

The requested investigation into your ancestry has been completed and our findings are presented in the following report.

The information you provided us with can be summarised as follows: James Joseph McGinley was born on 10 July 1873 to Hugh McGinley in County Donegal and emigrated around 1890. He married Rose Ann Derry in 1917 in Philadelphia and they had five children – Catherine, Mary T., James Hugh, Frances and Joseph. Rose Ann Derry was born on 29 April 1890 in County Tyrone and emigrated in 1906. Her parents were Patrick Derry and Bridget McCullough.

James Joseph McGinley returned to Ireland on a number of occasions (1906, 1911, 1912) and in 1912 recorded on the passenger record that he was visiting his father Hugh McGinley at 58 Clifford Commons, Donegal. It is of huge assistance to have a specific place on which to focus the research as Robert Bell in his *The Book of Ulster Surnames* states that McGinley “is found only in Ulster where 80 per cent of those of the name are in Co. Donegal, making it among the ten most numerous names there.” This would have meant that the search for your ancestors would have been extremely difficult if we were searching the entire county of Donegal.

We began by looking for ‘Clifford Commons’. There are a number of places which incorporate the word commons into their name but nowhere in Donegal is named Clifford or similar. There is one place named Clifford in Ireland – a townland in County Cork in the south-west of Ireland. However after some searching we found the townland ‘Lifford Common’ in Clonleigh parish, County Donegal which seemed a

potential candidate for the residence of James Joseph's father Hugh McGinley. We know Hugh was still living in 1912 when James Joseph visited him so we searched the 1911 census and found Hugh McGinley and family living at that time at 25 Lifford Common [Attachment 1]. Please note that 25 was not a street address as we would know it now but the 25<sup>th</sup> house that the census enumerator visited in the townland.

Living in the McGinley household were Hugh McGinley (67 year old general labourer), his wife Catherine (60 years old) and two of their children – Hugh (22 year old general labourer) and Annie (20 year old seamstress); both single. The family were all born in County Donegal and were Roman Catholic. Hugh and his children could read and write; Catherine could not. Hugh and Catherine had been married for 42 years (c. 1869) and had had ten children, of whom six were still living.

From this census, we can also find out about the type of house they were living in. It was made of stone, brick or other permanent material and had a slate or tiled roof. There were two windows at the front of the house and four rooms and one out-building – a piggery. Hugh McGinley was listed as the landholder which suggests that he was no longer paying rent on the house but owned it (usually with the help of a government loan) [Attachment 2].

We next examined the 1901 census where we found the family living at 5 Drumboy. Drumboy townland adjoins Lifford Common townland. You can view the locations of these townlands on the attached map and key [Attachments 3 & 4]. At that time Hugh was listed as a 50 year old agricultural labourer and his wife Cathrine (sic) as 46 years

old. It is very common to find such age discrepancies in the Irish census returns between 1901 and 1911 as the majority of people did not know what age they were and were therefore guessing. In 1909 the old age pension was introduced in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales for those over 70 years old. Generally we find that this was the first time that many people found out their age either from church baptismal records or from applying for earlier census returns (now mostly destroyed) to be examined. It seems therefore likely that their ages on the 1911 census may be the more accurate but at the very least it provides us with a range of years in which to look for their baptismal records.

Also living in the household at that time were four of their children – Maggie (18 year old factory labourer), Bessie (16 year old factory labourer), Hugh (14 year old agricultural labourer) and Annie (12 year old scholar) [Attachment 5]. In this census both Hugh and Cathrine were recorded as not being able to read and write; all the children could. It is possible that Hugh learnt to read and write in the intervening 10 years or it is also possible that either his son Hugh or daughter Annie completed the census on his behalf in 1911 (it was only supposed to be completed by the head of household or the census enumerator).

At the time of the 1901 census, the family were living in a two roomed house with two windows at the front. The house was made of stone or brick and the roof was thatched. The landholder was an Alexr Weir [Attachment 6].

We now know the names of five of the children of Hugh and Catherine McGinley – James Joseph, Margaret, Bessie, Hugh and Annie. We turned to the website [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie) which contains over 22 million civil and church records to look for information on James Joseph's siblings and found the following details:

- Female McGinley, born 8 April 1871, Porthall
- Margaret McGinley, baptised 8 April 1871, Lifford Roman Catholic Church (address: Boyagh)
- Male McGinley, born 9 June 1872, Port Hall
- Mary McGinley, baptised 30 May 1874, Lifford Roman Catholic Church (address: Drumbuoy)
- Matilda McGinley, born 11 April 1876, Drumbuoy
- Catherine McGinley, baptised 7 April 1878, Lifford Roman Catholic Church (address: Rossgeare)
- Margret McGinley, born 12 February 1881, Drumbuoy
- Elizabeth Jane McGinley, born 6 June 1883, baptised 8 June 1883, Lifford Roman Catholic Church (address: Drumboy)
- Hugh McGinley, born 16 November 1885, baptised 19 November 1885, Lifford Roman Catholic Church (address: Drumboy)

- Annie McGinley, born 5 April 1888, Drumbuoy; baptised 8 April 1888 (date of birth on baptismal record: 4 April 1888) Lifford Roman Catholic Church. Note on baptismal record stating she married William McHugh on 20 March 1922
- Sidney McGinley, born 23 November 1891, Drumbuoy

We now have the names of all ten of the children of Hugh and Catherine. In all the records the parents were Hugh McGinley and Catherine Corr; Hugh was recorded on all the civil birth records as a labourer. For most of the period between 1871 and 1891 the family were living in the townland of Drumboy however they lived in Porthall and Boyagh in the early 1870s and Rossgeir in 1878. Rossgeir (official spelling of townland) adjoins the townland of Drumboy; the townlands of Porthall and Boyagh are north of the town of Lifford, still in Clonleigh parish and can be seen on the attached map [Attachments 3 & 4].

The oldest two children's births were registered before their parents had decided on their names – we know from her baptismal record that the 1871 birth was that of Margaret but we have not yet found the baptismal record of the male child born in 1872 who must be your ancestor James Joseph seeing as we have located all nine of his siblings and we know Catherine had ten children in total. We attach his birth record which is available on [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) [Attachment 7].

We then searched for marriage records of James Joseph's nine siblings which will help us identify which ones survived infancy:

- Margaret McGinley married John Henderson, 30 October 1907, Murlog Chapel, Castlefin. Their witnesses were Hugh McGinley and Sarah McGinley [Attachment 8].
- Hugh McGinley married Teresa Donnelly, 6 May 1918, Murlog Chapel, Castlefin. Their witnesses were Thomas Carlin and Cassie Diver [Attachment 9].
- Annie McGinley married William McHugh, 20 March 1922, Stranorlar Roman Catholic Church. Their witnesses were Margaret Henderson and John Henderson, this is very likely to have been Annie's sister Margaret and her husband John [Attachment 10].

We then were able to identify some of the death records of James Joseph's siblings:

- Margret McGinley died on 26 May 1871 aged 12 days of general debility which she had had from birth. Catherine McGinley registered her death; their address was recorded as Bullockstown which we have since discovered was a local place-name for an area in the townland of Boyagh [Attachment 11].
- Sydney McGinly (sic) died on 25 September 1894 aged 2½ years of 'debility from birth'. His mother Catherine McGinley registered his death; their address was Drumbuoy [Attachment 12].
- Bessie McGinley died on 25 April 1902 aged 17 years of anaemia which she had had for 12 months and asthenia (lack of energy/strength). Her death was

certified which meant she had been attended by a doctor. Bessie's death was registered by her brother James McGinley (your ancestor) whose address was recorded as Drumbuoy where Bessie had died [Attachment 13].

We were not able to locate a marriage, death or census record for Mary, Matilda, or Catherine so we do not know which two sisters were still living in 1911 and which one had died.

We explored the families of the siblings of James who we know did marry.

Margaret and John Henderson (married 1907) had at least seven children. We find them living at 26 Barrack Street, Strabane at the time of the 1911 census with two of their children – Hugh (2 years, 3 months) and James (7 months) [Attachment 14]. We also identified the birth records of five younger children:

- William Brien Henderson, 17 January 1912, Barrack Street, Strabane
- Kathleen Henderson, 29 July 1913, Barrack Street, Strabane
- Mary Josephine Henderson, 24 April 1915, Barrack Street, Strabane
- Vincent Alphonsus Henderson, 18 August 1917, Lifford Common
- Agnes Henderson, 23 December 1919, Lifford

All the births were registered by their father John Henderson except Agnes whose birth was registered by Annie McGinley, very likely to be her aunt, Margaret's sister.

Hugh and Teresa McGinley (married 1918) had at least two children:

- Hugh McGinley, 13 November 1918, Ballindrait
- Bernard McGinley, 26 January 1920, Drumbuoy

Our birth database only covers the period up to 1920 (for the protection of those who may still be living) so we were not able to identify any younger children of Hugh and Teresa or any possible children of Annie and William McHugh who married in 1922.

We were able to locate the death of James's mother Catherine McGinley. She died on 18 September 1914 at Lifford Common. She was a 62 year old labourer's wife and her death was registered by her son James McGinley, also of Lifford Common [Attachment 15].

From these records we can see that your ancestor was in Ireland in 1902 and 1914 when his sister and mother died.

We have not been able to locate Hugh McGinley's death record as yet but we were able to find Hugh and Catherine's marriage record. This took place in Clonleigh Roman Catholic Church on 5 June 1870. Hugh was from Porthall and Catherine from Donegal (either Donegal parish or Donegal town). Their witnesses were Justavus McCorkell and Lizzie Earls from Porthall [Attachments 16 & 17]. Although civil



registration of marriages had begun in 1864 it is common to find that the bride and groom did not register their marriage with the state/government in this period and so only the church record of the marriage exists. This is unfortunate as it was also common to find that the priest did not always list the names of the fathers of the couple in this period.

We next turned to Griffith's Valuation. In the absence of nineteenth-century census returns, Griffith's Valuation of c.1847-64 is an essential genealogical resource being the earliest comprehensive listing of property in Ireland and provides the best indication of the distribution of a particular surname in Ireland prior to the twentieth century. Searching this source we found a John McGinley listed in the townland of Boyagh, where we know the family were living in 1871. John was renting a house (7BB) suggesting that he was a labourer or had another occupation which was not a farmer [Attachment 18].

We next turned to American records to see if any more information could be found in those sources. We found James McGinley and his family in the 1920, 1930 and 1940 census returns. As you know in the 1920 census he states that he emigrated to the United States in 1890 and was naturalised in 1919. Rose is listed as emigrating in 1906 and becoming naturalised in 1912. Also living in the house as well as their daughters Catherine M and Mary was Rose's mother Bridget Deery who was listed as 56 years old. In the 1930 census return James stated he emigrated in 1890 while Rose states her

year of emigration as 1911. She is listed as 42 years old which would mean she was born around 1888 (although ages on census returns can vary). Finally the 1940 census showed one more child – Tresa (sic) who was aged 9 years so was born around 1931 [Attachments 19 – 23].

We found three relevant passenger lists (there may be more but these definitively related to your ancestor):

**1911:** James McGinley sailing on the S.S. Numidian from Londonderry on 30 September 1911. James was a 38 year old bartender living in Philadelphia, USA. His nearest relative was Hugh McGinley of Lifford Common, Lifford, Co. Donegal. He paid his own passage and was in possession of at least \$50. He had been in Philadelphia for 7 years and was returning to 1636 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Philadelphia. He was 5 feet, 7 inches tall, had a ruddy complexion, mixed hair and blue eyes. He was born in Clonleigh, Ireland [Attachments 24 & 25].

**1912:** James McGinley sailing on the S.S. Columbia from Londonderry on 9 November 1912. This passenger list stated that it was his father Hugh McGinley of 58 Lifford Common, Donegal who was his nearest relative. It also stated he had been in USA since 1892 [Attachments 26 & 27].

**1914:** James McGinley sailing on the S.S. Columbia from Londonderry on 17 October 1914. By that time his father Hugh McGinley was living at 33 Barrack Street, Strabane which we know was the street where James's sister Margaret Henderson lived with her

family so it seems likely he was now living with them. This passenger list details that James was in USA from 1890 [Attachments 28 & 29].

With the time remaining to us, we turned to James's wife Rose Anne Derry/Deery and her family. We knew that Rose Ann Derry was born on 29 April 1890 in County Tyrone and emigrated in 1906. Her parents were Patrick Derry and Bridget McCullough.

We searched for the marriage of Rose Ann's parents and found that a Bridget McCullagh married a Francis Deery on 24 February 1881 at Gortin Roman Catholic Church. Their witnesses were Charles Morris and Mary A. Conway. There was no further information in the church marriage register but thankfully a civil copy of this marriage exists which provides more details [Attachment 30]. This details that the ceremony took place in Broughderg Chapel, Pomeroy, Cookstown. Both Francis and Bridget were of full age (21 years or over) and unmarried; Francis was a farmer and Bridget was a housekeeper. Francis was living at Teebane West when he married and his father was James Deery, a farmer. Bridget was living at Broughdergh when she married and her father was John McCullagh, a farmer. The townland of Teebane West is in the parish of Bodoney Lower in the barony of Strabane Upper whereas the townland of Broughderg is in the parish of Lissan in the barony of Dungannon Upper but the two townlands are located not that far from each other [Attachment 31].

Continuing our search on [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie) we were able to locate seven baptismal records of the children of Francis Deery and Bridget McCullagh, including Rose who was baptised in 1888. All the baptisms took place at Gortin Roman Catholic Church:

- Margaret, baptised 7 August 1883 (sponsors: Michael McCullagh and Anne McCullagh)
- Mary A., baptised 11 May 1886 (sponsors: James McWilliams and Mary McWilliams)
- Rose, baptised 29 April 1888 (sponsors: Felix McCormack and Alice McCormack)
- Patrick, baptised 11 February 1892 (sponsors: Michael Deery and Rose A. Deery)
- Bridget, baptised 1 October 1893 (sponsors: John McDermott and Bridget McDermott)
- Bridget, baptised 10 July 1895 (sponsors: Miles McNally and Annie McNally)
- Teresa, baptised 21 March 1899 (sponsors: Michael McNally and Maggie Deery)

It is likely that some of their sponsors were aunts and uncles of the children and therefore siblings of Francis Deery and Bridget McCullagh.

We turned to the civil birth records where we found the birth of Rose Deery on 6 April 1888 at Teebane, Gortin to Francis Deery, a farmer and his wife Bridget (formerly McCullow) [Attachment 32]. From this we can see that Rose was using her

baptismal date as her birth date in later years. This is understandable as usually Catholic children were baptised on the day of birth or the day after.

We also located the birth records of some of Rose's siblings for which we do not yet have baptismal records for:

- James, born 3 February 1882
- John, born 10 September 1890
- Eliza, born 30 March 1897

Next we looked for the family in the 1901 and 1911 census returns. We found them living at 22 Teebane West in the 1901 census [Attachment 33]. Francis Deery was a 55 year old farmer, his wife Bridget was 42 years old. They had nine children living with them – James (19 year old farmer's son), Margaret (17 years), Anna (15 years), Rose (13 years), John (12 years), Bridget (7 years), Patrick (9 years), Elizabeth (4 years) and Teresa (2 years). All the children were listed as scholars aside from John who was recorded as 'deaf and dumb'. Francis, his wife Bridget and their son James could speak Irish and English; all the family were born in County Tyrone.

By 1911, Bridget Deerey(sic) was living with six of her children at 16 Teebane West [Attachment 34]. She was a 53 year old farmer and widow. She had been married for 23 years and had had 12 children, of whom 10 were still living. In the household were John (19 years old and recorded as 'dumb'), Patrick (17 years), Bridget (15 years),

Lizzie (13 years), Teresa (11 years) and Francis (9 years). Bridget and her children Patrick and Bridget could speak Irish and English.

From this we could see that Francis Deery must have died between 1901 and 1911 so we next searched for his death record. He died on 13 March 1906 at Teebane West. He was a 60 year old married farmer and died of influenza which he had had for four days and pneumonia which he had had for two days. His death was registered by his daughter Annie Deery who was present when he died [Attachment 35].

We then discovered that Francis Deery left a will which he wrote on the day he died [Attachments 36 - 38]:

“In the name of God Amen

I Francis Deery of Tybane West and Co. Tyrone being weak of body but of strong mind and sound memory do make my last will and testament in the following manner. First I bequeath my soul to God. Secondly I allow my body to be decently interred. Thirdly I bequeath to my lawful wife Bridget all my lands and houses together with my stock and all which I possess. Fourth I bequeath one shilling to my son James Deery. Fifthly I allow my wife Bridget to pay me lawful debts. I appoint Michael McCullagh Benefreghan as my executor.

Signed having been first truly read

Francis Deery (his mark)

Witness:

Myles McNally, Tybane

Bartley McNally, Do (ditto)

Michael Fox, Do”

The associated legal papers [Attachments 39 - 44] state that Francis was 53 years old when he died and he had eight children. His estate was worth £465.00, £446.00 of this was his farmland, £17 and 10 shillings was his stock and £1 and 10 shillings was his household goods. He had two pieces of land – one in Tybane West and one in the neighbouring townland of Crockenbuoy (sic). The townlands of Teebane West and Crockanboy can be viewed on the map provided [Attachment 31].

On the same page of the 1914 passenger list James McGinley was listed on, we found three Deery entries – Bridget (50 year old housewife), Teresa (14 years) and Francis (12 years); their last permanent address had been Gortin, Ireland (where they had been born) [Attachments 28 & 29]. Their nearest relative was Bridget’s brother Michael McCullagh of Banafroughan, Mountfield, Omagh. From this we can see that this was RoseAnn’s mother and siblings! They were going to join Bridget’s daughter Mgt Maguire of 1948 Bonitz Street, Nicetown, Philadelphia (this street still exists). On the next page we found Mary Deery who was a 25 year old waitress who was living in Philadelphia, USA [Attachments 45 & 46]. Her nearest relative in Ireland was Michael McCullagh so this was another daughter of Bridget Deery and a sister of RoseAnn. Mary had been living in Philadelphia since 1907 and was returning to Mgt Maguire. Mary had also been born in Gortin. It seems likely that some of the family emigrated in 1907 and then Mary returned to bring her mother and her two younger siblings to Philadelphia in 1914. It seems possible that James McGinley may have met the Deery

family on this voyage if he did not already know Rose Ann and her sisters Mary and Margaret in Philadelphia.

## **Conclusion**

Time did not permit any further research beyond this point. We are pleased to have been able to find so much on your McGinley ancestors as well as some information on your Deery ancestors. If you have any queries, please contact the Ulster Historical Foundation.