc because of my joining the FB group, connections I and my family knew nothing about; I plan to explore Rosmuc as well. Lastly, I've met some great people in the group who are connected to me in ways we don't understand yet but want to figure out; there's a lot of very knowledgeable, helpful folks who understand how the DNA connections work and are willing to share their expertise (such as yourself). I'm learning from them and hoping to find additional ancestors...plus I'm making some great friends.

Brian, I think the DNA project is great. I wish I had known about the GoFundMe link sooner; I would have contributed to the project sooner. I found the fund link almost by accident. I think that should have been highlighted more on the site."

Kathleen Ciccirillo, West Virginia, USA

"The Moycullen Heritage DNA project and the Moycullen Area Genealogy Facebook group has been extremely beneficial to me. They helped me find out where my ancestors that came from Ireland were from. They also helped in finding relatives that are living in Ireland. I had been unable to pinpoint the actual location of my ancestors and without this project I would probably never have found out. I believe this project and Facebook page are very instrumental in helping people find their Irish relatives and ancestors."

Colleen Murphy, Missouri, USA

"When I started searching 18 years ago for where in Ireland my Murphy's came from I had absolutely no clue to follow and no family member who was interested or knew anything. Last year I happened upon the Moycullen Heritage site and Facebook page. Since then, I have been blessed with one revelation after another. Add in the DNA project and the avenues of discovery have opened tenfold. You and Noel are awesome guides and cheerleaders. Your knowledge, expertise and willingness to help is refreshing. I seriously have no idea how far along I would be at this point without all the information and cooperation you and the project has brought to the table. I like that the Project and Facebook group also interact with the Moycullen Heritage page. History gives life to the ancestors. I would like to see more of that from those who live there and know.... I find this group, organization and project very well run. I hope to see it increase in size and scope. Please let me know if there is more you want me to add though I can't imagine what!!!! Feel free to ask specific questions. I love your page, appreciate all your help to date and look forward to opening many, many more doors."

Jacqui Eadie, England

"Values and Benefits of DNA project- I think it's a great initiative. By taking part in it I now have a new public tree which documents my father's Moycullen heritage. This now is available to everyone. Without this it would have remained part of a larger private family tree. This in turn benefits others in the group in their research. It creates a forum to connect with others and share information. A lovely way to connect with our wider family. Suggestions -Looking for a person feature where the searcher gives the information they have. Others could check their trees and suggest matches. Translation of records on dchas.ie such as the school's collection. I think there are records from local schools including Loughwell and Moycullen, but all written in Irish. I believe they would have wonderful information and stories which are currently not accessible to a lot of people without translation. A great resource for sharing our Moycullen heritage."

John Barrett, New York, USA

"If you ever question the value of these heritage societies, our story should lay that question to rest.

In August my family and I travelled to Ireland. It was the first trip there for all of us. I always knew that I was part Irish, but our trip prompted me to do my genealogy through ancestry.com where I learned that I was nearly 1/2 Irish, more than I had always thought. Being an avid history buff, this prompted me to dig deeper to learn more about my family roots. Through a genealogist I related to Hazel at the Moycullen Heritage Society. What happened next exceeded my wildest dreams and underscored for me the importance, and value, of the work that people like Hazel do so passionately engage in. I contacted Hazel just a few weeks prior to our trip. In just a short amount of time Hazel uncovered the most amazing connections and information about our family.

We decided that we would meet with Hazel and that the family would spend the day with her learning about our Irish heritage. The day before our meeting Hazel emailed me to let me know that they had discovered the home where my great grandfather lived. Upon reading this I became very emotional. I lost both of my parents at a young age, and therefore I never had the chance to ask them some of the questions I might have as an adult. To say that I was excited to meet with Hazel would be an understatement.

When we met at the coffee shop in Moycullen, Hazel was there, ready. She was joined by her colleague Tim. They were ready with notes, historical records, and we believe Tim may also have been related through ancestors. The two had personalities and passions for history that rivaled mine. My wife and kids who are not as passionate about these things also noted her wonderful engaging energy. After sitting and talking about what she had discovered, we embarked on a journey through time. We visited the home that was my family homestead. Living there now was the most wonderful and welcoming woman, Nora. She invited us in, and we had a lovely chat with her. We were able to walk the property that my ancestors had lived on, and my kids got to imagine what life might have been like for them. We also visited two cemeteries. Hazel had been able to locate the headstones of many of my ancestors. It was incredible to see this and to see names that were already familiar to me through genealogy records. Hazel was a wonderful teacher who appropriately engaged our teenage children holding their interest and involving them in activities to look for names and dates. She was truly prepared for the 5 of us in every way.

Following our visits to the cemeteries we made a final, spontaneous stop to a farm that belonged to another relative. There we had the good fortune of meeting the current family who lived there, descendants of my family as well. We walked the property, made connections, and were invited into the home for impromptu scones and tea. The hospitality we were shown not only by Hazel and Tim, but by everyone who we encountered that day, was incredible. Our trip to Moycullen was on our last full day in Ireland. To say we saved the best for last would be an understatement. There was nothing grandiose or fancy about Moycullen. It was truly the people and the history that struck such a deep chord with me.

I am extremely grateful to people like Hazel who volunteer their time and energy to helping families like ours. The information and insight she provided was just incredible and we are forever grateful.

We will never forget our trip to Moycullen and Hazel's amazing efforts to connect us to a piece of our family history. We are grateful."