



Diaspora Stories

Ancestor's Name: Michael Carter (Cortny McCarty)

Place of birth (if known): Cork

Your Name: Mary Gorman

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Gorman-1067

Michael is my mystery great grandfather. The following document outlines what I have discovered so far, probable name change, family stories of him being orphaned during the Great Famine, DNA evidence pointing to West Cork, and his family in New South Wales and Western Australia.

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

Signed: e.m.gorman

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Michael **Carter** aka Cortter Born about 9 Sep 1844 in Cork, Ireland, Skibereen area
www.wikitree.com/wiki/Carter-14124

Name change

I am reasonably confident my great grandfather was born Michael, the rest is unknown. There is reasonable evidence that he changed his name on entry to Australia. It is unknown when and how he migrated to Australia. He may have arrived in NSW on the Salamander in 1866. The Salamander arrived in Sydney in distress on 9 September, 1866, the day Michael celebrated as his birthday.

-The first Australian record is a marriage certificate from 1874. Michael is listed as Cortter (also Cortler) in this record, a Bachelor resident at Currawang NSW. He married Alice Whalen also of Currawang. The children of this marriage are registered as Cortter and Corter. This name does not really exist in NSW so is suggestive of a strong accent.

-By the time he married my great grandmother in 1884 in Goulburn NSW his name had become Michael Carter.

DNA

-DNA points me to the Schull and Skibereen area, with the surnames McCarthy, Hurley and Minihane and variants appearing frequently. This is described more fully in his wikitree record at www.wikitree.com/wiki/Carter-14124

Family stories

-There are several family stories about Michael's origins, which share the common theme that he was orphaned during the great famine. All agree that he was from Cork. The DNA evidence supports a family link to McCarthy and variants from West Cork.

-An account recorded from Michael's son Daniel in the 1970s has Michael born as Mulligan, Moynihan or similar, shanghaied from Cork as a child and raised by a family of Cornish miners. In around 1860 when he was 16 he returned to Cork, but unable to find any family he stowed away on a ship, jumping ship in Western Australia where he worked as a miner for some time. He headed east when his wife died.

Family in Australia

-The family business in Australia was copper mining and limeburning, I suspect that his family were involved in copper mining in the Skibereen area

-*Salamander 1866* is given as his ship of arrival in reference to his admission to Goulburn gaol for non payment of wages on 24 Sep 1889. His details are: Michael Carter (ship) Salamander '66 Ireland RC lime burner age 44 height 5'7". The Salamander arrived in Sydney in distress on 9 September. No names correspond to Michael, there are several able bodied seaman of around the right age. This timing would fit with involvement in the Fenian movement.

Michael had two children with his first wife Alice Whelan (1853-1878):

- John Edward Cortter 1875
- Catherine Corter 1877.

By the mid eighties the family had adopted Carter.

Michael and Sarah Byrnes nee Grooms were both widowed when they married in 1884. On their daughter Elsie's birth certificate they are listed as Michael, 42 Limeburner and Sarah, 30. In the 1891 Census return for Kingsdale, Goulburn, county Argyle, New South Wales Michael is householder 15, with 5 males and 5

females listed. Together they raised their blended family of Michael's first two children, Sarah's five Byrnes, and the six children they had together:

-Daniel Valentine (12904/1885) Photo at wikitree

-Emanuel J (14058/1887-15937/1934),

-Elsie Gertrude (14058/1887) Photos at wikitree

-Felix Michael (4124/1891) Photos at wikitree

-Richard Roy (3978/1893) and

-Beatrice M (12408/1897).

Also resident in the very small village of Currawang NSW were Cornelius McCarthy who married Ellen Mahony McCarthy (1809-1890) at St, Peter, Pauls, Cathedral, Goulburn, in 1855. Ellen immigrated to NSW on 10 Jul 1854, Vessel Name Sabrina, with her four children by her first husband James McCarthy, from Evebarry, Inchigeelah County Cork, Ireland. It is not known if there is a family connection to Michael.