

## Mick – Schumacher

My Dear Cousins,

Those of you who are in possession of Beulah's splendid book on 'The Mick/Mick's Family Tree' may be in some doubt as to the real surname of our forebear Peter's wife, Elizabeth. Elizabeth, daughter of a Shoemaker by profession or Elizabeth Schumacher, a name which when the Founder of her family first came to Ireland in 1709 became pronounced Shoemaker instead of SHOO-MAH-KER and who settled in Kilfinane, Co. Kimerick. The spelling, like our own and many other Palatine names, changed. MICH originally pronounced MEEK, was much easier for the native people to pronounce than Mick and as a "Mick" is a name much used by people in the English speaking world, to denote an Irishman, an S was added and the name became Micks, which you agree slips off the tongue more easily.

In 1918 (before the Irish Troubles which resulted in all Records being destroyed in the Mansion House fire in Dublin) several researchers extracted Records which exist today and among them was the Marriage of PETER MICK to ELIZABETH SHOEMAKER on 29.10.1807, Peter and Elizabeth, five sons and one daughter, emigrated to Canada in the year 1847, pioneers all who faced rigours of a terrible journey by sailing ship. Most likely they landed in Quebec and made their way to where land could be purchased for 50 cents an acre and which then qualified them for an equal parcel of free land. In time it became known as Micksburg, named for their son George who kept the Post Office.

The doubts about the names MICK and SHOEMAKER came about when Sir Robert Micks, then living in England, came across the name MICKSBURG and wrote on 5.6.1897 to the Rev. Charles O. Carson, then Rector of Micksburg, enquiring as to the significance of the name. In that letter he said that a member of the family had left Ireland for America some years ago and thought MICKSBURG was a place which could give him some information. He also said that the family had been driven out of Belgium following the persecution of the Waldens by the Spaniards and had come to Ireland via England. Sir Robert had been knighted by Queen Victoria for his services to the Crown and so was anxious to obtain any information on his family, became interested in his Family Tree. On his return from holiday Rev. Carson replied to his letter saying that he had consulted with George and John Mick, now in their 80's and that they had explained that as far as they knew the family had come from the Palatine in Germany and settled near Ratheale in Co. Limerick, and that they would be pleased if Sir Robert would communicate with them again, giving any information which he had.

On 28.8.1897 Sir Robert wrote again saying he would be pleased to correspond with them. He was then 72 and his father had died when he was 6 months old. His grandfather Joseph had been a soldier, stationed in Cavan, but was, he thought from Co. Limerick. When he was discharged he had stayed in Cavan and was married to a Cavan girl.

The Rev. Carson showed the letters to George and John who then wrote to say that as far as they knew their ancestors had come from Belgium and settled in Ballingrane. They had already told Rev. Carson that they knew they had come from the Palatine in Germany, but were now in agreement with information contained in Sir Robert's original letter of enquiry. They were able to give the names of three of their father's brothers – Frederick, Peter and Henry (who was the founder of my line – the Irish Micks) but did not remember the fourth (most likely JOSEPH who would have been young when he joined the army). They said their grandfather had been 'born and lived in the old Mansion in Ballingrane' – unlikely, Mansions were few and far between. On 15.1.1898 Sir Robert wrote to George apologizing for the long delay in communicating, but that he had no further information to give him. His own father, he said, had died in February 1826 and his grandfather had been Joseph and his father Thomas. At this point their correspondence ceased.

John's son, Samuel, by his first wife Elizabeth Sheehan, had a son Rev. Henry Mick and in 1922 he wrote to James Walsh, sending him a rough map of Argoul, the townland of Nantinan and Ballingrane. Elizabeth Sheehan was Roman Catholic and they were married in the Roman Catholic Church in Rathkeale, Samuel, however, was baptized Church of Ireland. (In those days boys "went" with their father and the girls with the mother, when it was a "Mixed" marriage). Peter's daughter Mary Anne had firstly married James Dulmage Walsh but there is no accurate Record of children of this marriage. They were married in 1836 and in 1837 James was born, being 85 years of age when he was contacted by Rev. Henry. He gave the history of the Palatines as we know it about their arrival in Ireland and had made inquiries in Rathkeale. But James fabricated a story – that the real name was not Mick but Linhard (Lenhard, Leonard) and that John (Henry's grandfather) was 5 years younger than he and he remembered 'rocking him in his cradle' when he lived in Argoul. He then went on to say that Shoemaker was a profession of one Hill (this is the first mention of Hill) and that both names came about when someone said 'run down to Mick's' or 'run down to the Shoemaker'. This apparently was the end of the correspondence but he had sown a doubt which persists today in Canada and America, but not in Ireland. MICH and SHUMAKER it has always been.

LEONARD is a name which has come down through the MICKS family for generations. My Uncle was William Leonard. A Leonard Micks and his son Leonard lived in Co. Antrim, and that a Leonard is presently living on Co. Cavan – unfortunately they have no descendants and so the name dies out. John and George in Adare have not married to produce heirs. The last time I heard the name Schumacher was in Belfast, Northern Ireland, many years ago. Daughters have married but the names changed. Incidentally for those descendants of my great-aunt TIRZA (my grandfather Adam's sister) who have perpetuated her name in some form, some form Church Records which I have personally handled use it first as TIRZA, then Tressa and finally Teresa. It would be nice to see it continued in its original and pretty name.

On 26.3.1923 Rev. Henry Micks wrote to William Leonard Micks of Dublin (Sir Robert's son) acknowledging a letter he had received from him, repeating the story that his great-grandfather Joseph had been a soldier and married a Cavan girl. He was sure that they had originated in Limerick. He also stated that he knew of a William Leonard Micks living near Rathkeale. This was my uncle. This was the end of the correspondence which I have. For those who may be interested in BARBARA (RUTTLE) HECK who, with Phillip Embury emigrated and originated the Methodism in Canada and America (over 14 million in each country). I recently discovered that I myself am a direct descendant of her family – her brother Daniel was my gg-grandfather of some generations ago, his g.daughter ELIZABETH TESKEY having married HENRY MICKS (a brother of Peter who married Elizabeth Shoemaker) and from whom Canadian and American MICK/s are descended.

When visiting the Palatine in 1994 I came across a small Church in St. Martin near Edenkoben where we were staying which had a beautiful stained glass window, a memorial to GEORG MICH who died in 1890. Unfortunately I was unable to obtain any information about this man or his family, but it confirms, for us, both name and the name the fact that they were living in Pfatz region of Germany.

ALBERTE CALLENDER.