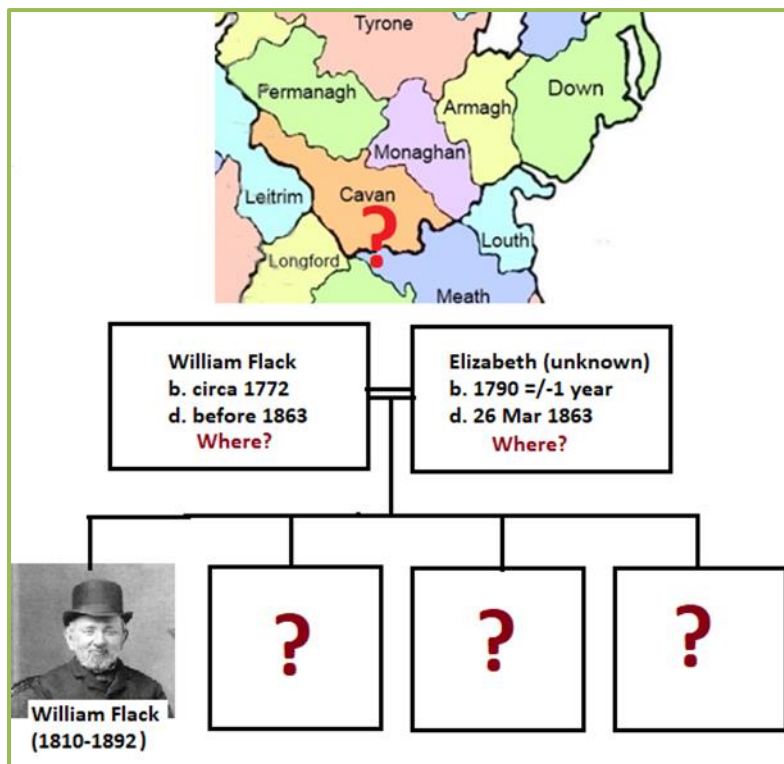




Research Report

This report presents the evidence gathered in efforts to identify my Great Great Grandfather's parents, his family and where they lived

Who were William Flack's parents and family?

By Ted Flack, PhD

Who were William “Billy” Flack’s parents and family and where did they come from?

Summary of the facts available

On 17th February 1831, when the recruiting sergeant wrote down William Flack’s place of birth, he recorded “In the Parish of Killan in or near the Town of Balyburrow in the County of Cavan”.

Complication:

It is not clear whether “Killan” refers to the townland of Killan or the Catholic Parish of Killan (or Killann). In 1831, the Catholic Parish of Killan included the town of Bailieborough and surrounding area. It is therefore not clear as to whether William Flack was born in the townland of Killan or elsewhere in the wider Catholic Parish of Killan.

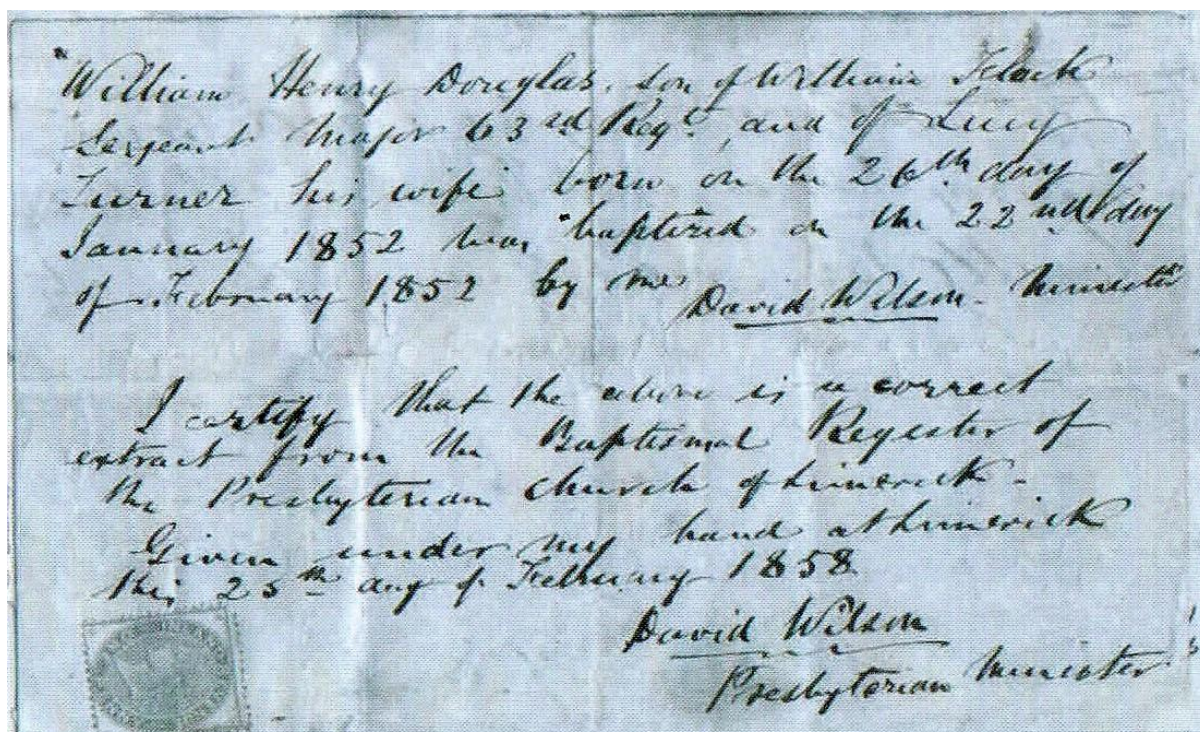
The townland of Killan lies 3.6 miles north of Bailieborough and 3.9 miles south of Shercock.

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>

From the death certificate of his mother dated 28 May 1863, we know that William FLACK’s parents were William FLACK, “a soldier” and Elizabeth FLACK, widow.

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>	<i>Bronchitis 1 week certified</i>	<i>W. Flack present at death Accrington Road Habergham Eaves</i>	<i>Twenty Sixth May 1863</i>
-----	--	----------------------------	---------------	---------------------	---	--	--	--

When Sergeant Major William Flack baptised his son William Henry Flack in Limerick in 1852 he chose to have the baptism performed in the Presbyterian Church.



From the only documentary evidence available, it appears that my great great grandfather was William (known as "Billy") Flack, born 1 April 1810 in the Parish of Killan near Bailieborough, Cavan, Ireland to William Flack, a soldier and Elizabeth Flack (widow by 1863 aged 73, born 1790+/- 1 year). The family were probably of the Presbyterian faith.

The only other possibly relevant information is a family story which says that one of our Flack ancestors was "killed by the Fenians". The combination of this story and the evidence set out above was used to search for a William Flack, who was a soldier and who was killed in Ireland during the relevant period from 1750-1810.

Searches in the British military records held in the National Archives found a record of a Corporal William Flack of the Wexford Militia who, on 12 November 1807 was severely wounded in a civil disturbance in Carlow whilst on guard duty. His wounds led to his discharge from the Militia with a pension due to being found to be medically unfit.

A copy of his discharge papers is shown on the next page.

The record shows that this William Flack was 36 years of age upon discharge in 1808, that he was born in "Bailboro, County Cavan" and had served 14 years in the Militia.

The Discharge Certificate suggests that he was therefore born in 1772+/- 1 year in Bailieborough, County Cavan and had enlisted in the Wexford Militia in 1794+/- 1 year.

An extensive search failed to find any record of his enlistment papers.

It is noted that there is no direct evidence that William Flack's (1810-1892) father is this Corporal William Flack of the Wexford Militia, however the following points support that view:

- There were few records of persons named William Flack born in Bailieborough in the period 1750-1792 that could have been a parent or close relation of William Flack (1810-1892).
- It was an Irish tradition to name male children after their father or grandfather;
- It is possible that the family story about a relative being killed by the Fenians is a distortion of the incident involving Corporal William Flack of the Wexford Militia.



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

THESE are to certify, that the Bearer hereof *William Black 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 Black 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.	Qu. Ma. Serjeant.	Serjeant.	Drummer.	Corporal.	Private.	Total Service.
	Years.	Years.	Years.	Years.	Years.	Years.	Years.
<i>Wexford</i> <i>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 Black</i>	5	8	36	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Knights</i>	<i>Cavan</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 Col Wexford Regt

Lines of inquiry:

In the first stage of this search, I have focussed on Flack families living in County Cavan in the period 1785-1854, looking for Presbyterian families with a "William" in the family. This is because William Flack (1810-1892) christened his two sons "William" and may have been following the Irish traditional naming conventions as follows:

Irish Traditional Naming Conventions

First born son named after his father's father
Second born son named after his mother's father
Third born son named after his father
Fourth born son named after his father's oldest brother
Fifth born son named after his father's 2nd oldest brother
or his mother's oldest brother

First born daughter named after her mother's mother
Second born daughter named after her father's mother
Third born daughter named after her mother
Fourth born daughter named after her mother's oldest sister
Fifth born daughter named after her mother's 2nd oldest sister
or her father's oldest sister

Since both William's sons were christened "William" (see William Henry Douglas Flack's baptism above) and William's second son "William George", it is reasonable to presume that his father or grandfather are likely to have also been named "William".

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Parochial Chapel of Burren</i> in the County of <i>Lancaster</i> in the Year 1854						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<i>March 12</i> No. 1119.	<i>William George John</i>	<i>William Lucy</i>	<i>Flack</i>	<i>The Queen's Building,</i>	<i>Sergeant Major</i> <i>5th Lancashire</i> <i>Regiment</i>	<i>W. W. Meston</i>

- The earliest records of residents of County Cavan with the surname Flack are the 1796 Flax Growers List for Kilmore and Killishandra Parishes, Co. Cavan. There are no persons with the surname Flack included in these lists.
- There are two persons listed in the Flax Growers Lists for County of Monaghan as follows:

Flack	Samuel,	Aghabog	Monaghan
Flack	Robert,	Ematris	Monaghan
-

- The only record that was located of a William Flack living in Cavan about the time William Flack (1810-1892) enlisted in the Army in Bailieborough in 1831 was a William Flack recorded in the Tithe Applotment Books in Corlisbrattan, Killashandra in 1832. (see Killashandra marked as record 18 on the map on the following page). It will be noted that Killashandra is not in either the Church of Ireland or the Catholic Parish of Killan.

This family is recorded in the 1842 Census of Ireland as follows:

County of Cavan **CENSUS OF 1841. [Form A.]**
 Barony of Tullyhunee Townland of Corlisbrattan
 Parish of Killashandra Town or Village of _____
 No. in Census Book B. } 8 Name of Head of Family } Wm Flack Occupation Weaver

1st TABLE.—RETURN of the MEMBERS, SERVANTS, or VISITORS of this FAMILY, who slept in this House on the night of Sunday, the 6th JUNE, 1841.

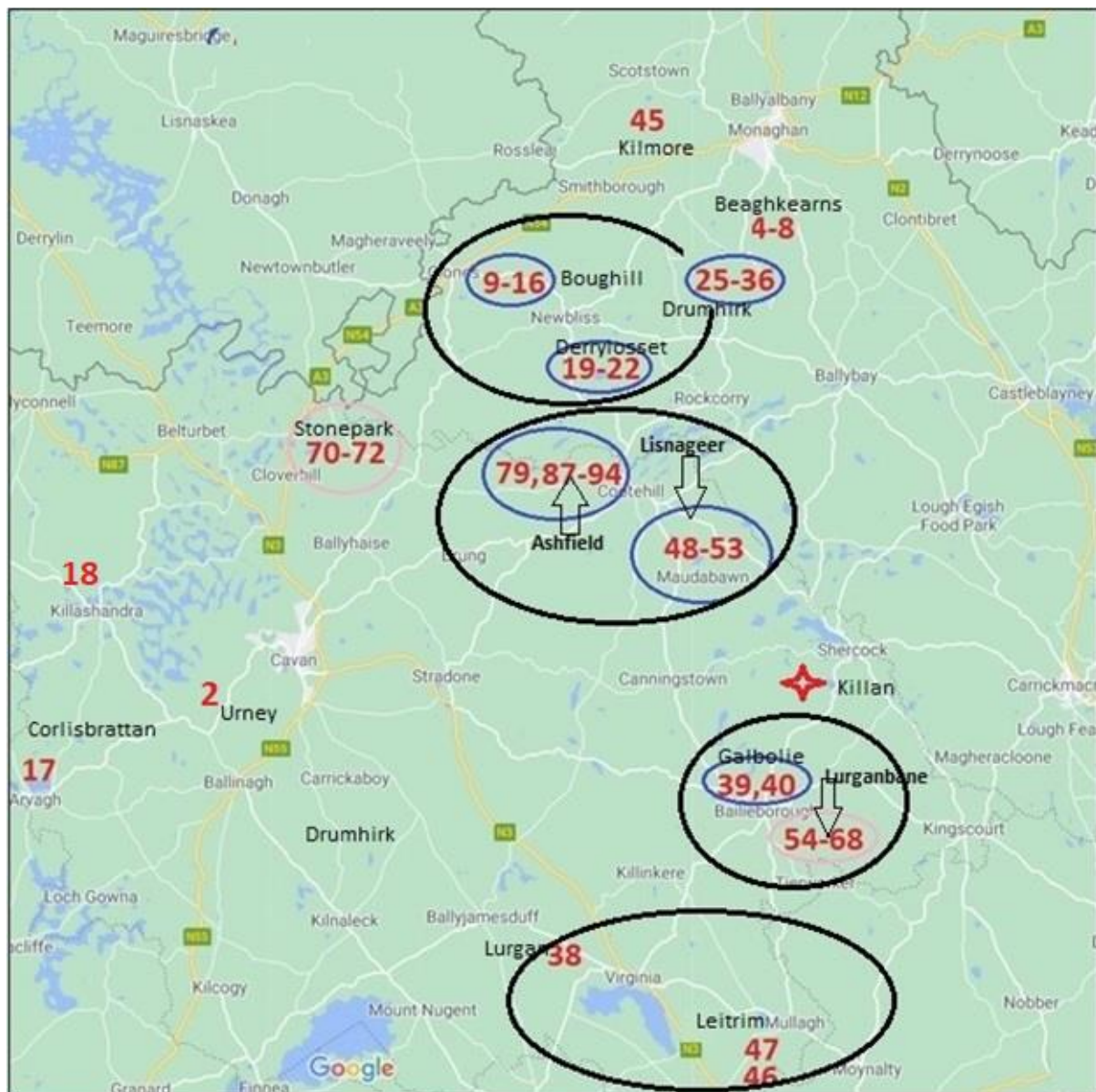
NAMES		AGE	SEX	RELATION	MARRIAGE	OCCUPATION	EDUCATION	NATIVE
Of all the MEMBERS, SERVANTS, and VISITORS of this FAMILY, who slept in this House on the above night.		Years, Months, Days, or less.	Whether Male or Female.	Rank in the Army, or whether Wife, Son, Daughter, Cousin, Servant, Visitor, &c.	Whether "Married," "Not Married," "Widowed," or "Single."	In what Year Married, or in what Year if never married.	State the particular Profession, Trade, or other Employment of each person; or if a child, whether attending School.	Whether he or she can "Read," "Read and Write," or "Cannot Read."
Christian Names.	Surnames.							Of what Country, County, or City.
William	Flack	55	male	Head of family	married	1811	weaver	lived in Cavan
Ann	Flack	60	female	Wife	do	1811	spin	Cavan
James	Flack	27	male	Son	married	1837	labour	do do
Mary Anne	Flack	20	female	Daughter	do do		spin	do do
William	Flack	2	male	Grandson	do do			do do
James	Flack	1	male	Grandson	do do			do do

- An extensive search was conducted of the available records in Ancestry, FindMyPast and FamilySearch looking for Flack families living within a day's journey of Bailieborough in the period 1750-1911, that could be relatives of William Flack (1810-1892). The results were as follows:

- A total of 125 records were found with the surname Flack, with 53 associated with County Cavan, 58 with Monaghan, 5 with Fermanagh and 4 with County Meath.
- Of the total 125 records, 116 records (including possible duplicates) were found that could be plotted on a modern map of western County Cavan. (see the map on the next page)
- It was apparent from the available records that Flack families in Cavan and southern Monaghan during the period tended to be located in areas around four locations as follows:
 - Bailieborough, including Lurganbane and Galbolie
 - Virginia, including Lurgan and Leitrim
 - Ashfield, including Lisnageer, and
 - Newbliss, including Boughill, Drumhirk and Derrylosset.
- It was also apparent that the northern groups of Flack families tended to be Presbyterian (blue circles on the map) and the southern families tended to be more likely to be Church of Ireland (red circles on the map).
- Based on the Irish tradition of naming first-born son after father or grandfather, a search was conducted for Flack families with William among the family. Only six records of a "William Flack" located in Cavan in the period 1785-1863 were found:

- William Flack born 1783 in Cavan and Jane Flack born 1781 (1841 Census of Ireland)
- William Flack, of Urney Townland, County Cavan, civil complainant at Cavan Court session in 1854 – did not appear.
- William Flack and family, born 1783 in Corlisbrattan, Killashandra, married 1811, family included Jane, James, Mary Ann (record 17 on the map),
- William Flack and family, including John, Isaiah, Samuel, resident in 1841 at Kildrumsherdan (near Cootehill on the map)
- William Flack, born 1837, registered birth at Cavan (no details available).
- John William Flack, born 1874 in Lisnageer (48-53 on the map)
- A record of a “Henry” Flack of Tanderagee, Cavan was located (Ireland Valuation Office dated 1837) showing that Henry Flack was registered as a lessee of a shop in the Bailieborough from 1837-1840.

(Comment: It will be noted that William Flack (1810-1892) christened his son William Henry Flack in 1852.



Summary of findings from this surname study

- **From this study, it is not possible to positively identify William Flack's (1810-1892) parents – William Flack (dob unknown) and an Elizabeth Flack (1790+/- 1 year – 1863)**
- If the Recruiting Sergeant, at the time of William Flack's recruitment, accurately recorded William Flack's place of birth as "Killan", it seems likely that William came from a Presbyterian family in the vicinity of Bailieborough or Cootehill. If this is correct, it seems likely that William Flack (1810-1892) was connected to John and Margaret Flack who lived in Lisnageer near Ashfield in 1901 or were related to Robert and Mary Anne who lived in Galbolie, just outside of Bailieborough.
- If the Recruiting Sergeant was simply recording the Catholic Parish of Killan, which included Bailieborough and Shercock, then it is possible that William Flack was a resident of any townland within a day's commuting distance of Bailieborough on Market Day on 17th February 1831.
- From these results it is only reasonable to identify "possible" contenders for William Flack's family as follows:

Contender No. 1

- William Flack, born 1783, living with his wife and family at Corlisbrattan, near Killashandra. This person is about the right age to be William Flack's (1810-1892) father or uncle. It is unlikely that this person is identical with the William Flack of the Wexford Militia who was recorded as 36 years of age when he was discharged from the Army in 1808.

Contender No. 2

- Robert and Mary Anne listed in the 1901 Census as Presbyterians living in Galbolie, aged 72 and 50 respectively, making them born approximately 1829 and 1851 respectively. These dates of birth suggest that they could be nieces and nephews of William Flack since he was born in 1810.

Contender No. 3

- It appears that there were at least two generations of Presbyterian Flack families leasing property in Lisnageer as follows:
 - Ebenezer and John listed in the Griffith Valuation 1847-1868 as lessors of property

LISNAGEER. (Ord. S. 16 & 17).			
1		Ebenezer Flack,	Col. Henry T. Clements,
-	a	Robert Griffin,	Ebenezer Flack,
-	b	Robert Johnston,	Same,
2		John Flack,	Col. Henry T. Clements,
3		Ellen Hopkins,	Same,
4		Peter Cassell,	Same,
			House and land

- John Flack and his wife Margaret born approximately 1856 and 1859 respectively.

- An Ebenezer Flack was mentioned as a defendant in a civil matter before the Cavan Court of Petty Session on 4th March 1871 accused of owing rent on the property at Lisnageer by the agent of the owner, Col. Henry Clements.
- There appears that there were several Presbyterian Flack families living in the vicinity of Cootehill at the time of the Griffiths Valuation in 1847-1864 including in the townships of Derrylosset, Ashfield and Lisnageer as follows:
 - Samuel Flack with substantial land holdings in Derrylosset

DERRYLOSSET. (Ord. S. 18.)						
1	a	John Brakey, . . .	William Slone Stanley,	House, offices, and land,	36	2 17
-	b		Same, . . .	School-house (<i>see Ex- emptions</i>).		
2		Samuel Mills, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, ...	43	0 35
3	a	David Wright, ..	Same, . . .	House and land, . .	14	0 8
4				Land, ...	4	2 13
5	a	James Brakey, . . .	Same, . . .	House, offices, and land,	24	3 37
6	a	Samuel Flack, . . .	Same, . . .	House, offices, and land,	36	0 15
-	b	Andrew M'Ginn, . .	Samuel Flack, . . .	House, ...	-	

- John and Robert Flack are recorded in the Griffith's Valuation as substantial land holders in Lurganbane as follows:

LURGANBANE. (Ord. S. 34.)							
1		William Chambers,	Sir John Young, Bart.,	Herd's ho., off., & land,	56	2	12
2	A	John Flack,	Same,	Land,	3	0	0
		Robert Flack,		Land,			
-	B	John Flack,		House, offices, & land,	59	1	31
	a	Robert Flack,		House, offices, & land,			
Total,					119	0	3

One possible explanation for the apparent lack of a record of William and Elizabeth Flack's family in the period 1780-1830 is that the family may have emigrated. There were several factors that may have motivated emigration during the period, including property laws, discrimination, sectarianism and later, the Irish Potato Famine from 1845-1849.

It is also possible that other branches of William Flack's (1810-1892) family may have emigrated around the time he joined the Army in 1831 and this would explain why there does not appear to be any strong evidence linking him to his family in Cavan after his joining the Army.

In response to a research report entitled "My Brick Wall" that I published online in June 2001, a Susan Flack Mehegan commented as follows:

"My g-g-g-grandfather, Samuel and Jane Flack and their son William Flack, born 7th April 1839 in Ashfield, Cavan emigrated to Oswago, New York State in USA in 1841. Young William was a civil war veteran who died in 1928."

- The following is an extract from the US 1875 Census showing the entry for William Flack's (Jnr) family:

New York, State Census, 1875 for Wm Flack											
				Oswego > Oswego > E.D. 01							
				Emma G. Crites	10	F	Daughter	Oswego		1	
68	Female	23	72	Wm Flack	38	M		Ireland	1		Farmer
				Mary Flack	37	F	Wife	Ireland	1		
				Willis Flack	7	M	Son	Oswego		1	
				Kelly Flack	5	F	Daughter	Oswego		1	
				Fred Flack	4	M	Son	Oswego		1	
69	Female	100	78	2nd Wm Woodward	27	M		Maine	1		Laborer

○



2002

FLACK

SAMUEL JANE
WIFE OF SAMUEL
DIED JUNE 25, 1867
84 YEARS DIED AUGUST 15, 1872
84 YEARS

DAVID H. MARTHA
SON OF SAMUEL JERRETT
1827-1892 1802-1892

Photo added by [Jeff247](#)

Samuel Flack

BIRTH 1802
Ireland

DEATH 25 Jun 1867 (aged 64–65)
Oswego, Oswego County, New York, USA

BURIAL [Rural Cemetery](#)
Oswego, Oswego County, New York, USA [Add to Map](#)

PLOT Section 5. Across the road and about 3 rows closer to the front of the cemetery from Dr. Mary Walker's lot.

MEMORIAL ID 75426893 · [View Source](#)

Also WILLIAM FLACK, 1838 - 1928

MARY L. HIS WIFE 1841 - 1901

THOMAS B. THEIR SON, 1874 – 1899

From the Oswego Times August 1918, p.7

“CELEBRATED HIS 82ND BIRTHDAY

On Saturday afternoon a number of the "Old Veterans" and their wives agreeably surprised William Flack, former West Eighth and Schuyler Street, the occasion being in honor of his eighty-second birthday. The house was prettily decorated with American flags and flags of other nations and an elaborate dinner was served. Mr. Flack is hale and hearty at eighty-two ears. He served in the Civil War and was wounded in the battle of Gettysburg.

His friends extend greetings for many more birthdays.

The contrary evidence to the “emigration” explanation is that William Flack’s mother Elizabeth Flack was able to travel to Burnley, Lancashire, England to be with her son before she died in 1863.

In conclusion it appears that despite extensive searches, William Flack’s (1810-1892) parents and other family members have not yet been identified. The remaining options to find a solution are research in the relevant Estate Records and Y-DNA test matches.

Annex A The advice received from a professional genealogist in 2007.

UHF3/18/123

[Please quote reference on all correspondence]

Edmund Flack
PO Box 204
Margate Beach
QLD 4019
Australia

Dear Ted,

Thank you for your preliminary assessment enquiry and payment of £35 Sterling. You have requested information on the feasibility of researching the family history of William Flack.

You were able to tell us that he was born on 1 April 1810 in Killan parish, County Cavan. His parents were William and Elizabeth Flack. Elizabeth was born around 1790 and died in England in 1863; William, a soldier, died before that time.

You have carried out an impressive amount of research yourself and have identified three potential candidates. You believe that the most likely candidate was Corporal William Flack of the Wexford Militia.

Your objectives are to find information on William's parents William and Elizabeth Flack as well as finding out more about their ancestors and whether the Flacks came to Ireland as part of the Plantation.

As you know, searching for Ulster ancestors is not without its difficulties. Civil registration of all births, deaths and marriages did not commence in Ireland until 1864. Non-Catholic marriages are registered from 1 April 1845. Before these dates one is dependent on local parish registers for information relating to family history. However, relatively few of these survive from the eighteenth century.

There are no complete census records for Ireland prior to 1901. Earlier census records were almost completely destroyed, either accidentally or deliberately. There are also no official records of emigration prior to the late nineteenth century. It must also be realised that many records have not yet been digitised and must be manually checked in the archives.

One way of accessing births, marriages and deaths online is through the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF). The IFHF is the co-ordinating body for a network of county based genealogical research centres in Ireland. These centres are now making their records available online via an online research system which will allow you to search an index of records and pay to view a record. You can access these records at www.rootsireland.ie.

We examined this database but did not find anything relating to your ancestors however it should be noted that we do not yet have records from every church on our database as this is an ongoing project.

Looking into the parish of Killan, although there is a Roman Catholic parish of Killan which includes both Bailieborough and Shercock civil parishes, it would seem unlikely for a Protestant to refer to the local Roman Catholic parish name.

We found instead the Killan was the former name of Shercock parish. According to one account, Bailieborough parish was formed in 1778 by joining part of Killan parish (now Shercock) with Moybologue parish (which was also in County Meath).

Turning to the *Guide to Church Records*, produced by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), we find that the following church registers survive for Bailieborough parish:

Bailieborough Church of Ireland

Baptisms, 1824-1985; marriages, 1809-1944; burials, 1809-1915. [MIC1/252]

Bailieborough Methodist Church [Wesleyan Methodists]

Baptisms, 1835-41, 1879-1970; marriages, 1887-1952.

1st Bailieborough or Corglass Presbyterian Church

Baptisms, 1861-1983; marriages, 1845-1955.

2nd Bailieborough or Trinity Presbyterian Church

Baptisms, 1863-1983; marriages, 1845-1952.

We then considered Shercock civil parish:

Shercock Church of Ireland

Baptisms, 1881-1979; marriages, 1846-1955; burials, 1881-1976.

Shercock Methodist Church

Baptisms, 1835-36 and 1843-78.

Glasleck or Shircock or Shercock Presbyterian Church

Baptisms, 1836-1974; marriages, 1845-1956.

As you can see, the start dates of all these registers are too late to be of use in our search although it may be worth examining the burial register of Bailieborough Church of Ireland which survives from 1809 as the local Church of Ireland graveyard was the parish graveyard so people of all denomination would be buried within it. These are available for consultation on microfilm at PRONI.

We would also recommend that all the Presbyterian registers for the adjoining parishes to Bailieborough which cover 1810 are examined. As you have quite correctly stated, William Flack may have travelled to Bailieborough for market day. In addition Presbyterians did not always go to the Presbyterian Church closest to their home but to where the theology agreed with their own so it is worth widening the net so to speak with regard to the location of the church they may have attended. It is, however, possible that the registers containing William's baptism and information about his parents may not have survived.

Unfortunately the only register in PRONI which covers the correct period and adjoins Bailieborough is Coronary Presbyterian Church:

- Baptisms, 1764-1961; marriages, 1768 87 and 1863-1955. [MIC1P/179]

It may also be worth having a look at some of the parishes in County Monaghan which adjoin this part of County Cavan.

Estate papers are an underused but important source in genealogical research in Ireland however without an exact location, they would be difficult to search. We looked at a listing of the estate papers which covered the Bailieborough area and would recommend that we also look at a list of tenants on the manor of Bailieborough from 1805. This is found in a study by Thomas Hall 'The history of Presbyterianism in East Cavan and a small portion of Meath and Monaghan' which dates from 1912. A copy is available in Cavan County Library and is said to also be on the library's website although we were not able to locate it there at this time.

The Ulster Historical Foundation offers a comprehensive ancestral research service and would welcome the opportunity to carry out a more in-depth investigation on your behalf. Research would primarily take place at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland where church registers, valuation records, wills, etc. are available for consultation.

Success can never be guaranteed, of course, and it might well be the case that even after a great deal of checking your ancestors will remain elusive. I do not mean to sound overly pessimistic, but then neither would I wish to raise your hopes beyond what can be reasonably achieved. This is particularly true in this case due to the general lack of sufficiently early Presbyterian records for the area.

In-depth Research begins at six hours of research at the GRO, PRONI or another archive. If you would like us to carry out research on your behalf I would suggest that you visit our website www.ancestryireland.com and go to Research Services. Here you will be able to register for a search and find out more about the services we offer. Our reports are interpretative as well as factual as we seek to build up a profile of your ancestors by assessing the information uncovered as well as presenting our findings in an uncomplicated way. Please note that the turnaround period for in-depth research is 3-4 months.

SPECIAL OFFER: Please note that if you commission full research with us within six months of the date of this email, you will receive a *free* electronic book of your choice. We currently have over 40 e-books available with more being added all the time. For a full list please visit our online bookstore <http://www.booksireland.org.uk/store/ebooks>. The books come in both Mobi (Amazon Kindle) and EPUB formats.

Some of our publications might also be of interest to you for example our Research Director, Dr William Roulston's volume, *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: the essential genealogical guide to early modern Ulster, 1600-1800*, provides information on surviving records of genealogical value from the seventeenth and eighteenth century for every parish in Ulster, including records from around 200 churches and 350 landed estate collections. It should be useful to anyone searching for ancestors in Ulster in this period regardless of denomination or background. All our publications can be ordered via our online bookstore www.booksireland.org.uk.

If you want to publicise your research interests you might consider joining the Ulster Genealogical and Historical Guild (information available from our website www.ancestryireland.com). This is managed as a research cooperative. The membership register has passed the 10,000 mark. It aims to prevent duplication of research effort and to bring together people with similar interests. Subscribers receive two annual publications: *Familia - Ulster Genealogical Review* which contains articles about Irish history and genealogy and the *Directory of Irish Family History Research* which is the most complete and up-to-date record of Irish genealogical research in progress. Subscribers are also offered the option of having their research interests (as contained in the Directory) placed on UHF's Internet homepage. With millions of people browsing the Internet each day, your interests will be publicised to a worldwide audience through membership of the Guild. Our website is presently enjoying approximately 30,000 'hits' monthly.

Guild members now enjoy unlimited access to an ever-expanding range of online genealogical databases. Over 500,000 genealogical records are currently available with new records being added on a regular basis. Members now have free access to our gravestone inscriptions database (Members' Area only) and receive a privileged rate of access to our new database of over 1,500,000 birth, death and marriage records for Cos. Antrim, Down and the city of Belfast.

You might feel that it would be worth your while contacting the Ulster Heritage DNA Project for advice and assistance at using DNA to further your research. The website of this group is <http://uhblog.ulsterheritage.com/p/dna-project.html>.

Yours sincerely,

Research Officer (GH)