

Our Trip to Ireland

On New Year's Eve 1990, we travelled from London by rail and ferry to Ireland and booked into a hotel. Needless to say we didn't get much sleep that night and when we went down for breakfast it was hard to find anyone to serve us. But eventually the owner appeared and we had "flakes and fries" for brekky.

Having hired a car we headed for the west coast. Our intended destination was Doolin, the birth place of Peter Carrucan. At one stage we were faced with two signposts, and being in no hurry decided to take the longer route.

We drove through the village of Fanore, (a place we had not previously heard of) and on the outskirts came across a derelict church, so we decided to take a break and have a wander through the graveyard. Suddenly Estelle called out "I've found a Carrucan." Returning to the local store we were directed to the home of Jim and Nancy Carrucan. When Nancy answered the door I told her that we were from Australia and that Estelle was a Carrucan. Her reply was "Well, you had better come in and have a cup of tea."



1991 - Jim, Nancy and Katorina Carrucan with Estelle Simpson

It seems that the Irish are not as fanatical as we are about their ancestry.

All Jim knew about the family was that his father was Denis and his grandfather was Michael. We did discover however, that Nancy was descendent from Sarah Woods, the sister of Hannah.

When we left we went to the heritage centre at Corofin as I wanted to find from what part of Co. Clare my great-grandmother came, however the cost of a search was beyond our budget.

Next we went to Borrisokane in Tipperary to see what we could find about Estelle's mother's family, the Stoneys. All we found there were some gravestones dated in the 1700's, so we were none the wiser.

After a couple of days touring as far as Killarney, we returned to Fanore to pick up my folder containing all the family history. Nancy took us up the hill to show us the Wood's family cottage and the remains of Faunarooska Castle on their property.

I had heard that in her latter years Hannah had expressed the wish to return and claim the castle but her memories as a young girl must have been dim as it would have been derelict even at that time,

So we returned to London to catch our "European Cavalcade" with Trafalgar Tours. Four days in Ireland was not long enough and the middle of winter is not the best time.

Estelle (Carrucan) & John Simpson
June 2011.