



My “Brick Wall”

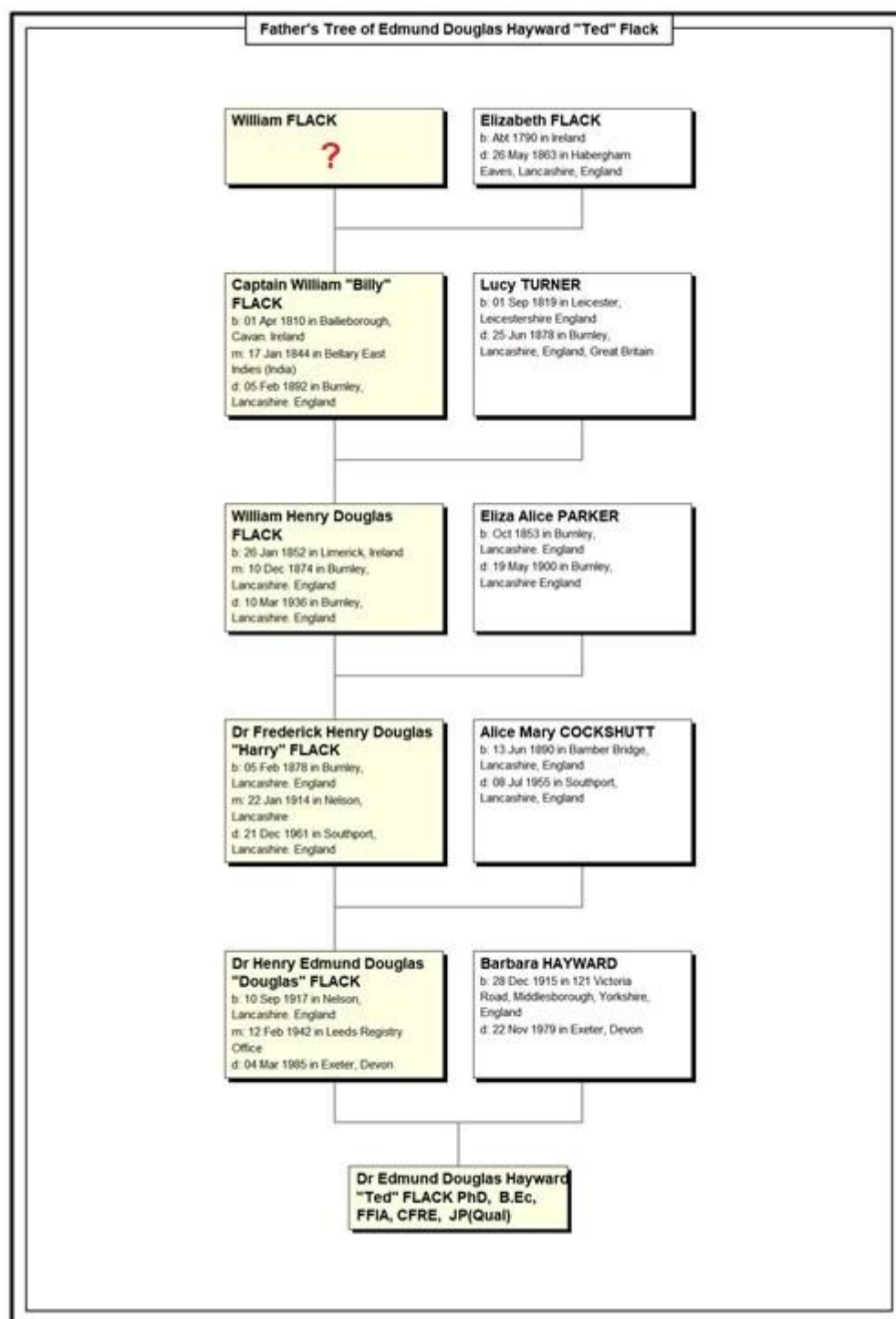
The search for my paternal great, great grandfather “William Flack, a Soldier”.

By Dr Edmund (known as “Ted”) Flack. BEc., PhD., JP (Qual)

My "Brick Wall" in the search for my paternal great great grandfather.

In this report I set out the evidence gathered over the last 20 years in my search to identify my great great grandfather, William Flack, the father of Captain William "Billy" Flack.

First, I reproduce a paternal pedigree showing my relationship with Billy Flack and his relationship with his father William Flack, and his mother, Elizabeth Flack, born about 1790 in Ireland. A separate report on the life of Captain William Flack born 1 April 1810 is available.



For the purpose of clarity, I will refer to my Great Grandfather, Captain William Flack as "Billy".

What do we know about Billy Flack's parents? There are three pieces of documentary evidence that provide the basis for the search as follows:

1. The first is Billy Flack's original enlistment documents created when he enlisted in the 63rd Regiment of Foot in Bailieborough, County Cavan, Ireland on 17th February 1831. In that document it records 782 Pte William Flack as 21 years old, born in "the Parish of Killan in or near the town of Balyburrow in the County of Cavan".

N^o 782

A.

P 5-9

UNLIMITED SERVICE. ATTESTATIONS FOR REGIMENTS.	
QUESTIONS, To be separately asked by the Magistrate.	ANSWERS, To be sworn to by the Recruit
1. What is your Name ?.....	<i>William Flack</i>
2. In what Parish, and in, or near what Town, and in what County were you born ?.....	<i>In the Parish of Killan in or near the Town of Balyburrow in the County of Cavan</i>
3. What is your Age ?.....	<i>Twenty One Years</i>
4. What is your Trade or Calling ?.....	<i>Labourer</i>
5. Are you an Apprentice ?.....	<i>I am not</i>
6. Are you married ?.....	<i>I am not</i>

Note 1. It will noted that Billy Flack signed the document with his "X" mark, indicating that he could probably not read or write and that therefore the recruiting sergeant probably filled in the details by recording Billy Flack's verbal answers to this questions about age and place of birth.

Note 2. Since 17th February 1831 was "market day" in Bailieborough, it is possible that Billy Flack was from elsewhere, travelling to the town looking for work or to enlist. It is possible that the recruiting sergeant simply recorded that his recruit was from that town rather than recording his actual place of birth.

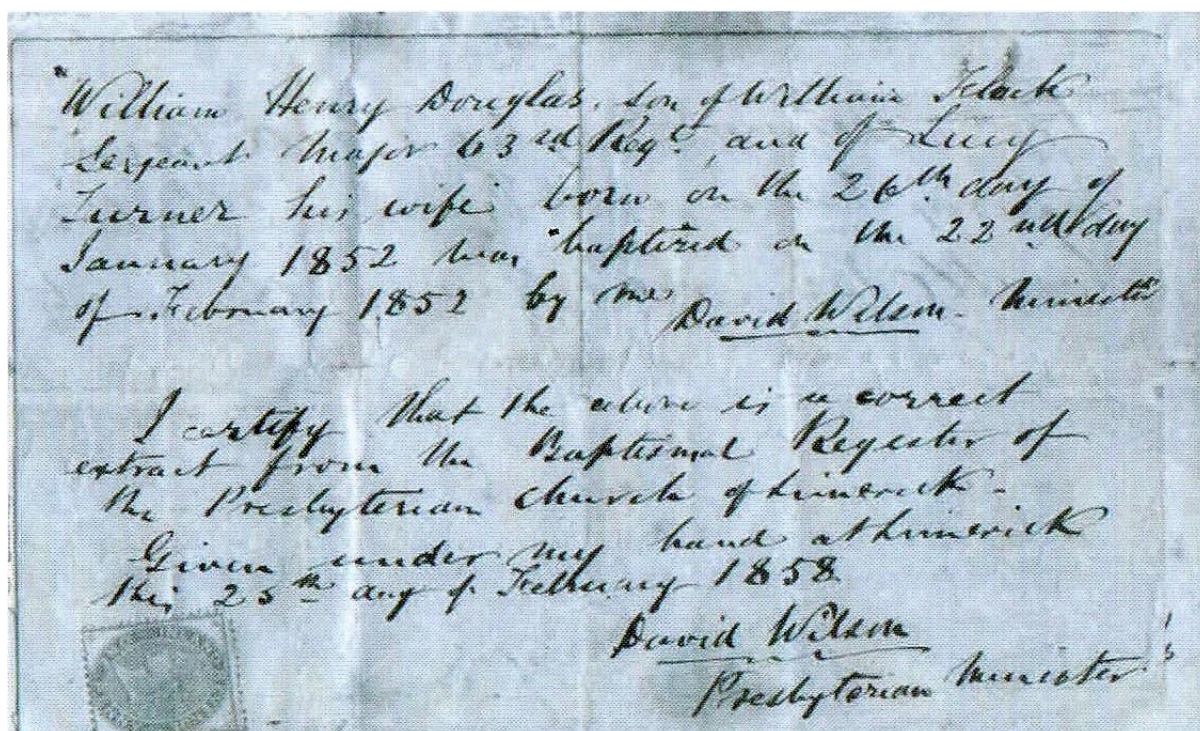
2. When Billy Flack's mother, Elizabeth Flack died at Habergham Eaves, near Burnley, Lancashire, on 6th May 1863, the informant on the death certificate, "W Flack", records that Elizabeth Flack, was "73 years" of age (born 1790 +/- 1 year) and occupation "Widow of William Flack a Soldier". It is highly likely that the informant was Elizabeth Flack's son, "Billy" William Flack.

No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation
332	<i>Twenty Sixth May 1863 Accrington Road Habergham Eaves</i>	<i>Elizabeth Flack</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>73 years</i>	<i>Widow of William Flack a Soldier</i>

3. In the original record of Proceedings of a Regimental Board, held in Dublin on the 20th September 1852, No. 782 Sergeant Major William Flack is recorded as having been "... born in Killan in or near the Town of "Balyborough" in the County of Cavan and was attested for the Sixty Third Regiment of Infantry at Cavan in the County of Cavan on 19th February 1831 at the age of 21 years..."

Note 3. This record, created some 21 years after his enlistment, confirms the previous details of his birth, although it states that he was attested in Cavan, and not Bailieborough – the location recorded on his attestation.

The only other piece of documentary evidence available that might assist in the search for some contemporary record of "William Flack, a soldier" and/or Elizabeth Flack, Billy Flack's widow, is the Baptism Certificate of their son, William Henry Flack, who was baptised at the Presbyterian Church in Limerick, County Limerick on 22nd February 1852. The baptism in a Presbyterian Church suggests that then Sergeant Major Billy Flack had been brought up in a Presbyterian family.



Note 4. It will be noted that this baptism occurred in Limerick at a time when Sergeant Major Billy Flack's regiment, the 63rd Regiment of Foot, was stationed in Limerick. There is no evidence to suggest a longer term family connection with Limerick.

DNA Evidence

In 2013, Edmund DH Flack provided a DNA sample for a Y-DNA test to determine whether there is a relationship between my Flack family and several other Flack families who have also submitted DNA samples. The results of that test show that there is a 78% chance that I share a common ancestor, within 250 years, with persons with the name Affleck. The Affleck family members who share that common ancestor come originally from South West Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Note 5. A reliable DNA genealogist has advised that the surnames “Flack”, “Fleck”, “Fleckie” and “Affleck” are recorded in several DNA databases as related and are probably derived from the old Gaelic word for “from the stones”. The English word “flag” or “flagging”, referring to stone flooring is also derived from this word. It is noted that the town of “Auchinleck” is a village five miles south-east of Mauchline, and two miles north-west of Cumnock in East Ayrshire, Scotland. The place-name means 'field of (flat) stones' in Scottish Gaelic. It has been suggested by credible sources that the surname “Flack” is an Irish shortening of “Affleck” and is possibly associated with the ancient Auchinleck Estate in Ayrshire, Scotland.

Unsubstantiated Evidence

There are three undocumented and unsubstantiated family stories that may or may not be true. The first is that Billy Flack was always a little reluctant to tell others that he was born in Ireland because he said that he was really English and had been born in Ireland at a time when his father was in the army in Ireland.

Note 6. Although the story is plausible and worth further investigation, it is also possible that Billy Flack told the story in order to explain his Irish origins at a time when there was considerable discrimination against Irish immigrants in England.

The second story, told by my grandfather, Frederick Henry Douglas Flack, was that “one of our ancestors was killed by the Fenians”.

Note 7. The term “Fenian” strictly refers to the Fenian Brotherhood which was an Irish republican organisation founded in the United States in 1858 by John O'Mahony and Michael Doheny. Its members were involved in a number of violent incidents in England, Ireland, Canada and the US in 1858-80. Rather than taking the term “Fenian” literally, it is more probable that the term was used in late Victorian England as an all-encompassing term to include members of all Irish independence organisations such as those who participated in the earlier Irish Revolution in 1798 and the later Irish independence movements in the 1920s. It is possible therefore that the story could refer to an incident involving Irish dissidents at any time between the late 18th century and the early 20th century.

The third story, told by Dr Henry Edmund Douglas Flack, was that the Flack's were originally Dutch and that they arrived in East Anglia, England from the Low Countries in the 17th Century as a part of the linen (flax) industry.

Summary of the evidence available on the identity of Billy Flack's father, William Flack

- William Flack (known as “Billy”) was the son of William Flack and Elizabeth Flack who was born in Bailieborough, Cavan in 1810;
- My three times great grandfather was “William Flack, a soldier” who died sometime between 1809 and 1863;
- William Flack's wife was Elizabeth Flack who died in Burnley, Lancashire England in 1863 aged 73 (probably born 1790 +/- 1 year);
- William and Elizabeth Flack would probably have been married sometime between 1806 and 1810;
- William and Elizabeth Flack are likely to have been of the Presbyterian persuasion.
- The surname “Flack” is likely to have a Scottish derivation.

The contenders

So who are the contenders for Billy Flack's father, William Flack? In the next section all of the available evidence, discovered in more than 25 years of genealogical research, is laid out with a commentary on each contender.

Searches were conducted on all the relevant on-line research sites including Ancestry and FindMyPast using the search terms "William" AND "Flack" AND "Ireland" AND Year of Birth = 1785+/-10 years AND "Military" in the category of records.

In response to the family story that asserts that William Flack was born in England, further searches were also conducted, replacing the "Ireland" filter with "World".

The results were that the Ancestry search returned four (4) unique records, the FindMyPast search returned ten (10) records and newspaper archives one other as follows:

Records with MILITARY connection										
No.	Source	Rank	Surname	First Name	Born	Event	Location	Rgt.	Record Set	Priority
14	Canadian Service	Trp.	Flack	William	1773	1793	Killencars, Cavan	7th Drag. Guards	WO 25/269	2
2	FindMyPast.com	Pte.	Flack	William		1801	Great Britain	1/38 Rgt	WO 25/971	
3	FindMyPast.com	Sgt.	Flack	William	1772	1805	Hertfordshire, England	75th & 92nd Rgt.	WO 121/0078	3
9	Ancestry	Sgt.	Flack	William		1806	Bathen, Hertfordshire	75th Rgt.		3
4	FindMyPast.com	Cpl.	Flack	William		1808	Beulboro, Cavan, Ireland	Wexford Militia	WO 118/47 & WO 119	1
6	FindMyPast.com	Capt.	Flack	William Charles		1812	Great Britain	Belpor Militia	Promo 16561/69	
1	FindMyPast.com	Lt.	Flack	William		1815	Great Britain	88th Rgt	Peninsular War Medals	
5	FindMyPast.com	Pte.	Flack	William	1805	1822	Ahabog, Monaghan, Ireland	64th Rgt	WO 97/774/95	4
12	Drogheda Journal	Lt.	Flack	William		1825	Drogheda Journal Meath/Louth	74th Regt		5
8	Ancestry		Flack	Wm		1835	Sunderland	56th RI.Arty	WO 86/2	
13	1841 Census	Sgt.	Flack	William	1776	1841	Chelsea Hospital		1841 Census	
11	FindMyPast.com	Pte.	Flack	William		1841	Limerick, Ireland	20th Rgt.	WO 12/3710	
7	Ancestry		Flack	Wm		1842	Perth, Australia	R.I Arty	WO 86/4	
15	Ancestry		Flack	William	1773	1847	Chelsea Hospital		C of E Parish Registers	
16	FindMyPast.com	Pte.	Flack	William	1812	1847	Belmacaret, County Down	51st Rgt.		
10	FindMyPast.com	Capt.	Flack	William		1848	Armagh, Ireland		CRF 1848 0 2	
17	FindMyPast.com	Pte.	Flack	William		1858	Died in India		WO 100/39	

Using the criteria:

- A. Name
- B. Served in the British Army during relevant period
- C. Connection with Cavan or nearby area in Ireland

It is reasonable to conclude that the most likely candidates for Billy Flack's father are:

Cpl.	Flack	William	born unk	1808	Beulboro, Cavan, Ireland	Wexford Militia
Trp.	Flack	William	born 1773	1793	Killencars, Cavan, Ireland	7th Drag. Guards
Sgt.	Flack	William	born 1772	1805	Hertfordshire, England	75th & 92nd Rgt.

Contender No. 1

Corporal William Flack of the Wexford Militia is recorded in his discharge papers on 10th April 1808 as a Labourer, standing 5ft 8ins, 36 years of age having been born in "Beulboro, Cavan". The Surgeon's Certificate states that he is unfit for service *"in consequence of a wound he received on the night of 12th of November 1807 while guarding the street to the Barracks in Carlow by which the tendons were divided at the meter carpel bones"*.

His Discharge Certificate records his service as 8 years as a Corporal, 6 years as a Private soldier, representing a total of 14 years in the Wexford Militia.

The "Hibernian Journal or Chronicle of Liberty" dated Friday, 22nd January 1808 records "A Proclamation By the Lord Lieutenant and Council of Ireland in which a reward is offered for information about the perpetrators of the wounding of Cpl William Flack of the Wexford Militia.

Comment: Unfortunately, records of Cpl Flack's Attestation or details of his postings could not be found. His discharge papers, copied below, also show that he was recommended "as a fit Object of his Majesty's Royal Bounty of Kilmainham Hospital".

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By Colonel *the Most Noble the Marquis of Ely*
Commanding the *Wexford* Regiment of
Militia INFANTRY,

whereof *He* is Colonel.

THESE are to certify, that the Bearer hereof *William Flack Corporal*
has served well and faithfully in the above-named Regiment, for the space of *fourteen*
and in other Regiments, according to the annexed Return,

The said *William Flack Corporal* is now hereby discharged,
having first received his Pay, Arrears of Pay, Clothing, &c and all other just Demands what-
soever, from the Time of his Enlisting into said Regiment 'till the Day of his Discharge, as
appears by his Receipt on the other Side.

HE is discharged. *being found unfit for Service*

as more fully appears by the Surgeon's Certificate, describing the Origin, Nature and State of
his Complaint, and why unfit for Service; and is hereby recommended as a fit Object of his
Majesty's Royal Bounty of Kilmainham Hospital.

S E R V I C E.

CORPS.	Serjeant Major. Years.	Qu. Ma. Serjeant. Years.	Serjeant. Years.	Drummer. Years.	Corporal. Years.	Private. Years.	Total Service. Years.
<i>Wexford Militia</i>	"	"	"	"	8	6	14
Total.	"	"	"	"	8	6	14

D E S C R I P T I O N.

NAME.	Height.		Age.	Trade.	Where Born.	County.
	Feet.	Inches.				
<i>William Flack</i>	5	8	36	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Bailboro</i>	<i>Lavan</i>

Given under my Hand, and Seal of the Regiment, at
this *10th* Day of *June* 1808

N. B. When a Soldier is discharged on account of Wounds
or Hurts, the Officer giving the Discharge is to specify
when, where, and how they were received, whether on
Duty or otherwise.

Ely

SURGEON'S CERTIFICATE,

I Do hereby certify, that the above-mentioned *William Flack* of the *Wexford Regiment of Militia* has his left Hand disabled in consequence of a wound he received on the Night of the 12th of Nov^r while passing the Street to the Barracks in Castlesby, by which the Tendons were divided & the Metacarpal bones

whereby he is rendered incapable of further Service, and is recommended as a fit Object of his Majesty's Royal Bounty of Kilmainham Hospital.

Given under my Hand the Day and Year above-mentioned,

Wm. J. M. Surgeon
Wm. J. M.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1808.

By the Lord Lieutenant and Council of Ireland.

A PROCLAMATION.

RICHMOND, &c.

WHEREAS we have received Information upon Oath, that on the Night of Thursday, the 12th day of November last, between the Hours of Seven and Eight o'Clock in the Afternoon, William Flack, a Corporal in his Majesty's Wexford Regiment of Militia, was suddenly attacked in the Town of Carlow by some person unknown, who with some broad sharp Instrument chopped the left Hand of the said William Flack, by which the Tendons of his Fingers were divided and the Bones broken.

Now we the Lord Lieutenant and Council, being fully determined, as far as in us lies, to bring the perpetrator of said nefarious outrage to speedy and condign punishment, do hereby publish and declare, that if any person or persons shall, within the space of Six Calendar Months from the date hereof, discover the person or persons concerned in the said outrage, so as that he or they be apprehended and convicted thereof, such person or persons so discovering as aforesaid shall receive as a Reward the Sum of TWO HUNDRED POUNDS for each of the persons so discovered, apprehended, and convicted of said outrage.

And we do hereby publish and declare, that if any person or persons concerned in the said outrage (the person who actually cut and maimed the said William Flack only excepted) shall, within the time aforesaid, discover his or their accomplice or accomplices, so as that he, she, or they be apprehended and convicted thereof, such person or persons shall not only receive the said Reward, but shall also receive his Majesty's most gracious and free Pardon for the said offence.

And we do hereby strictly charge and command all Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, and all other his Majesty's loving Subjects, to use their utmost endeavours to bring the said offenders, and every of them, to speedy and condign punishment.

Given at the Council Chamber in Dublin, the 19th Day of January, 1808.

Manners, C. Chas. Dublin. Erne. Charles Kildare. Frankfort. Norbury. W. Downes. St. Geo. Daly. D. Latouche. S. Hamilton. Wm. Saurin. G. Knox.

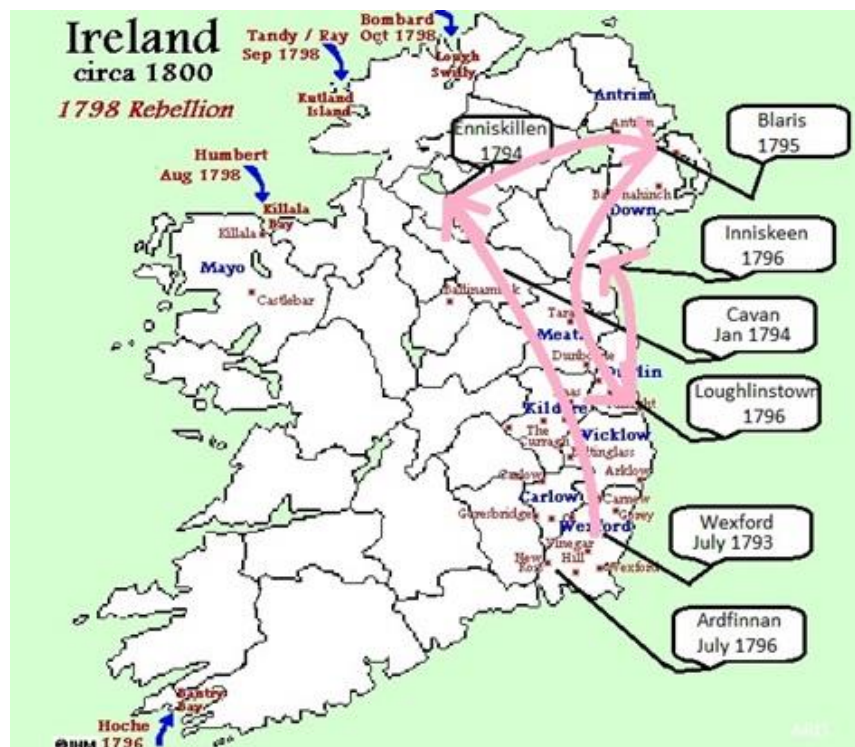
God save the King.

4. Assessment of the evidence available to support the proposition that Cpl William Flack of the Wexford Militia was Billy Flack's father.

The following facts support the proposition:

- 4.1. William Flack is recorded as being born in 1772 (+/-1 year) in "Beulboro, Cavan". This would have made him 38 years old when Billy Flack was born in Bailieborough, Cavan. It is not unreasonable to posit that he would have returned to live in the town where he was born after he was discharged from the army in 1808 on a Kilmainham Hospital pension.
- 4.2. An examination of the history of the Wexford Militia during the period of Cpl William Flack's service revealed that he served during a period of major unrest in Ireland in which the Wexford Regiment was deployed in several Counties including Cavan. It is highly likely that Cpl William Flack would have been with the Regiment during operations in and around Bailieborough against the Defenders in May 1794.

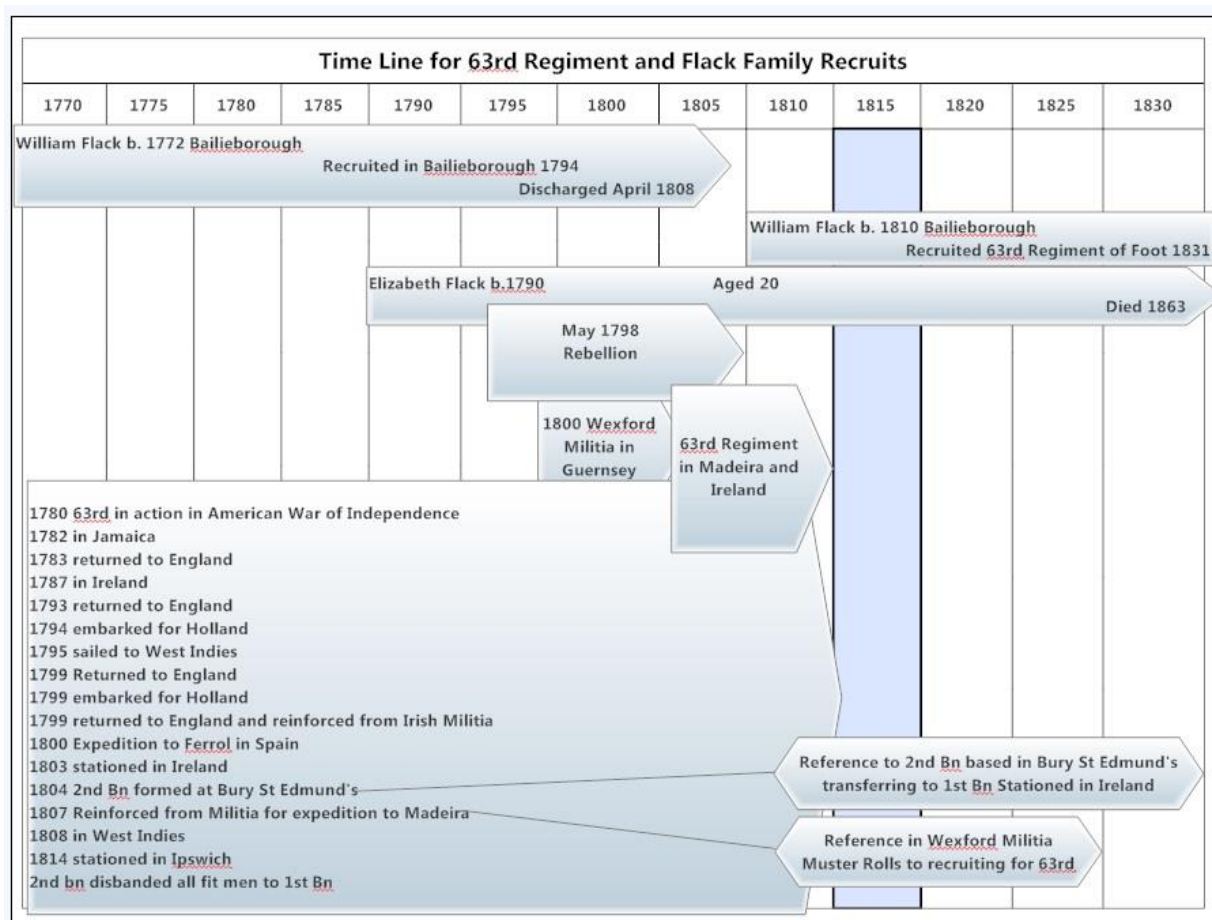
Historian Ivan F Nelson, in his book "The Irish Militia, 1793-1802, states "More details are known about another incident in Co. Cavan near Ballyna, or Ballinaugh. On 13 May 1794 at a fair day in Kilnaleck 32 Defenders were reported to have been killed in a fight with 'Scotchmen'. On 14 May, there was another riot and the Defenders retired to a hill near Ballyna. The Grenadier and Light Companies of the City of Dublin Regiment under the command of Captains Medicott and O'Meara, with Lieutenants Sankey and Thwaits, arrived from Killeshandra. In the ensuing affray the town was set on fire, 40 houses were destroyed and 30 Defenders killed. More of the Regiment arrived, the leader of the Defender band was captured, and a further 40 were detained in goal". (p155).



Movements of the Wexford Militia during the 1798 Rebellion

It seems reasonable to posit that as a wounded veteran of the troubles, he would have been welcomed home by other Presbyterian Bailieborough residents. Perhaps it was in the period 1808-1810 that he married Elizabeth, the mother of Billy Flack.

- 4.3. The available records indicate that on the return to the Carlow area from its posting to Guernsey in 1807, the Wexford Militia's strength was reduced and several serving Wexford militiamen were recruited by the regular army's 63rd Regiment of Foot, the regiment into which Billy Flack was recruited in 1832. This suggests that perhaps there were long-standing loyalties between the Wexford Militia and the 63rd Regiment that influenced Billy Flack's decision to join the 63rd.



- 4.4. If Cpl William Flack of the Wexford Militia was Billy Flack's father and William married Elizabeth during the period 1808 and April 1810 when Billy was born, then Elizabeth (born 1790 +/-1 year) would have been aged between 18 and 20 and William would have been 36-38 years old. These dates make the proposition that Cpl William Flack is Billy Flack's father viable.

- 4.5. The fact that Cpl William Flack of the Wexford Militia was wounded during disturbances in Ireland provides a partial basis for the family's story about our ancestor "killed by the Fenians".

The following points do not support the proposition:

- 4.6. If Cpl Flack of the Wexford Militia was Billy Flack's father, then the family story about William Flack being born to an English soldier serving in Ireland, is not true.
- 4.7. Since Billy Flack is likely to have been from a Presbyterian family (he later baptised his son in the Presbyterian Church in Limerick), the environment in and around Bailieborough in the early 1800s, only a few years after the troubles, may not have been the logical choice for a place to make a new home for a former soldier of one of the militia regiments responsible for violently intervening in the fight between local Catholics and "Scotsmen".

5. Assessment of the evidence available to support the proposition that Trooper William Flack of the 7th Dragoon Guards was Billy Flack's father.

The following facts support the proposition:

- 5.1. No. 17, Trooper William Flack is recorded in the Muster Roll of Captain George Miller's Troop of the 7th Or Princes Royals Dragoons dated 11 March 1793 as aged 20 years, born "Killencars", Cavan, of brown hair, hazel eyes, brown complexion, occupation weaver, recruited on 11 March 1793.
- 5.2. If Cpl William Flack of the Wexford Militia was Billy Flack's father and William married Elizabeth during the period 1805 and April 1810 when Billy was born, then Elizabeth (born 1790 +/-1 year) would have been aged between 18 and 20 and William would have been 36-38 years old.
- 5.3. Killencars is probably a reference to Killinkere a civil and ecclesiastical parish of County Cavan now located in the Republic of Ireland between the towns of Virginia and Bailieborough and about 5^{1/2} miles from Bailieborough where Billy Flack was recorded as having been born.
- 5.4. The Regimental history of the 7th Or Princes Royals Dragoon Guards indicates that the 7th was involved in several of the major battles during the 1798 Irish Revolution. In 1799 the 7th Dragoon Guards, as well as the other cavalry regiments were sent to England in July 1799 to be transferred onto the English Establishment. In Jan 1801 the Act of Union brought Ireland into Great Britain. The 7th were posted to Northampton and later went to Piershill near Edinburgh, but by 1805 they were back in Ireland, stationed at Dundalk but split up to cover a large area, based on Dundalk. Some details were at Enniskillen 50 miles to the west. They were busy through the summer raiding illicit stills and hunting down smugglers and dealers of contraband. This lasted until 1810 when the Regiment went back to England, first Manchester then to Birmingham. It was common practice for soldiers to be billeted in the community when deployed on "peace-keeping" duties in Ireland.
- 5.5. The deployment of 7th Or Princes Royals Dragoon Guards in the Bailieborough area during the period immediately before Billy's birth provides support for the proposition that Tpr William Flack was Billy Flack's father

7th Or Princes Royals Description of Captain George Miller's Troop 1810 28 30														
No	Name	Age	Sex	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Teeth	Mouth	Bones	see	Inherited	see	Tanner	Graves
1	John Kelly	40	5	10	fair	blue	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
2	John Kelly	41	5	11	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
3	John Kelly	42	5	12	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
4	John Kelly	43	5	13	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
5	John Kelly	44	5	14	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
6	John Kelly	45	5	15	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
7	John Kelly	46	5	16	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
8	John Kelly	47	5	17	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
9	John Kelly	48	5	18	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
10	John Kelly	49	5	19	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
11	John Kelly	50	5	20	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
12	John Kelly	51	5	21	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
13	John Kelly	52	5	22	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
14	John Kelly	53	5	23	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
15	John Kelly	54	5	24	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
16	John Kelly	55	5	25	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
17	John Kelly	56	5	26	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
18	John Kelly	57	5	27	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
19	John Kelly	58	5	28	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
20	John Kelly	59	5	29	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
21	John Kelly	60	5	30	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
22	John Kelly	61	5	31	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
23	John Kelly	62	5	32	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
24	John Kelly	63	5	33	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
25	John Kelly	64	5	34	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
26	John Kelly	65	5	35	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
27	John Kelly	66	5	36	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
28	John Kelly	67	5	37	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
29	John Kelly	68	5	38	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
30	John Kelly	69	5	39	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
31	John Kelly	70	5	40	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
32	John Kelly	71	5	41	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
33	John Kelly	72	5	42	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
34	John Kelly	73	5	43	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
35	John Kelly	74	5	44	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
36	John Kelly	75	5	45	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
37	John Kelly	76	5	46	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
38	John Kelly	77	5	47	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
39	John Kelly	78	5	48	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
40	John Kelly	79	5	49	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
41	John Kelly	80	5	50	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
42	John Kelly	81	5	51	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
43	John Kelly	82	5	52	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
44	John Kelly	83	5	53	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
45	John Kelly	84	5	54	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
46	John Kelly	85	5	55	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
47	John Kelly	86	5	56	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
48	John Kelly	87	5	57	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
49	John Kelly	88	5	58	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
50	John Kelly	89	5	59	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
51	John Kelly	90	5	60	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
52	John Kelly	91	5	61	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
53	John Kelly	92	5	62	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
54	John Kelly	93	5	63	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
55	John Kelly	94	5	64	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
56	John Kelly	95	5	65	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
57	John Kelly	96	5	66	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
58	John Kelly	97	5	67	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
59	John Kelly	98	5	68	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
60	John Kelly	99	5	69	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black
61	John Kelly	100	5	70	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black	black

5.6. The deployment of the 7th Or Princes Royals Dragoon Guards to the Manchester area in 1810 may have meant that Elizabeth, Billy's mother, had to stay in Ireland to have her baby. It may also have meant that William became familiar with the Manchester area where later his son settled and where he and his mother, Elizabeth were buried.

The only possible reason why Tpr William Flack could not be Billy Flack's father is that it would contradict the family stories about William Flack was born to an English soldier serving in Ireland and the story about his father being "killed by the Fenians".

6. Assessment of the evidence available to support the proposition that Sergeant William Flack of the 75th and 92nd Regiments of Foot was Billy Flack's father.

Sgt William Flack of 75th Regiment of Foot is recorded as having been discharged from the regular army on 24 September 1805. He is recorded as born in 1772 at Bathen, Hertfordshire, England, 5ft 5ins high, and of dark complexion, black hair and grey eyes.

His Discharge documents (WO 121/0078) state that he served for a period of 13 years, *"but by reason of a gunshot wound to his left leg received in action before Bhurtpore on 21 January 1805 is sent to Fort William to proceed to the Army Depot in England and, provided the Inspector General of the recruiting service confirms this certificate he is hereby Discharged and humbly recommended as the object very highly deserving of His Majesty's Royal Bounty of Chelsea Hospital having first received all just demands (Pay and Clothing) from his entry into the said Regiment to the date of this discharge as aforesaid by his receipt on the back thereof"*.

6.1. Regimental records indicate that 75th Regiment (formerly the 92nd) were deployed in Ireland in 1809-10 and therefore St William Flack could be Billy's father.

The following fact strongly suggests that he is not Billy Flack's father:

6.2. In the records for his successful application for admission as an in-patient of Chelsea Hospital 1st April 1834, it is stated that he does not have a wife or family. However, it remains possible that by 1834, Sergeant Flack, now aged 60, had become estranged from Elizabeth and Billy.

7. Summary of the evidence and conclusion

This search has been conducted on the basis of the available military records of the period. It found that the most likely contender for the father of Captain William Flack (known as "Billy") is Cpl William Flack of the Wexford Militia, born about 1772 (+/-1 year) in "Beulboro, (probably Bailieborough) County Cavan.

The basis for this finding is that Corporal William Flack of the Wexford Militia was:

- born at about the right time;
- born in the right place;
- was a soldier;
- was deployed with his Regiment in the area at roughly the right time to father a child in Bailieborough;
- was wounded in an conflict with elements that were probably referred to in pro-British society at the time as "Fenians".

Unfortunately, no record of the Cpl William Flack's birth, baptism or marriage has yet been located, nor has any record of William ("Billy") Flack his son, been located. The results of my detailed Surname Study for persons of Irish origin named Flack is attached at Annex A.

ANNEX A.

The Geographic and Historical Environment in Ulster and the Incidence of the Surname Flack

The Map

An analysis of the maps of early 19th century Cavan reveals that Bailieborough lay close to the cross-roads of several major North-South and East-West roads making it militarily important. It was a tactically useful location for transiting troops and their supplies. It held regular fairs and local produce, including beef cattle and grain for horses which could be readily purchased. Strategically, the major road from Dublin to the North West of Ireland passes close by.

The Township of Bailieborough lies within the Barony of Clankee, in the Civil Parish and Poor Law Union of Bailieborough, the Catholic Parish of Killan (or Killann) and the Church of Ireland Parish of Bailieborough, Diocese of Kilmore

Searches using Estate Records

Although there are few government records of people living in Ulster (which prior to 1922 included County Cavan) there are extensive private records of the Estates established by the original English and Scottish “planters” during the period 1600-1650 and the later generations of landholders.

If the Estate(s) on which the original Flack settlers could be identified, it may be possible to find references to Flack families in the relevant Estate Records. The following map provides an insight into the areas of old Ulster in which the early “planters” settled. The Green Squares represent the incidence of the surname Flack in 1901.



seems clear from the map, that the surname Flack is likely to have been associated with the early Elizabethan settlements in Monaghan or with the later Scottish settlers in Clankee in County Cavan or with the Scottish Hamilton and Montgomery settlements in County Down. At this stage, there are no

clear indications as to which of the Estates is more likely to have been the estate on which the original Flack family(s) settled.

In the following sections, a brief history of these three groupings provides further insights into the possible origins of the Flacks.

History of Bailieborough

Since there is documented evidence that at least two of the candidates for the father of William Flack (b 1810) came from Bailieborough, a brief history of Bailieborough is appropriate. William Bailie, a Scottish "undertaker" or Planter, was granted the lands of Tonerie (Tandragee) in East Breffnie by James I in 1610 on condition he enclosed a demesne, built a fortified house and settled on the estate a number of Scottish or English families. This he did by 1629. During the rising of 1641 the house was attacked and occupied for a month by a troop of Irish soldiers under Colonel Hugh O'Reilly.

William died c.1648 and the estate passed to his son, William, the Bishop of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh. On the bishop's death in 1664 the estate was inherited by his only daughter, who had married James Hamilton. James was succeeded by his son Henry, the M.P. for Cavan who was killed at the siege of Limerick during the Jacobite war. His successor was his son, another James Hamilton, who sold the property in 1724 to Major Charles Stewart - nephew and co-heir of General William Stewart - and left the area.[3] [4]

Charles Stewart died in 1740 and left the estate to his son, William Stewart, who was High Sheriff of Cavan for 1749 and MP for Cavan county (1766–1768). He was followed by his son Charles, who was also MP for Cavan (1783–1793). He was killed in an accident in 1795, when the estate passed to a nephew, Thomas Charles Stewart Corry, who sold it to Colonel William Young in 1814.

Colonel Young laid out the town of Bailieborough in its present location and was made 1st Baronet Young of Bailieborough in 1821. He died in 1835 and was succeeded by his son John Young, 1st Baron Lisgar, who was at one time Chief Secretary for Ireland and, at a later date, Governor General of Canada. He was made 1st Baron Lisgar in 1870 and in his retirement renovated the house. After Lady Lisgar's death in 1895 the estate went into Chancery and some of the land was sold to the tenants under the Ashbourne Act.

The Surname Studies – the early years

The earliest references to persons named Flack in connection with the early Plantation of Ulster occur in the Muster Rolls c. 1630 published in the [R.J. Hunter Collection](#)

A search for the surname Flack on the database revealed the following references:

First Name	Surname	Barony/Lands	Landlord/Estate	County
Fergus	Flack	Fewes	J Hammelton ¹	Armagh
John	Flack		Lord Crumwell ²	Down
Nevin	Flack	Great Ardes	Lord Viscount Clannaboyes ³	Down

¹ Probably identical with James Hamilton, 1st Viscount Claneboye (c. 1560–1644)

² Probably identical with Thomas Cromwell, 4th Baron Cromwell of Oakham and 1st Viscount Lecale of Ulster (1594 – 1653)

³ Probably identical with James Hamilton, 1st Viscount Claneboye (c. 1560–1644)

James Hamilton's family came from Dunlop in East Ayrshire where his father Hans Hamilton had been the first Protestant (probably Presbyterian) minister. He studied at the University of St Andrews, later marrying well to Janet Denham, Laird of West Shield Ayrshire. He had a close association with King James VI of Scotland and supported his succession to the throne in 1603.

In 1602, Gaelic chieftain Conn O'Neill of Ulster sent his men to attack English soldiers after a quarrel and was consequently imprisoned. As a part of the settlement of the case, it was agreed that two thirds of O'Neil's lands be forfeited, with one third going to James Hamilton and another third to Hugh Montgomery, Hamilton's associate. Hamilton's main grant, made formally in November 1605, was the lordship of Upper (South) Clondeboye in County Down.

The Nine Years' War in Ireland had ended in 1603, and Hamilton and Montgomery, now James Hamilton, 1st Viscount Claneboye and Sir Hugh Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of the Great Ards (1560-1636) both recruited tenants from the Scottish Lowlands to migrate to Ulster to farm their newly acquired lands for low rents. They persuaded members of their extended families to come and, in May 1606, the first group of farmers, artisans, merchants and chaplains arrived to form the Ulster Scots settlement, four years before the Plantation of Ulster in 1610.

Irish Flax Growers, 1796

The Irish Linen Board published a list of nearly 60,000 individuals who cultivated flax in Ireland in 1796. A search of the list for persons with the name Flack or Fleck revealed a total of four (4) persons as follows:

	Count of Flax Growers in 1796
Counties	
Tyrone	2
Monaghan	2

Griffith's or Primary Valuation of Tenements 1848-1864

A search of the Griffith survey of land ownership conducted in the period 1848 to 1864 revealed 59 persons with the surname Flack (or Fleck) as land owners/tenants in Ireland as follows:

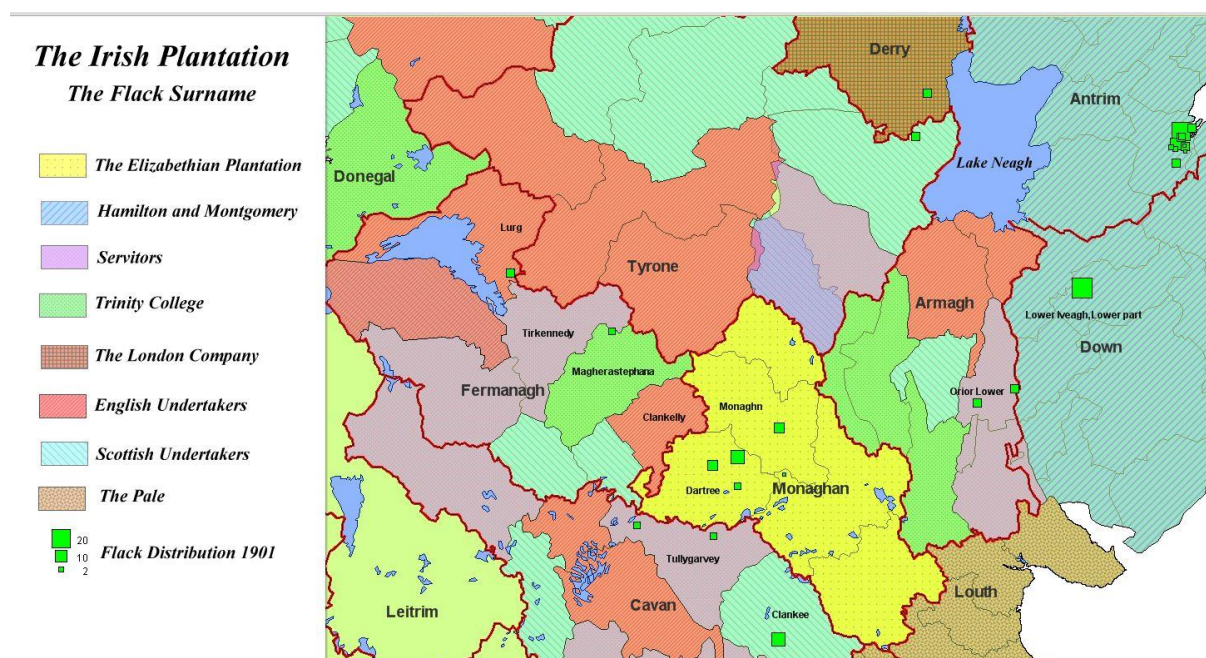
	Count of Landholders in 1848-1864
Counties	
Antrim	24
Monaghan	8
Cavan	7
Leitrim	2
Down	8
Tyrone	4
Armagh	4
Mayo	2
Total	59

Irish Census 1901

A search of the 1901 Census of Ireland⁴ for anyone with the name of Flack revealed that there were 194 persons in 42 households in which the Head of Household is recorded with the surname Flack as follows:

Counties	Count of Households in 1901	Count of Households by Religion			
		Presbyterian	Cof I	Catholic	Bretheren
Antrim	14	10	4		
Monaghan	7	7			
Cavan	5	2	3		
Londonderry	4	2	1		1
Down	3		3		
Tyrone	3	3			
Armagh	2	2			
Derry	0				
Fermanagh	2	2			
Dublin	1			1	
Galway	1	1			
Total Households	42	29	11	1	1

Using this data, the following map shows the distribution of Flack families in Ulster in 1901.



An Alternative View

⁴ It should be noted that the Irish Famine 1845 -1852 caused a 25% drop in the population of Ireland both from death and Immigration and since comprehensive surname studies are likely to be based on post famine data, care needs to be taken when drawing conclusions from such data.

The tradition in the Flack family is that our Flack family came from East Anglia in England and that William Flack born 1810 was born in Ireland during a period in which his father, William Flack was serving in the Army. Great Aunt Lucy Flack (born 1885, died 1981) stated that that her father, William Henry Douglas Flack (b 1852) had been annoyed that he was born in Ireland.

Is it possible that the tradition is true and that the parents of William Flack (b 1810) were not themselves Irish?

Two pieces of information strongly suggest that William Flack's father was Irish but the source of the information available as to his place of birth at Bailieborough may be less reliable. First, the results of a Y-DNA test on myself, show that there is a high probability (80%) that my male Flack ancestors back about 10 generations came from South West Scotland. Secondly, the fact that William Flack (b 1810) chose to baptise his son, William Henry Douglas Flack (b 1852) in the Presbyterian Church in Limerick (despite his wife, Lucy Flack (b 1819) having been baptised Church of England), suggests that his own religious tradition was probably Presbyterian. Both these facts tend to support the view that he was of Irish-Scottish descent.

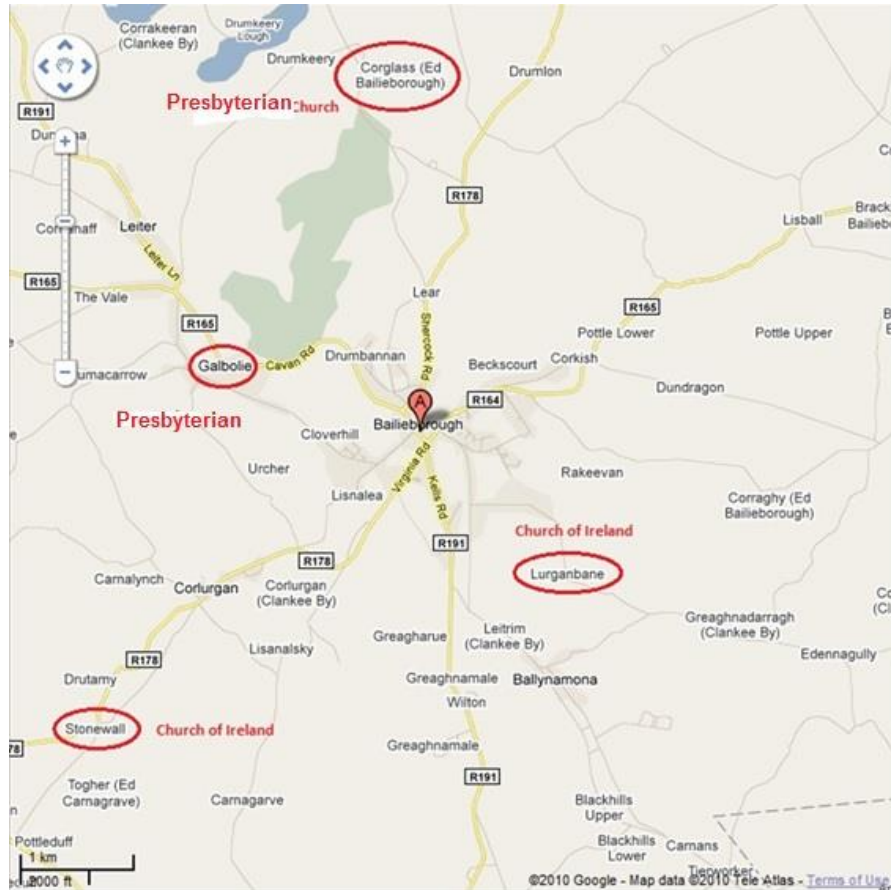
The evidence for his place of birth – in Bailieborough, County Cavan is less reliable. The only documentary evidence for Bailieborough as his place of birth in Ireland is the place of birth shown on his army enlistment documents which he signed at Bailieborough with his "X" mark on 17th February 1831. That document includes the following questions and answers:

"In what Parish, and in, or near what Town and in what County were you born?" The recorded answer states *"In the Parish of Killan in or near the Town of Ballyburrow in the County of Cavan"*

It should be noted that the document was completed in the handwriting of the recruiter, Private Phillip McKiernan of the 63rd Regiment who also witnessed the Oath taken by William Flack. Since William Flack was unable to sign the document, it is likely that the details on the form were obtained by questioning the recruit and therefore misunderstandings about the place of birth are possible. It is also noteworthy that 17th February was a "Fair Day" in Bailieborough and that therefore, it is reasonable to assume that young men from the district, not necessarily from Bailieborough itself, would have travelled to town for Fair Day.

Summary of the Surname Studies

Using the primary sources of information about Flack families living in Eastern Cavan in the first half of the 19th Century the following map shows locations near Bailieborough where it is known there were Flack families resident and their likely religious affiliations:



No records could be located of Cavan Flack families that had members named “William” or “Henry”, that are given names that have re-occurred across several generations of William Flack’s (b 1810) descendants.

No records could be located that provide any other link that might indicate whether any of these families was the family of William Flack (b 1810).

During the surname study, looking for possible links with William Flack (b 1810), it was noted that several of the Flack families in the North Western parts of Cavan, in Monaghan and in Southern Armagh had connections either through the Presbyterian Church or through marriage with the Flack families living near Bailieborough. It is therefore possible that William Flack’s (b 1810) family could have been resident some distance away and that William travelled to Bailieborough on Fair Day looking for work.

The surname study did locate several Presbyterian Flack families in Monaghan in which the given name “William” re-occurred in several generations. The 1821 Census of the Congregation of First Monaghan Presbyterian Church taken by the Minister lists:

Widow Flack; Samuel Flack; William Flack; Robert Flack; John Flack and Mary Flack.

Searches conducted by a professional genealogist for Gladys Flack (b 2nd October 1916; d 1 August 2006) revealed that William Flack listed above was born about 1801 in Monaghan . He married an Anne (b c 1807) and died at Tullyard on 24 February 1890. Anne Flack died at Tullyard on 19th April 1884. The genealogist's report stated that William Flack leased property from Lord Rossmore⁵ and the property consisted of a house, offices and 21 acres, 1 rood, 5 perches of agricultural land.

The records of Cahans Presbyterian Church also include reference to a William Flack born 11 April 1790 (POB unk), 1st born son of Robert and Margaret Flack nee Nixon. It seems likely that these two families were related but the relationship is unknown.

Subsequent generations of this Monaghan Flack family included Henry Holmes Flack (b. 2 Jan 1913) and his wife Gladys Flack nee Kennedy with whom I had correspondence in the 1980s. The Flack family own a car dealership in Monaghan and were kind enough to share their family history.

What progress has been made in the search?

The search for William Flack, a soldier, who married Elizabeth Flack (d 1790) and father of William Flack (b 1810 in or near Bailieborough, County Cavan, Ireland has so far been frustrated by the lack of any solid documentary evidence that links William Flack (b 1810) with any of the Flack families that have been identified as living in or near Bailieborough in the period between his birth 1810 and his enlistment in the 63rd Regiment of Foot in February 1831.

From the results of the research conducted so far, it would seem reasonable to posit:

1. that William Flack's (b 1810) parents were William Flack, a soldier, date and place unknown and Elizabeth Flack b 1790 in Ireland;
2. that it is probable that William Flack's (b 1810) family were from Cavan and were connected to Presbyterian Flack families living in Galbolie, about 3 Km West of Bailieborough;
3. that it is possible that William Flack's (b 1810) father was Corporal William Flack of the Wexford Militia, born 1771 (+/- 1 year) in "Beulboro", Cavan.
4. that it is possible that William Flack's (b 1810) family were from Monaghan and were related to Presbyterian Flack families living in Tullyard and Derrylossett;
5. that it is possible that William Flack's (b 1810) father William Flack was not a resident of Cavan or Monaghan and came from County Armagh or County Down where there were relatively large numbers of Presbyterian Flack families resident.

It seems at least possible that since,

- (a) Flack is not a native Irish name,
- (b) Flack is an uncommon surname in Scotland
- (c) there were just three persons by that name among the records of the early Scottish settlers in the 1600s,

⁵ The 1st Lord Rossmore was General Robert Cuninghame, (1726 – 6 August 1801) an Irish British Army officer, politician, and a descendant of the Cuninghames of Drumquhassle. The Cunninghams of Drumquhassle were a family of the landed gentry in Scotland from the early 16th century to the mid-17th. They are linked to the Cunninghams of Kilmaurs in Ayrshire.

that the great majority of the 42 Flack families recorded in Ireland in 1901 were related to the original “plantationers”.

The plan for further research must include:

- A. Seek further information about the Flack families that were located at Gambolie and Lurganbawn outside Bailieborough in the period 1800 to 1850;
- B. Seek further information from the Presbyterian Church about the availability of church records in and around Bailieborough;
- C. Search Estate records for the Clankee and Rossmore Estates for records of Flack tenants in Cavan and Monaghan, and
- D. Search Montgomery and Hamilton Estates for information about the locations of the tenancies offered to the original Flack families.

Prepared by E.D.H. (“Ted”) Flack

Brisbane Australia

30 October 2014