



Diaspora Stories

Ancestor's Name: **Catherine Minihane**
 Place of birth (if known): **Ballyally, Skibbereen**
 Your Name: **Barbara Walsh Bouchey**
 Contact (optional): **barbwalsh49@gmail.com**

My great grandmother was Catherine Minihane, born in Ballyally, Skibbereen in 1849. She was one of six children born to Michael Minihane and Maria McCarthy. In 1873, she married my great grandfather, Jeremiah Walsh, born in Skeagh, Skibbereen in 1845. They had 12 children between 1874-1892 - 11 of which made it to adulthood.

Ten of my great grandmother's 11 adult children emigrated to the United States from 1892 to 1911, settling in New York, New Jersey, Illinois and Missouri. One of these children was my grandfather, Michael Joseph Walsh, born in 1885. He settled in St. Louis, Missouri as his older brother had gone to St. Louis in 1902 to work on the construction of the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.

When I began to search for my family history over 13 years ago, I decided to start with my cousins still living in the Skibbereen area. From my contacts with them and from their contacts with others in the area (including the Skibbereen Heritage Centre), we have been able to piece together our family tree dating back to 1800 in the Skibbereen area. Most importantly, we have met many "new" Irish cousins who we have grown to know and love.

Most of the Walsh descendants in the US knew each other. However, there was one family in New Jersey who was unaware of all their Irish "Walsh" relatives. Over the last ten years, we have been able to meet and become close to a number of these cousins, including a few family reunions in St. Louis.

At first I thought that I was doing this genealogy work because I have a vast interest in history in general, and in my Irish heritage in particular. But one day when I was walking the family farm outside Skibbereen, one of my cousins asked me why I was doing this research. Without much thought, I turned to him and said "Because our great grandmother didn't know 21 of her 25 grandchildren, and some of them didn't know each other. So for grandmother Catherine, I am working to put this generation of the family back together."

It has proven to be exciting, exasperating, puzzling, fun and most of all a delightful experience where we've been able to share our family history with relatives that now live in five different countries!

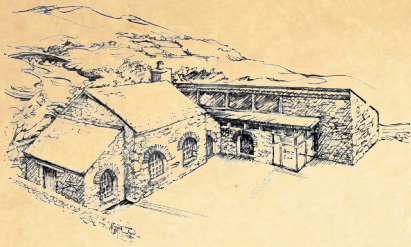
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I agree to submit this story for publication by Skibbereen Heritage Centre.

Signed: **Barbara Walsh Bouchey**

Date: **9 March 2017**

SKIBBEREEN HERITAGE CENTRE
 Old Gas Works Building,
 Upper Bridge Street, Skibbereen,
 West Cork, Ireland, P81WK06
 T: (353) 28 40900
 E: info@skibbheritage.com
 W: www.skibbheritage.com



Diaspora Stories

If your ancestor came from Ireland you may have a story to tell. And we are interested in hearing it and recording it for posterity.

Over the years, we have heard many thousands of stories from visitors about their Irish ancestors. We have heard of how they came to emigrate from Ireland and what happened to them after they left, and what they told their descendants about these experiences.

Many of our visitors are 'bringing their ancestors home' by coming to Ireland themselves. If this is the case for you, we would like to offer you the opportunity to tell your ancestor's story while you are here. And, by so doing, your visit will create a permanent legacy that will be shared with the world in the form of your ancestor's story.

We would like to invite all visitors to Skibbereen Heritage Centre to submit a story (or stories) which we will share online subsequently. Each story will be filed in a database under the ancestor's name so it is possible that descendants of this common ancestor will be able to make contact with one another too.

The Diaspora Story project asks visitors to Skibbereen Heritage Centre to record (on the reverse):

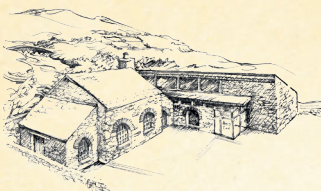
Their ancestor's name and birthplace (if known).

The descendant's name and contact details (the latter may be left blank if preferred).

Their ancestor's unique and personal story.

Over time, these forms will be uploaded to our website as a searchable database which is open to everyone to read. This online resource will share your ancestor's story with the world.

Due to limited resources, this Diaspora Stories project is **ONLY AVAILABLE TO VISITORS TO SKIBBEREEN HERITAGE CENTRE**. If you would like to take the form home with you and submit it subsequently, please do so but we would ask that you return it with your admission ticket to Skibbereen Heritage Centre as proof of your visit.



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