

## The Identification of Patrick Henry Rafter: Latest Research

### P. H. Rafter Biography



The first thing I learned about my great-great grandfather Patrick Henry Rafter, the proverbial family story, was that he had been studying to become a priest when he suddenly ran away to America, and of course got married there and had a daughter, or he wouldn't be my ancestor.

According to the family bible, Patrick Henry Rafter was born March 21, 1833. He emigrated to America from Ireland in 1854 when he was 21 years old. On August 30, 1857, in Newark, New Jersey, he married Hannah Thomson Smith Hoyt, a widow with one son. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. William B. Brown, Congregationalist minister. Their daughter Ida Frances Rafter was born in Newark on November 19,

1858.<sup>1</sup>

In the Newark City Directory for 1858 Patrick Henry Rafter is listed at 14 Longworth.<sup>2</sup> In the Newark City Directory for 1859-60 he is listed as P. H. Rafter at 9 Court.<sup>3</sup> For the 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Henry, age 27, printer, born in Ireland, is listed with Hannah, age 40, and Ida F. age 1, living in Newark Ward 3.<sup>4</sup> Also in 1860 P. H. Rafter is listed as a printer living at 9 Court, Newark, in *Boyd's Business Directory of the State of New Jersey*.<sup>5</sup> In approximately 1861 he bought the newspaper *The Northern Pennsylvanian* from William H. Hunter, and sold it about two years later to a man named Benedict (*History of Susquehanna County*).<sup>6</sup> A newspaperman

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<sup>1</sup> *Ancestors and family of Fillmore Condit (1855-1939) and Jane Condit Robison (1882-1972) : (including Condit, Harrison, Tappan, Rafter, and Smith lines)* / by William Condit Robison and Elizabeth Robison Jennings. — Berkeley, Calif.: [s.n.], 1985. This family genealogy was the starting point for all of my research into Patrick Henry Rafter. William Condit Robison and Elizabeth Robison Jennings were my mother's first cousins. One of the Jennings children sent me the portrait pictured above.

<sup>2</sup> *Pierson's Newark Directory*, 1858, page 316.

<sup>3</sup> *Pierson's Newark Directory*, 1859-60, page 325.

<sup>4</sup> 1860 United States Federal Census, Census Place: Newark Ward 3, Essex, New Jersey; Roll: M653\_688; Page: 215; Family History Library Film: 803688.

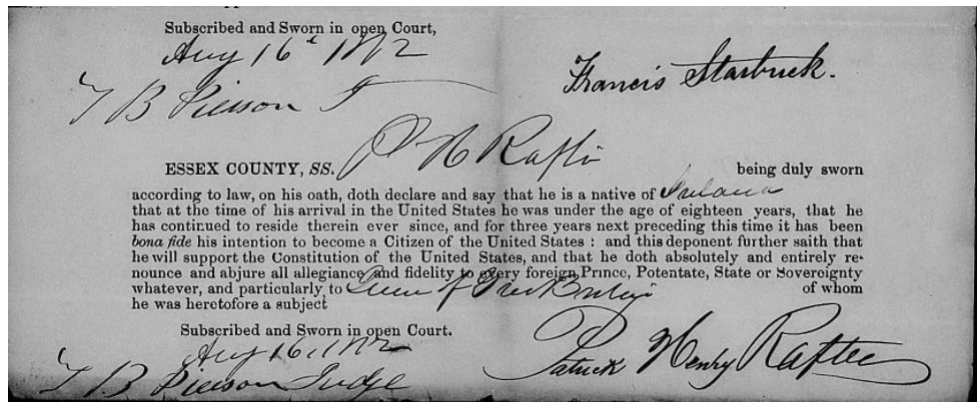
<sup>5</sup> *Boyd's Business Directory of the State of New Jersey*, 1860, page 159.

<sup>6</sup> "The 'Northern Pennsylvanian,' Independent in politics, was started at Susquehanna Depot, in the spring of 1856, C. S. Bennet and A. W. Rowley, proprietors, and a Mr. White editor for a few weeks. H. C. Vail then became editor and proprietor, and under his editorship the paper was Democratic. In 1858, L. P. Hinds took the paper, made it independent again, but in less than a year he sold it to Wm H. Hunter, who conducted it two or three years, and sold

The Northern Pennsylvanian, published at Susquehanna Depot, Pa., has taken new life since the accession of Mr. Rafter, the new proprietor. He informs us that he received over 100 new subscribers last week. The paper needed a new rafter. We hope he will never be a sleeper in his business; but support and be supported.

stated in the *Broome Republican*, in Binghamton, New York, on November 13, 1861, that “*The Northern Pennsylvanian*, published at Susquehanna Depot, Pa., has taken new life since since the accession of Mr. Rafter, the new proprietor. He informs us that he received over 100 new subscribers last week. The paper needed a new rafter. We hope he will never be a

sleeper in his business, but support and be supported.”<sup>7</sup> He was still listed as P. H. Rafter, printer, 9 Court Street in the Newark City Directory of 1861.<sup>8</sup> On July 9, 1860 he took over a lease on unspecified property in the City of Newark for sixty dollars, and then sold his rights to (possibly) the same property on October 24, 1860 for one hundred fifty dollars.<sup>9</sup>



On August 16, 1862, he received his citizenship papers to become a citizen of the United States after having “resided within the United States five years at least...a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States.”<sup>10</sup> In the Newark City Directories of both 1862 and 1863 P. H. Rafter is still listed but now as “ed. Nor’n Pennsylvanian, Susquehanna Depot.”<sup>11</sup> It is not clear whether he and his family had yet removed to live in Susquehanna Depot.

it to P. H. Rafter. The latter sold after about two years to Mr. Benedict...” — Emily C. Blackman, *History of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : Claxton, Remen & Haffelfinger, 1873, page 543. Note: no copies of this newspaper appear to exist from the time of Rafter’s editorship.

<sup>7</sup> *Broome Republican*, Binghamton, New York, November 13, 1861.

<sup>8</sup> *Pierson’s Newark Directory*, 1861, page 368.

<sup>9</sup> Essex County Deeds M11 374.

<sup>10</sup> Essex Common Pleas April Term 1862: “P H Rafter according to law, on his oath, doth declare and say that he is a native of Ireland...and that he doth absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to Queen of Great Britain of whom he was heretofore a subject, Subscribed and Sworn in open Court Aug 16 1862, Patrick Henry Rafter.”

<sup>11</sup> *Pierson’s Newark Directory*, 1862, page 349, and 1863, page 348.

He had an interest in the temperance movement and printed a small pamphlet of 12 pages, a sermon by Rev. Horatio Pattengill, “A child’s testimony of a parent: a discourse preached at Susquehanna Depot, February 9, 1862” (copy held by the Huntington Library in San Marino, California).<sup>12</sup> By 1864 P. H. Rafter is living in Susquehanna Depot with “income exceeding \$600” according to the U.S. IRS Tax Assessment List, District 12, Pennsylvania, May 1864.<sup>13</sup> He also appears on the tax lists, District 12, Pennsylvania, for 1865 and 1866.<sup>14</sup>



On February 21, 1865, he entered as an apprentice, Fellow Craft, April 18, Master Mason May 23, but resigned from the Masonic Order on January 30, 1866. His occupation on their rolls was listed as [railroad] car reporter.<sup>15</sup> A family photo shows him standing in his Knights Templar Regalia (his obituary mentioned his membership in the Masonic, Odd Fellow and Good Templar fraternities).

A total of three deeds indicate property he bought in the Susquehanna Depot area in 1865 and 1866. On June 7 1865 he purchased for \$1100 a very small piece of land in Susquehanna Depot known as lot #29, which was right next to the Presbyterian Church.<sup>16</sup> Earlier on February 22, 1865 he paid \$200 for 2 lots in North Susquehanna (later known as Oakland) described as lots #74 and #79 totalling fourteen thousand four hundred square feet.<sup>17</sup> And then on June 14 1866 he paid \$500 for 5 more lots in the same area (lots #75, 76, 77, 78, and 80). As a result he owned a large block of land bounded by Prospect Street, Chestnut Street, Harmony and State Street.<sup>18</sup> This property is marked “Mrs. Rafter” on the 1872 Beers Atlas map of Oakland, since Patrick had died in 1870 leaving Hannah as his widow. Also marked on the 1872 Beers map of Susquehanna Depot is the tiny plot of land next to the Presbyterian Church, also reading “Mrs. Rafter.”<sup>19</sup> The connection with the Presbyterian Church is interesting because the minister

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<sup>12</sup> The author has examined this pamphlet in the Huntington Library. Curiously it is the only copy extant, and ironically San Marino is the childhood hometown of the author.

<sup>13</sup> Records of the Internal Revenue Service. Record Group 58. The National Archives at Washington, DC. Division 4, District 12 of the State of Pennsylvania; Annual Lists; May 1864.

<sup>14</sup> *ibid.*, May 1865 and May 1866.

<sup>15</sup> Masonic record received in email correspondence with Glenys A. Waldman, Librarian, January 31, 2007.

<sup>16</sup> Susquehanna County Deeds, P. H. Rafter grantee, S. H. Barnes grantor, Vol. 34, Page 342, recorded July 31, 1865.

<sup>17</sup> Susquehanna County Deeds, P. H. Rafter grantee, Wm. M. Post and his wife Lucy, Vol. 33, Page 839, recorded April 10, 1865.

<sup>18</sup> Susquehanna County Deeds, P. H. Rafter grantee, Wm. M. Post and his wife Lucy, Vol. 37, Page 76, recorded Dec. 5, 1866.

<sup>19</sup> F. W. Beers. *Atlas of Susquehanna Co., Pennsylvania*, New York: A. Pomeroy & Co., 1872, pages 18 and 20.

whose temperance sermon Patrick had printed in 1862, Horatio Pattengill, was the minister at that church from 1861 to 1866.<sup>20</sup>

On June 6, 1868, he advertised in the *Boston Pilot* seeking Kense Moore, a carpenter from Kilkenny, known to have arrived in New York City in 1850 and emigrated to Savannah, Georgia in 1850.<sup>21</sup>

In 1868 he received 3 letters from his sister Mary, of Kilkenny, Ireland, who had hired a lawyer to find him and after 14 years had succeeded. The letters are dated January 8, February 10 and August 10, 1868.<sup>22</sup> In the second and third letters Mary indicates Patrick had written back and in the third one she says he had promised to come to Kilkenny with his wife and daughters within a few weeks. On December 30, 1869, Patrick wrote his will. He died April 19, 1870 and his will was probated June 28, 1870.<sup>23</sup> One of the executors in his will was his brother-in-law Elias Francis, the husband of his wife's sister Sarah. Elias was a well-known and skilled manufacturer in Newark of mechanics' tools with his partner Abraham Mockridge.<sup>24</sup> Patrick never went back to Ireland. Our family genealogy quotes from an obituary for Patrick, for which they do not know the source, but it seems important perhaps to post it here:

He came to America...alone, and has made his way alone and unaided to position, usefulness, and the centre of a large circle of appreciative friends. He learned the printer's trade, and for several years published the *Northern Pennsylvanian* at this place. He was married at Newark, N.J., whence he removed to this place, hoping to benefit his health. He has assured us that he believed the pure mountain air of this valley to have largely benefitted him. He was never in robust health, but has ever been active, earnest, aspiring and useful. He was invested with a rare gift for music, and has been active in securing to our village, bands of string and instrumental music. He has been for several years connected with the Erie shops as bookkeeper. He was a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellow fraternities, and a Good Templar. He was ever an active worker in reforms of every nature—temperance, labor, &c. His work is done—it was not a negative work—it was positive, certain, philanthropic, earnest, and humane. Mr. Rafter was in usual health till within a week of his death. He was intending to visit his native land and two sisters [his sister Anne must have died since the date of the third letter], within six weeks.—Thus are mortal expectations disappointed, and the living cut off by death.

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<sup>20</sup> Peter Haverly Brooks. "Historical sermon concerning the history of the First Presbyterian Church at Susquehanna Depot, Penn'a. : from its organization, Oct. 2d, 1851, until July 2d, 1876, a period of twenty-five years" / preached on Sabbath morning, July 2d, 1876 by the pastor, Rev. P. H. Brooks, pages 4-5.

<sup>21</sup> Ancestry.com. Searching for Missing Friends: Irish Immigrant Advertisements Placed in "The Boston Pilot," 1831-1920 [database on-line], ad dated June 6, 1868.

<sup>22</sup> These letters were reproduced in the family genealogy cited above by Robison and Jennings.

<sup>23</sup> Susquehanna Wills, Adminis., Vol. 3-4, 1863-1882, Vol. 3, pages 384-385, Image 206 of 742.

<sup>24</sup> William H. Shaw. *History of Essex and Hudson Counties, New Jersey*, Volume 1, Everts & Peck, 1884, page 600-601.



His wife Hannah took in a female lodger,<sup>25</sup> bought property from the Erie Railroad in Susquehanna in 1872 (10 lots for \$150),<sup>26</sup> but by 1874 had returned with daughter Ida to Newark, New Jersey.<sup>27</sup> On a deed dated Dec. 7, 1880, she and her son and daughter sold to John Lannan for \$2,000 the small lot number 29 that was next to the Presbyterian Church in Susquehanna.<sup>28</sup> She died September 28, 1884. Her will was written August 18, 1883 and probated on October 15, 1884. From her will it was evident that she owned the property in Newark at 15 Court, as she willed it to her granddaughter Ida Lucretia, daughter of her deceased son William Alva Hoyt, who had died in 1883. The rest of her estate she directed to be divided between Ida Lucretia and her daughter Ida.

Patrick's obituary indicated he had a rare gift for music. According to the family (specifically his granddaughter Jane Condit Robison) he played the violin and composed for it, and was a Methodist choir leader (although perhaps he also had a connection with the Susquehanna Presbyterian Church). He evidently wrote at least a few church hymns. One, entitled "Lord, We Thank Thee For the Blessings," was published in the hymnal *Sabbath School Bell No. 2 #59* (1860) under the name P. H. Rafter.<sup>29</sup> Photograph of this page from copy examined at the Princeton Theological Seminary Library.

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<sup>25</sup> The 1870 U.S. Census for Susquehanna Depot, enumerated 21 June, 1870, shows at Page 506, Dwelling No. 129, Family No. 140, Hannah Rafter, 45, keeping house, \$590 value real estate, \$500 value personal property; Ida, 11; Caroline Wellman, 25, teacher.

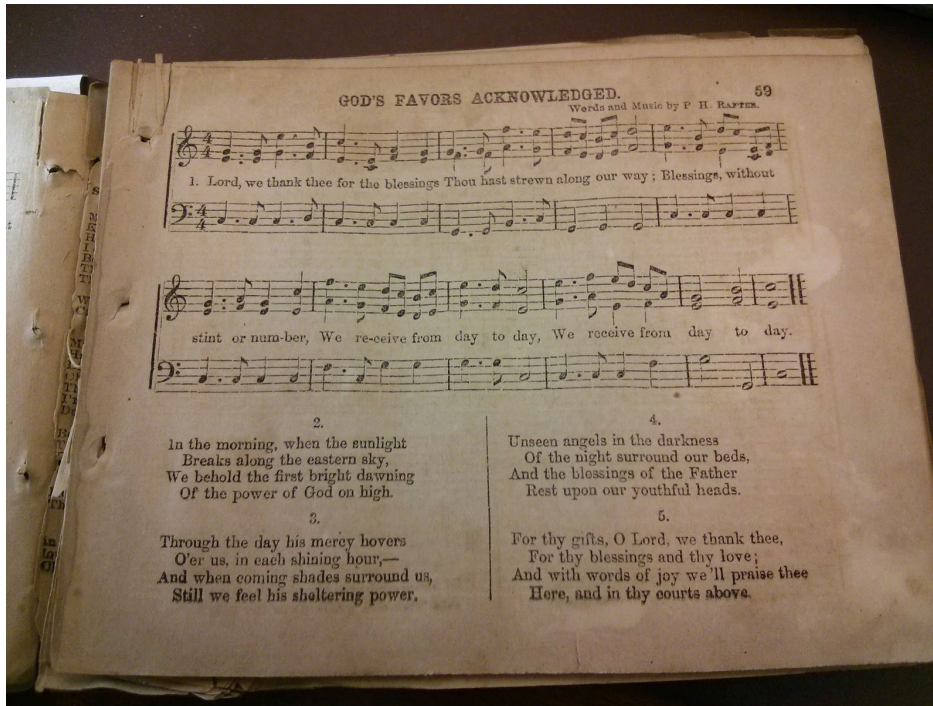
<sup>26</sup> Susquehanna County Deeds, Hannah T. Rafter grantee, Erie Railway Co. grantor, Vol. 46, Page 594, recorded 29 April 1872.

<sup>27</sup> *Holbrook's Newark City Directory for the Year Ending April 1, 1875* shows Hannah T. Rafter, widow P. H., h 15 Court (page 593). Hannah's son by her first marriage, William A. Hoyt, newsdealer, is listed on page 377 as living also at 15 Court.

<sup>28</sup> Susquehanna County Deeds, John Lannan grantee, Hannah T. Rafter, Wm. A. Hoyt, Ida F. Rafter, grantors, Vol. 59, Page 393, recorded Mar. 2, 1881.

<sup>29</sup> The hymn "Lord, we thank thee for the blessings..." appears on page 59 of *Sabbath School Bell No. 2*, published in 1860. See website [hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org).





Clues from his sister Mary’s letters.

The first clue relates to Patrick’s apparent sudden disappearance. Ballingarry, a town southwest of Kilkenny, is mentioned by Mary as a place he might have been living the last time they had heard from him. In her letter of January 8, 1868, she writes, “Dear Brother when you left your situation in Ballingarry Father Furlong wrote to us, to know if we could give any intelligence of you--of course we could not.” The Very Rev. Nicholas Furlong, “a profound scholar, able professor, and zealous priest, was prior of Callan from 1839 to 1851, 1863 to 1867, and 1868 to 1871...[and] died in 1872.”<sup>30</sup>

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NEW INFORMATION SEPTEMBER 3, 2020:

There are lists of distinguished scholars for the Augustinian Seminary of Callan, directed by Rev. N. Furlong, and also for St. Kyran’s (spelled later Kieran) College in the *Kilkenny Journal and Leinster Commercial and Literary Advertiser*. For example, in the *Kilkenny Journal* 7/4/1846 listed for the Augustinian Seminary are “Grecian History...Rafter, 2di... Algebra... Rafter, 2us... Geometry... Rafter, 2us.” In the *Kilkenny Journal* 7/7/1847 listed for the Augustinian Seminary

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<sup>30</sup> William Carrigan. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*, Volume 3, Kilkenny: Sealy, Bryers & Walker, 1905, page 316.

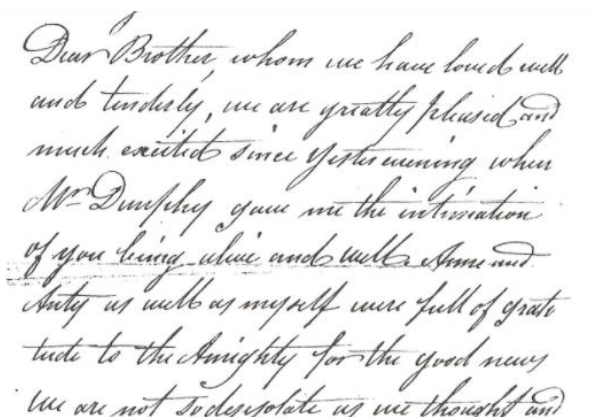
are “Latin... Delectus... Rafter, 1mus... French... Grammar... Rafter, 2dus... Geometry... Rafter, 2dus... Algebra... Rafter, 2dus... Globes Rafter, 1mus... Grecian History... Rafter, 2dus... History of the Bible... Rafter 1mus... English Grammar... Rafter, 3us... Declamation... Rafter, 2dus.” Then in the *Kilkenny Journal* 7/12/1848 Rafter scores high in the fields of Greek Dictionary, Euclid, Algebra, Sacred, Elocution, Composition at the Augustinian Seminary. While no first name is given, it seems likely this is Patrick because of his teacher being Nicholas Furlong, who asked his sisters where he had gone. In 1846-1848 he would have been 13-15 years of age. In the same newspaper for 22 December, 1849, the name Rafter appears in the lists of distinguished scholars for St. Kyran’s College (of Kilkenny), obtaining a 3rd in Book-keeping, a second in Arithmetic, and a second in Writing.

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Patrick’s parents’ names are unknown. His siblings are Michael, Anne, Anastatia, Mary and Edward. Mary’s letter to him of January 8, 1868, says Edward died 8 years last June, thus June 1859, and that Edward was buried “in St. Rochs.”<sup>31</sup> She says their brother Michael is living in the city of Dublin for the last 6 years (thus 1862-1868) married with one child. Anastasia works at a coach factory at upholstery with “small wages.” Mary says “I did not earn one penny at my trade this three years.”

In the third letter Aug 10 1868, Mary mentions that in Patrick’s letter back to her he said he “intended coming to Kilkenny after a few months.” His daughter Ida (their niece) had also written them. In the third letter she also says she has written twice to brother Michael “but get no answer from him.” And this time she says he has a wife and children, so presumably he now has more than one child.

Mary mentions that family friends Mr. Langton and wife, and Michael Butler and wife are all dead and their families gone to America. Also dead is Mr. Harty who gave Patrick a fiddle. From the first letter: “Mr. Harty is dead who, do you remember the day that he came to us to Callan and made you a present of a fiddle.” A local Kilkenny historian describes how Lady Elizabeth Harty was one of the largest landowners in the city of Kilkenny, according to the Griffith’s Valuation of 1850.<sup>32</sup> Mary also mentions Patt Holohan who made a sketch of Patrick in Garden Row. On modern maps there appears to be a Garden Row in Kilkenny, but not in Callan.



Dear Brother, whom we have loved with  
and tenderness, we are greatly pleased  
much excited since yesterday evening when  
Mr. Dunphy gave me the intimation  
of your living alive and well. Anne and  
Sister as well as myself were full of grate  
tude to the Almighty for the good news  
we are not so desolate as we thought and

The mention of Callan (“the day that he came to us to Callan”) suggests when they were young

1, this very ancient cemetery is situated at the upper end of

they lived in the town of Callan, southwest of Kilkenny (further south than Ballingarry). In the third letter, August 10, 1868, Mary writes: “I must remark to you that if you come you will find a great improvement in Kilkenny and Callan,” suggesting that these are both towns they knew and that she expected he would want to visit.

The family genealogy brings up an important theme, that there was a connection between that of our Rafters and the family of Kitty Clive, the actress, daughter of a Kilkenny lawyer named William Rafter. This theme will be explored below, but it is important to know that William Rafter lost his estates because of his political alignment with the Jacobites. While Mary doesn't mention this family connection with the earlier Rafters, one of the family themes involves lost property in Ireland. In Mary's letter of August 10, 1868 she writes, “Dear Brother I understand that the property you speak of has only mortgages and of course it is redeemed long ago, there is first cousin of ours in London and he knows all about it but we don't know his address to write to him however I will make enquiries about it and let you know what I may hear.”

The last item of interest in the letters is Mary's address, where she lives with her two sisters Anne and Anastasia, “Walkin Street opposite Friary Chapel, Kilkenny.” It is not clear what kind of residence this is, whether their own, or a group home, possibly even a charitable residence where they were allowed to live.<sup>33</sup>

NEW INFORMATION JUNE 8, 2020!!

I had previously found a death certificate For Anastasia, death date of 1892. But recently I have discovered the fuller capabilities of irishgenealogy.ie. I was able to view the information on the actual file, her death 13 September 1892, and her address was given as Workhouse, Walkin Street, Kilkenny. So now I know that that was also where Mary and her two sisters were writing from in 1868.

We have three possible threads to follow: 1) The family of William Rafter from Kilkenny, father of Kitty Clive, 2) The family of author Captain Michael Rafter who also claim a connection to Kitty Clive, and 3) The family of actor Henry McGee, whose obituary mentions his descent on his mother's side from Kitty Clive.

### The Family of William Rafter from Kilkenny, Father of Kitty Clive

Catherine Rafter, known as Kitty Clive (she was married to a barrister named George Clive but estranged from him

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<sup>33</sup> A Radio Talk about Walkin Street on the website of The Archaeological Society of Kilkenny from the Friary stands the dwelling built by Sir John Blunden in the 1830s. In the last century a Dispensary.” See <http://kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety>





after only a few years of marriage), was a famous comedic actress, friend of Horace Walpole and Dr. Samuel Johnson, a soprano who sang in several of Handel's oratorio performances, who performed in plays written for her by Henry Fielding, and starred in many productions both directed and acted in by David Garrick. Her dates are 1711-1785. Her mother was English, and her father William Rafter was from Kilkenny.

According to the historian O'Kelly, the Rafters originally came from Cloranshea near Kilkenny. The ruined Cloranshea castle adjoins the Rafter homestead which has been the home of this family for over 200 years.<sup>34</sup> Many Rafters currently live in Kilkenny, in the rural Cloranshea area west of Kilkenny, and also in the area known as Threecastles. A musical family, the Rafters, lives in this Threecastles region. A son Patrick of this family is a violinist of some renown with whom I have had recent correspondence.<sup>35</sup>

In the census of Ireland of 1659 a James Rafter was listed as one of the principal citizens of Kilkenny.<sup>36</sup> In 1687 a memorandum appeared stating that "upon the 12th day of March in the year of our Lord God 1687, and in the 4th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James the Second" Mr. William Rafter, among others, "went by land to the Tower of Rossa Tower of Hooke to claim the Corporaton right to the said Tower, and seven acres of land belonging to the said Town of New Ross."<sup>37</sup>

William Rafter also appears in a list of the "Jacobites of the County Kilkenny and Upper Ossory Outlawed by the Williamites A.D. 1690-1696." His name was added November 6, 1696, as "William Rafter fitz James, Brownstown, Co. Kilkenny, gent."<sup>38</sup> Since "fitz" indicate "son of" it is possible he was the son of the James Rafter mentioned above as principal citizen of Kilkenny in 1659.

Various accounts of Kitty Clive describe her father's interesting career. In one he is noted as "William Rafter, a lawyer, the son of a gentleman who resided in Kilkenny and was the representative of an old Roman Catholic family of some consequence, the estates belonging to

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<sup>34</sup> Owen O'Kelly. *The Place-Names of the County of Kilkenny*, Kilkenny, Rothe House, The Archaeological Society, 1985, page 21.

<sup>35</sup> "Hailing from Threecastles in Co. Kilkenny, Patrick has been playing violin since he was four years old," article published May 1, 2009 in *The Munster Express*.

<sup>36</sup> Pender, Séamus. A Census of Ireland, circa 1659: with supplementary material from the Poll Money Ordinances (1660-1661). Dublin: Stationery Office, 1939. Available online at <http://clanmaclochlainn.com/1659cen.htm#Kilkenny>

<sup>37</sup> "Extracts from Books of Old Corporation of Ross," in *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Volume 24, 1894, 179.

<sup>38</sup> William Carrigan. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*, Volume 4, Kilkenny: Sealy, Bryers & Walker, 1905, page 398-403.

which were forfeited to King William after the battle of the Boyne, at which her father, his father and his brothers all fought for James.”<sup>39</sup> According to E. W. Allen, “Her father, William Raftor, of Kilkenny, was attorney to James the Second. The property of his father went to the crown, which his son James (the actor) tried to regain, but in vain.”<sup>40</sup> A further source mentions his being “an attorney in the town of New Ross, co. Wexford [and] on March 16, 1687, he was admitted to the freedom of the corporation of that town under the New Charter from James II.”<sup>41</sup>

After finding a succession of deeds I was able to determine that William had a brother Ignatius who remained in Kilkenny. According to an online Irish “surname database,” there was in Kilkenny City in 1713 a Catholic gentleman named Ignatius Rafter “who had the extraordinary honour for those days, of being licenced to carry "a sword, a gun, and a case of pistols.”<sup>42</sup>



Ignatius was a real person who had been given properties to lease in the western part of Kilkenny County by Lord Ikerin, a nobleman of the Butler family. These properties were specified in the various deeds he contracted as townlands in “Carnegeale, Crossgraine and Furkill.” These three places can be identified on what are known as the Down Survey Maps, taken in the years 1656-58 after the Cromwell

takeover to identify the ownership of properties and facilitate handing them over to the new owners, merchant adventurers, and English soldiers. On one of the survey maps marked no. 67 is



“Foorkile parte of Garnageale Ld. Ikerin,” which is in the parish of Cloghmantagh in the barony of Cranagh. Also in Cranagh in Tubrid parish one can see no. 60 described as “Crosnegreny parte of Garnageale Lord Ikerin.”<sup>43</sup> All three locations are near the county border with Tipperary. O’Kelly writes about Ballynascarry in Tubridbritain where part of Graine Hill is called “Cros na greine, a cone-shaped eminence proverbially

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77, page 186.

<sup>41</sup> *Notes and Queries*, Oxford University Press, Seventh Series, Volume Ninth, January-June 1890, page 113.

<sup>42</sup> See <https://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Rafter>.

<sup>43</sup> Trinity College Dublin has made all of the Down Survey Maps available on a website at <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/>.

sunny...here on the Tipperary border.” And in Clomatagh there is a place called Forehill or “Fuarchoill, a bleak wood.”<sup>44</sup> The modern communities Graine, Ballinascarry Co. Kilkenny and Forekill (Fuarchoill) Co. Kilkenny can be located easily on a modern Google map.

A deed drawn up in July 1744 details a series of transactions involving these properties and Ignatius Rafter. Rafter first conveyed in 1700 to Thomas Meagher of the City of Dublin, gent., “all...the Towns and Lands of Carnegeale, Crossgraine and Furkill in the Barony of Crannagh and County of Kilkenny...subject to Redemption on payment of two hundred pounds and the Interest thereof.” He then conveyed the same properties in 1703 unto John White of the said City of Dublin, gent., “subject to Redemption on payment of seven hundred pounds and the interest thereof.”<sup>45</sup> Another deed written 9-10 January 1717 describes how Ignatius Rafter took in two hundred thirty two pounds two shillings & six pence from Eleazer Pearson (or Peirson) for these same three properties.<sup>46</sup>

Ignatius wrote his will on January 28, 1725 in a place undoubtedly not of his choosing. He described himself as Ignatius Rafter late of the City of Kilkenny but now in Dublin, gent., and it is only in the final notes made by the scribe that we learn Ignatius was “then a prisoner in the Four Courts Marshalsea [a famous debtor’s prison] in the City of Dublin being ill of his last sickness.” In his will he bequeaths “the Lands of Cahonegeale Crossgrane and Forekill situate in the County of Kilkenny which I hold by lease for lives renewable for ever from the Lord Ikerrin and also my several houses or holdings ground or Tenements demised to me by the late Duke of Ormond for lives renewable for ever and are situate in the City of Kilkenny,” directing his executors after his decease to “sell and dispose of all and singular the said tenements and premises...for as much money as can reasonably be had or gotten...to pay off and discharge all such debts as I shall owe,” and further stipulates his executors to “pay all the rent and residue of the money arising by such sale...unto my nephew James Rafter of the City of Dublin [which is scratched out and replaced with London], gent.”<sup>47</sup>

Ignatius evidently did not have heirs of his own and bequeathed his property to his nephew James. Reading this it seemed possible that James might be the son of William Rafter, Kitty Clive’s father who had left Kilkenny and now resided in London. This possibility seems confirmed by the deed drawn up in 1726 after the death of Ignatius in January of that year. This deed is dated the 31 October 1726 “between William Rafter of the Parish of St. Martin in the

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<sup>44</sup> O’Kelly, *op. cit.*, pages 11 and 25.

<sup>45</sup> Memorial of Deeds 82105 13-14 July 1744, grantors Coleman Pierson and Edward Carleton, grantee James Agar Vol. 122, Page 30.

<sup>46</sup> Memorial of Deeds 10350 9-10 January 1717, grantor Ignatius Rafter, grantee Eleazer Pearson, Vol. 19, Page 355.

<sup>47</sup> “Ireland, Diocesan and Prerogative Wills & Administrations Indexes, 1595-1858,” database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:WGHD-2J2M> : 19 December 2019), Ignatius Rafter, 1726; records extracted by FindMyPast.

Fields in the county of Middelsex Gent. and James Rafter of the Middle Temple London Gent., son of the said William Rafter of the one part and John Blunden of Clonmore, in the County of the City of Kilkenny Esq. of the other part.” The properties of Cahernegeale Crossgranie and Fourkile (spellings vary from one deed to the next...!) are again described as “held by leases granted by the late Pierse [probably Pierce Butler] Lord Viscount Ikerrin dec’d being a lease for three lives renewable for ever under the yearly rent of twenty pounds.”<sup>48</sup>

The location of William Rafter in the parish of St. Martin in the Fields where several of his children were baptised seems to solidify his identity as the same William Rafter we have been discussing in relation to Kitty Clive. It will be remembered that above it was mentioned by one of his biographers that “the property of his father went to the crown, which his son James (the actor) tried to regain, but in vain.” It appears that they were not able (or willing? or perhaps they were coerced?) to retain the holdings of William’s brother Ignatius either. The description of James being “of the Middle Temple” seemed encouraging, as if more information might be gleaned if he was, for example, a law student there, but the indexes to all registrants are searchable online, and James Rafter did not appear. It is probably important to note that the properties Ignatius evidently owned in the City of Kilkenny given him by the Duke of Ormond are not mentioned in any of these transactions, so one wonders what happened to those, how they were probably lost.

### The Family of William Rafter in London

According to the *Notes and Queries* article referenced above, William Rafter “with many other Jacobites, fled after the battle of the Boyne, and the ‘New Charter’ was forthwith cancelled. William Rafter rose to the rank of captain under Louis XIV, but having been subsequently pardoned, he settled in London, and married the daughter of Mr. Daniel, of Fish Street Hill, by whom he was father of Catherine, James, and many others.”<sup>49</sup>

According to *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* of Nov. 10 1877,<sup>50</sup> Kitty Clive’s mother “before her marriage was Elizabeth Daniel, the daughter of a wealthy leather seller who resided on Fish-street-hill.” The detail of the Daniel family being in the leather business is interesting because a prominent Kilkenny family of a later period, the Rafters, had a leather shop at 74 High Street for more than 150 years right up until 1957.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> Memorial Deeds 33058 31 October 1726, William and James Rafter, grantors, John Blunden, grantee, Volume 50, Page 290.

<sup>49</sup> *Notes and Queries*, *op. cit.*, page 113.

<sup>50</sup> *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, *op. cit.*, page 186.

<sup>51</sup> *Old Kilkenny Review*, 1960, page 49.



The oldest child we can find baptised by this couple, William and Elizabeth Rafter, is a daughter Anne, born and baptised January 29, 1697 at St. Martin in the Fields, London.<sup>52</sup> Anne married Jacob Mestivier on May 29, 1719 at St. Marylebone.<sup>53</sup> In her later years, living at a small home provided for her by Horace Walpole in Twickenham, Kitty Clive's sister Anne visited her frequently.<sup>54</sup> One of Anne's children was baptised at St. Martin in the Fields, and two others at St. Paul's Covent Garden.<sup>55</sup>

Sir,

**I** TAKE the liberty to send you old Mr Cibber's<sup>2</sup> snuff box, which he used in his fop characters;<sup>3</sup> it is as old as the last century, and therefore I think ought to have a place in your museum,<sup>4</sup> as a sort of rarity; I hope you will honour it with your acceptance, and forgive the liberty I have taken. I am, with the greatest regard, etc., etc.,

**J. RAFTER**

William and Elizabeth's son James was born in 1702.<sup>56</sup> He was a would-be actor, a raconteur, a lifelong bachelor with no children. Late in his life he lived with his sister Kitty Clive in Twickenham, and was a favorite at Horace Walpole's dinner table. As a token of their friendship, James Rafter presented Horace Walpole (after his sister Kitty's death) a snuff box originally owned by Colley Cibber, and evidently in his sister's collection.<sup>57</sup> As noted above he and his

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<sup>52</sup> Anne Rafter, Birth Date 29/01/1697, Baptism Date 29/01/1697, Baptism Place, Saint Martin in the Fields, Westminster, London, England, Father William Rafter, Mother Elizabeth, FHL Film Number 560371.

<sup>53</sup> London Metropolitan Archives; London, England; Reference Number: P89/MRY1/002, Name Ann Rafter, Marriage Date, 29 May 1719, Marriage Place Westminster St Marylebone Middlesex England, Spouse Jacob Mestevier, Register Type Parish Register.

<sup>54</sup> In a letter to her friend the actor David Garrick, Kitty Clive tells about a coach robbery she and her brother Jemey endured and had recounted to her sister when they got home, how they "frighted Mrs. Mestivier." George Pierce Baker, ed. *Some Unpublished Correspondence of David Garrick*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin and Company, 1907, page 61.

<sup>55</sup> Anne Mestivier, Birth Date 07/09/1720, Baptism Date 08/09/1720, Baptism Place Saint Martin in the Fields, Westminster, London, England, Father Jacob Mestivier, Mother Anne, FHL Film Number, 560372, 560373; John Mestivier, Baptism Date 09/06/1722, Baptism Place Saint Paul Covent Garden, Westminster, London, England, Father Jacob Mestivier, Mother Anne, FHL Film Number 845241; Name James Mestivier. Baptism Date 10/09/1729, Baptism Place Saint Paul Covent Garden, Westminster, London, England, Father Jacob Mestivier, Mother Anne, FHL Film Number 845241.

<sup>56</sup> James Rafter, Baptism Date 11/01/1702, Baptism Place, Saint Martin in the Fields, Westminster, London, England, Father William Rafter, Mother Elizabeth, FHL Film Number 560372.

<sup>57</sup> The gift came with a note from Rafter: "I take the liberty to send you old Mr. Cibber's snuff box, which he used in his fop characters; it is as old as the last century, and therefore I think ought to have a place in your museum, as a sort of rarity; I hope you will honor it with your acceptance...J. Rafter." Viewed in the electronic version of *The Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1937-1983), Volume 42, Page 158.

father sold his uncle Ignatius' properties in western Kilkeny County, and he himself had supposedly tried to regain his father's property but was unsuccessful. Any male descendants from William's family would have to come from another son besides the childless James. James died in 1790 and his will he gave most of his money to the actress Jane Pope and her sister Susanna, and appointed them as executrixes.<sup>58</sup>

The actress Kitty Clive, born Catherine Rafter, has been given the birth year of 1711 in countless biographies, but no baptism has been found. However, there was a daughter named Ellenor born to William and Elizabeth Rafter, baptised at St. Paul's Covent Garden on July 15, 1711.<sup>59</sup> Perhaps her named was later changed, or written down wrong in the register.

A possible male descendant is Henry Rafter, baptised at St. Giles in the Fields on February 20, 1712, to William and Elizabeth Rafter.<sup>60</sup> He could be the Henry Rafter who marries Sarah Robinson in 1743.<sup>61</sup> Most promising is the discovery of a possible child of this couple: Henry, born 24 Apr 1748 to Henry Rafter, Mariner, and Sarah, baptised at St. George in the East, Stepney.<sup>62</sup> There was a Henry Rafter (Sommer Street) who was buried 22 Apr 1759 St. Andrew Holborn.<sup>63</sup> This could be either the father or the son. There are tax records for Sarah Robinson from 1763 through 1767<sup>64</sup> and there is also a burial of a Sarah Rafter in 1791 at St. Marylebone.<sup>65</sup> As many biographies of Kitty Clive mention the financial restraints of the family, and her attempts to help her siblings, it would make sense for a brother of hers to try to make a living as a mariner, especially with the military background of his father.

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<sup>58</sup> London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812, Mr. James Rafter, Death Date 1790, Burial Date 19/09/1790, Burial Place Richmond Upon Thames, St. Mary the Virgin, Twickenham, Kent, England, Parish Register. Will of James Rafter, Catalogue Reference Prob 11/1196 The National Archives, Public Record Office. Probated 30 September 1790.

<sup>59</sup> Ellenor Rafter, Birth year 1711, Birth date ? 1711, Baptism date 15 Jul 1711, Father's first name Wm, Mother's first name Eliz, Parish St. Paul, Covent Garden, County Middlesex, Page 89, City of Westminster Archives Centre, Westminster Baptisms.

<sup>60</sup> Henry Rafter, Baptism Date: 20 Feb 1712, Baptism Place: St Giles in the Fields, Holborn, Camden, England, Father: William Rafter, Mother: Elizabeth Rafter, London Metropolitan Archives; London, England; Reference Number: P82/GIS/A/02.

<sup>61</sup> Name Henry Rafter, Marriage Date 10 Oct 1743, Marriage Place Westminster, Middlesex, England, Spouse Sarah Robinson, FHL Film Number 814105, Reference ID, v .209, p. 76. Also recorded here: Henry Rafter, Marriage Date 10/10/1743, Marriage Place London England, Residence St George in The East, Spouse Sarah Robinson, Spouse Residence, St George in The East, Piece Description, Fleet Notebooks (Ashwell), 1743 Sep - Oct.

<sup>62</sup> Henry Rafter, Baptism date 24 Apr 1748, Address Artichoke Hill, Father's first name Henry, Father's occupation Mariner, Mother's first name Sarah, Parish St George in the East, Stepney, Church address Cannon Street Road, County Middlesex, Notes 8 days old, Record set London, Docklands And East End Baptisms, Docklands Ancestors Ltd.

<sup>63</sup> Name Henry Rafter, Death Date 1759, Burial Date 22/04/1759, Burial Place Camden, St Andrew, Holborn London England, Register Type, Parish Register.

<sup>64</sup> See for example: Sarah Robinson, 1767, Bennetts Court, St. Clement Danes, Poor Rates 1767-1773, Folio number 77, Westminster Rate Books 1634-1900.

<sup>65</sup> Sarah Rafter, Death Date 1791, Burial Date 23/10/1791, Burial Place Westminster St Marylebone Middlesex England Register, Parish Register.

## The family of author Captain Michael Rafter who claim a connection to Kitty Clive

An article in the newspaper *Loughborough Echo*, by Zoe Higgins, 25 Oct 2013, was titled “Elsie’s family tree research has uncovered colourful characters.”<sup>66</sup> It concerns Elsie Riley, 89, of Shepshed, the daughter of Edith and George Rafferty, who had a friend help her with her



ancestors. “Elsie and her friend have discovered two renowned creative ancestors. Henry Rafter, born around 1830, was an artist and book illustrator, and part of the naturalism and realism movements. [Pictured here is one of his illustrations, ‘The Sunday Supper’ from the book *Twigs for Nests: or Notes on Nursery Nurture*, published in 1866 in London by James Nisbet & Co.] He worked with watercolour and lithographs, with two of his lithography plates housed in the permanent collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum in

London. Elsie’s investigating took her as far back as the 18th century where she unearthed information about ancestor Kitty Clive.” The article does not indicate how Henry’s family goes back to Kitty Clive. Henry Rafter was the son of the Captain Michael Rafter mentioned above.

By coincidence I corresponded through a genealogy forum with Rosaline Riley who was from the Michael/Henry Rafter family, and also knew that her family was connected to that of Kitty Clive, but didn’t know how. I don’t know if I ever asked Rosaline if she was related to Elsie of the newspaper article but it seems likely. Rosaline explained that she is a descendant of Henry’s son Francis and his wife Emma Simmons.

I have amassed a huge amount of information about Captain Michael Rafter and his family. He and his brother William were from Ireland but served in the British Army. Michael Rafter’s record shows he was a lieutenant in the 95th Regiment of Foot by 1812, and was promoted to Paymaster in 1824.<sup>67</sup> During the war for independence in the Americas, Michael and his brother

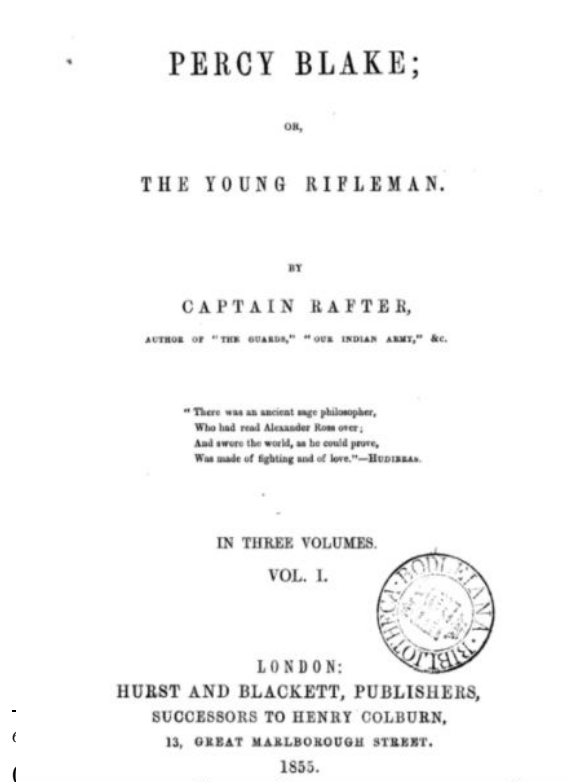
<sup>66</sup> Zoe Higgins, “Elsie’s family tree research has uncovered colourful characters,” article in the *Loughborough Echo*, 25 Oct 2013, viewed online at <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/>

<sup>67</sup> Great Britain. War Office. *A List of the Officers of the Army and of the Corps of Royal Marines*, 1827, page 277.

William, a colonel, served under General Gregor MacGregor, fighting against the Spanish colonialists. Their forces captured Porto Bello in 1819 in Panama, but the Spanish managed to take it back, and in the ensuing battle MacGregor with some of his soldiers essentially abandoned the rest of their regiment. Colonel William Rafter held on for awhile but was eventually captured and shot by the Spanish officers. His brother Michael wrote a scathing account of these adventures, published in 1820 as *Memoirs of Gregor M'Gregor: Comprising a Sketch of the Revolution in New Grenada and Venezuela, with Biographical Notices of Generals Miranda, Bolivar, Morillo and Horé, and a Narrative of the Expeditions to Amelia Island, Porto Bello, and Rio de la Hache, Interspersed with Revolutionary Anecdotes.*

Michael Rafter lived many places in his long military career. His son Henry (the artist mentioned above) was born in Malta,<sup>68</sup> but the family lived for many years on the Isle of Jersey, where Michael was a newspaper editor. I was able to determine his father's first name from a lease for a shop on Cross Street in St. Helier district that Michael obtained in 1838:

Bail à fin d'Héritage between Michael Rafter son of Thomas of the first party and Andrew Ellison son of Andrew of the second party. Records the lease in perpetuity from 1 to 2 of a shop on Cross Street, St Helier for the sum of 26 quartiers of wheat of rente. September 8th 1838, Registered Livre 169 folio 113.<sup>69</sup>



Michael wrote historical books and also fiction, the latter works often based upon his own life and adventures. His last work, published a year before he died in 1856, was a novel entitled "Percy Blake: or The Young Rifleman." The book is written in first person, and at the beginning the narrator begins with a story that sounds exactly like that of William Rafter, father of Kitty Clive:

I was born in a small country town, in the south of Ireland, which has furnished more officers to the army, than any place in the United Kingdom of thrice its importance...My family...was one of the numerous Irish families ruined by a too faithful adherence to the cause of the Stuarts; the battle of

and Baptisms, Certified Copy of An Entry of Baptism SA after, Paymaster of the 95th Regiment & Catherine Amelia, his wife, born 20th September 1829, was baptized this day by me J. M. Le Mesurier, Chaplain to the Forces.

<sup>69</sup> Viewed online at <https://catalogue.jerseyheritage.org/>



the Boyne having effectually disposed of a handsome estate, which had belonged to the catholic branch of the Blakes for many preceding ages. After that celebrated “passage of arms,” my pugnacious ancestor, William Blake, who had exchanged his “dirty acres” for the doubtful honour of following King James to the field, obtained a company from the French monarch in the Irish Brigade, and continued to serve in that glorious band of expatriated heroes for several years, till an ardent desire to see his family and native seat once more, brought him again to Ireland. His relations, however, were all dispersed or dead, his estate forfeited to the crown by that loyalty to his sovereign which, under the new reign, was called rebellion; and marrying soon after a lady in London, with whom he received a moderate fortune, he gave up foreign adventure and settled for the remainder of his days in his native country. From this gentleman I am lineally descended.<sup>70</sup>

Except for his ancestor William’s re-settling in Ireland, rather than remaining in London, this story of William Blake parallels that of William Rafter. My correspondent Rosaline Riley also knew about this novel and had come to the same conclusion, but neither of us knew how to get back further in time than “Thomas Rafter,” father of Captain Michael Rafter.

### The family of actor Henry McGee

The actor Henry McGee’s obituary mentions his descent on his mother’s side from a sibling of Kitty Clive, thus yet another family who feels they descend from William Rafter. Henry McGee was a comedian who had been a television star in Britain and died in 2006. *The Guardian* wrote of him that he was: “born in London. His great-great-great-aunt was Kitty Clive, David Garrick’s leading lady. His mother was a competent singer, often complaining in her son’s hearing about some theatrical disaster, as a result of which he was initially determined not to go on the stage.”<sup>71</sup> By my calculations, Kitty Clive’s generation is probably further back than great-great-great-aunt.

By some luck I discovered a blog written by Rosemary Morgan describing her ancestors Charlotte Clifford and John Rafter. I had been working on Henry McGee’s family and came across a newspaper article in which his mother mentioned her maiden name being Batchelor.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> Michael Rafter. *Percy Blake; or, The young rifleman*, Volume 1, London: Hurst and Blackett, 1855, page 2-4.

<sup>71</sup> Dennis Barker, “Henry McGee, Straight man to a generation of comics” *The Guardian*, first published on Fri. 3 Feb. 2006.

<sup>72</sup> *The London Gazette*, 30 September, 1941, page 5696.

NOTICE is hereby given that CLARISSE LOUISE BATCHELOR commonly known as Clarisse Louise Marris and HENRY JAMES BATCHELOR commonly known as Henry James Marris both residing at 14 Dalmeny Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, Hampshire and both being natural born British subjects intend after the expiration of three weeks from the date of publication of this notice to assume the names of Clarisse Louise Marris-McGee and Henry James Marris-McGee respectively.—Dated 29th day of September, 1941.

E. C. KILSBY and SON, 21, College Hill,  
(042) E.C.4, Solicitors.

From this information I was able to discover her family in Ancestry. Her name was unusual (Clarisse), and I found a Clarisse Batchelor, daughter of Nelson James Batchelor, who was the son of David Samuel Batchelor and Mary Ann Rafter. So I felt I had solved the link of the McGee family through his maternal line, at least back to the woman named Mary Ann Rafter. In Morgan's blog she gives the name of this Mary Ann Rafter's parents as John Rafter and Charlotte Clifford.<sup>73</sup> From an 1841 census John Rafter was shown to have been born ca. 1806 in "foreign parts."<sup>74</sup> That suggested to me a possible military family. Also according to this census of 1841 he and Charlotte lived in the St Mary Magdalen Old Fish Street neighborhood of London, which it will be remembered was the location of Elizabeth Daniel's family, wife of William Rafter. John Rafter married Charlotte Clifford 20 Mar 1824 at St George the Martyr, Southwark.<sup>75</sup> We thus have a gap between the family of Henry Rafter born 1748, if he could be proven to be William Rafter's grandson, or if he had other male siblings (or uncles), and this John Rafter born 1806.

### My own family and possible antecedents for Patrick Henry Rafter.

With the hint that Patrick had a childhood in Callan, there appear to be two possible Rafter families in Callan at that time. The Griffith's Valuation (1849-1850) shows Edmund Rafter at Market-Lane in Callan, and Patrick Rafter on Green Street in Callan.<sup>76</sup> I was able to find baptisms for the children of Edmund Rafter and wife Mary Hackett, who were married at Callan

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<sup>73</sup> See Rosemary Morgan's research at <http://londonrootsresearch.blogspot.com/2012/>

<sup>74</sup> Class: HO107; Piece: 722; Book: 8; Civil Parish: St Mary Magdalen Old Fish Street; County: Middlesex; Enumeration District: 5; Folio: 15; Page: 29; Line: 1; GSU roll: 438828, "John Rafter, Age 35, Estimated birth year abt. 1806, Where born: Foreign Parts."

<sup>75</sup> London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932, NameJohn Rafter, Marriage Date 20 Mar 1824, Marriage Place Southwark, St George the Martyr, England, Spouse Charlotte Clifford, Register Type Parish Register.

<sup>76</sup> Edmund Rafter, Occupier, Year, 1849, Printing date 1847-10-12, Callan, South, Kilkenny, Lessor John Cass, Pages viii, 30, Griffith's Valuation 1847-1864. Patrick Rafter, Occupier, Year, 1849, Printing date 1849-10-12, Callan, South, Kilkenny, Lessor Matthew Keating, Pages viii, 30, Griffith's Valuation 1847-1864. Viewed at <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

August 3, 1833<sup>77</sup> (for what it's worth this would be five months after my ancestor Patrick's birthday of March 21, 1833). Except for Mary and Edward, the names didn't seem to match up with the Patrick's siblings, but were as follows: August 10, 1834, Mary; March 8, 1836, John; October 31, 1839, James; August 19, 1942, Edward.<sup>78</sup>

Even though the children do not match up with Patrick's known siblings, one interesting fact appears in the baptisms for the year 1833 in Callan, and that is the baptism of Pat, son of James Holohan and Catherine Hayes, May 5, 1833, one of the sponsors being Joseph Hacket.<sup>79</sup> This is a strong indication that Edmund and Mary Hacket are from Patrick's extended family at the very least, for Pat Holohan was mentioned as a childhood friend by Patrick's sister Mary in her letter to him of January 1868 (see above).

I have uncovered various deeds for property Patrick purchased in Newark, New Jersey, and Susquehanna Depot (these deeds are summarized on pages 2-3). One of the deeds in Newark appears to have a curious appended initial after his supposed signature which looks like "Jr." If this is a correct guess, then it is more likely his father's name was...Patrick. So turning to the *other* Rafter in Callan we shall focus on Patrick.

The Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives published online a series of city directories, including ones for Callan. To imagine Patrick's family might not always have been in Callan is a reasonable assumption. In any case, on the Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives website the first directory is for the year 1824 (Pigots) and there are no Rafters listed. The 1846 Slaters directory lists Patrick Rafter, Boot & Shoe Maker, Callan, Kilkenny. The 1856 Slaters lists no Rafters, nor do the ones for 1870 or 1881, or the Bassetts of 1884.<sup>80</sup> Which suggests this Patrick's family was only a short time in Callan. We suspect that both of Patrick Henry's parents had died before he emigrated to America in 1854, or his sister Mary would be telling him about their deaths, since she included the death of his brother Edward as news.

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<sup>77</sup> Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915: Edmd Rafter, Residence Place Greenstreet, Marriage Date 08/1833, Marriage Place Callan Ireland, Diocese Ossory, Spouse Mary Hacket.

<sup>78</sup> Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915: Mary Rafter, Birth Date 1834, Baptism Date 10/08/1834, Baptism Place Callan Kilkenny Ireland, Diocese Ossory, Father Edmd Rafter, Mother Mary Hacket, No. 3706; John Rafter, Birth Date 1836, Baptism Date 18/03/1836, Baptism Place Callan Kilkenny Ireland, Diocese Ossory, Father Edw Rafter, Mother Mary Hacket, No. 4919; Jas Rafter, Birth Date 1839, Baptism Date 08/1839 [Oct 31 1839?], Baptism Place Callan Kilkenny Ireland, Diocese Ossory, Father Edmd Rafter, Mother Mary Hacket, No. 5632; Ed.d Rafter, Birth Date 1842, Baptism Date 19/08/1842, Baptism Place Callan Kilkenny Ireland, Diocese Ossory, Father Edmd Rafter, Mother Mary Hacket, No. 6652.

<sup>79</sup> Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915: Pat Holohan, Birth Date 1833, Baptism Date 05/05/1833, Baptism Place Callan Kilkenny Ireland, Diocese Ossory, Father James Holohan, Mother Cath. Hayes, Sponsors Jos? Hacket and Mary Hickey? No. 3342.

<sup>80</sup> See the various years of Callan directories at <http://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/ire/kilkenny/directories/callan-dirs.txt>

Looking through the Callan parish records I found only one Patrick Rafter. As sponsors for the baptism of Thomas by Jas. Sylvan (Sullivan?) and Mary Walsh, 15 Dec. 1841, were Pat Rafter and Mary (it looks like after her first name is written “Do” like “ditto” as if she is his wife or another relative. As Mary Rafter, for example, she could be the wife of Edmund).<sup>81</sup>

Because I was looking for Michael Rafter in Dublin, Michael being the brother of Patrick Henry, mentioned above as newly married with children in the period 1862-1868, I found some very interesting Rafterers in the Dublin directories.

I had started early, in the 1930s. I discovered an individual named Thomas Michael Rafter whom I found at 44 Montgomery in Dublin as early as the 1836 directory.<sup>82</sup> He was listed there in 1837 and 1838, and then in 1841 (there is a gap in the directories for 1939 and 1940) he appears listed at 12 Trinity Place, and is there at that address in every city directory I checked until his death in 1881. His occupation is stated sometimes as professor of ornamental writing, then later as civil engineer and lithographer. This is interesting in light of Patrick Henry’s skill as a printer, which he practiced soon after arriving in Newark, New Jersey. Might this be a relative? So it was

RAV	DIRECTORY.	RED	103
Radcliff John, esq. commissioner of board of works, 32 Upper Pembroke street	Radcliff Joseph, esq. barrister, LL.D. commissioner of bankrupts, 51 Upper Mount street	Radcliff Mrs. 24 Upper Mount street	Radcliff Travers, esq. 42 Blessington street
Radford Mrs. lodging house, 29 William street	Rae Henry J. esq. attorney, 11 Portland street, North East	Rafferty Jas. saddler & harnessm. 208 Britain st.	Rafferty John, saddler, 19 Stafford street
Rafter Patrick, shoemaker, 43 Montgomery street	Rafter Peter, nailer, 64 Upper Coombe	Rafter Thomas, professor of ornamental writing, 44 Montgomery street	Rainsford Abraham, grocer, wine, & spirit dealer, 27 Great Ship st. and 30 Golden lane
Rainsford Anthony, victualler, 28 Clarendon st. & Chatham row, Clarendon market	Rainsford Mrs. Mountainview, Cullenswood	Raverty Mrs. E. vintner, 11 Werburgh street	Rawlins Joseph, esq. attorney, 11 Harcourt street
		Rawlins Thomas, esq. barrister, 11 Harcourt street	Rawnsley Captain, Royal Artillery, 17 Parkgate st
		Rawson Henry, boot and shoemaker, 41 Essex st.	Rawson Richard, esq. solicitor, 42 Aungier street
		Ray Miss, Westmorland park, Ranelagh	Ray William, cabinetmaker and timber yard, 52 Great Strand street
		Ray Thomas M. artist, 47 Henry street	Raye James Benjamin, apothecary, 26 S. Anne st.
		Rayner Miss, 8 Cottage terrace	Rayner Samuel, clothier, 16 Ardee row, and 3 Lr. Bridge street
		Rayner Miss S. Tunbridge warehouse, 2 Arcade, College green	Rea Francis, wholesale and retail druggist, 115 Thomas street
		Rea Mary, grocer and provision dealer, Island br.	Rea Miss, ladies' school, 68 Bride street

astonishing to discover that next door to Thomas Michael Rafter in the 1836 directory, at 43 Montgomery, was Patrick Rafter, shoemaker. Their connection becomes closer when Patrick is

<sup>81</sup> Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915: Thos Sylvan, Birth Date 1841, Baptism Date 15/12/1841, Baptism Place Callan Kilkenny Ireland, Diocese Ossory, Father Jas Sylvan, Mother Mary Walsh, Sponsors Pat Rafter and Mary D° No.6453.

<sup>82</sup> Thomas Rafter, Residence Year: 1836, Street address: 44 Montgomery street, Residence Place: Dublin, Ireland, Occupation or Trade: Professor Of Ornamental Writing, in *Pettigrew and Oulton Dublin Almanack and General Register of Ireland*, page 103, viewed at Ancestry.com. Ireland, City and Regional Directories, 1836-1947 [database on-line]. Also consulted for years through 1881 as explained above.



listed in the 1837 directory as living also at 44 Montgomery with Thomas Michael. Possibly they were brothers. The fact that Patrick was a shoemaker, and the Patrick Rafter in Callan in 1846 was also a shoemaker, makes it a distinct possibility that they are the same person.

This Patrick Rafter, shoemaker of Dublin, also has an interesting sideline. He was evidently heavily involved in the Chartist Movement, which began in England but had a lively branch which met in Dublin. And if there was any doubt that this was the same Patrick Rafter, the shoemaker who lived with Thomas Michael Rafter, a letter published in the *Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser* for Saturday December 5, 1840 (the *Northern Star* was the organ of the Chartist Movement) gave Patrick Rafter's address (in a list of people to write to in the various locations) as 12 Trinity Place, the very place Thomas Michael lived from at least 1841:

Chartism in Ireland. To the Editor of the *Northern Star*. Dublin, November 30th, 1840. Dear Sir. Having seen in the *Star* of Saturday last a notice to correspondents, who have enquired for the address of persons in Ireland to whom they might send your invaluable paper, I hope that you will, through the same medium, inform them that the Chartists of this city are now making a determined, but steady advance...they have opened a reading room, at No. 8, Golden-lane...the *Star* and other liberal papers would be thankfully received by the following persons, members of the Charter Association, Dublin: Mr. John Norton, 8, Golden-lane; Mr. Patrick Rafter, 12, Trinity-place; Mr. James Dillon, 12, Abbey-street; and by Mr. Peter M. Brophy, in the Rear of No. 4, Warmwood-gate...Yours respectfully, Peter M. Brophy.<sup>83</sup>

By March 1841 Patrick was being referred to in the *Northern Star* as the Chair of local Dublin Chartists.<sup>84</sup> An article from July 1842 refers to Patrick Rafter as the chair of The Irish Universal Suffrage Association.<sup>85</sup> The latest newspaper article in the findmypast index I used, that mentioned Patrick Rafter and his various political activities, was from around 1844. Then we have a Patrick Rafter in 1846 in Callan with a shoemaking business. The Chartist movement was known to have died down around 1848. It's possible Patrick was forced to lie low because of his politics and decided to move to a smaller town such as Callan where his possible relative, Edmund Rafter, lived. My ancestor Patrick Henry would have been age 3-11 (born 1833) during this period of activity in Dublin, if Patrick was his father. I also came across an interesting piece of information, that the Catholic priests were so opposed to the Chartist Movement that they refused to baptise children of Chartist activists. Which might explain why I was not able to find baptisms for Patrick and his siblings.

One of the most promising discoveries (updated June 8, 2020) is that in looking for Patrick Henry's brother Michael, the one who married and had children in Dublin, I found the marriage of Michael Rafter, age 35, and Margaret Dwyer, age 23, 31 July 1664 at the Dublin City

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<sup>83</sup> *Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser*, 5 December 1840, page 5.

<sup>84</sup> *Northern Star*, *op. cit.*, 27 March 1841 page 1. "The weekly meeting of this Association was held on Sunday evening last, in the Reading-room, Golden-lane, which was numerously attended, Mr. Patrick Rafter in the chair."

<sup>85</sup> *Northern Star*, *op. cit.*, 30 July 1842, page 3.



There is a curious abbreviation written in after the addresses of the Dwyer parents and the Rafter parents, which is “Ter.” which I have not been able to figure out. One of the witnesses is Maria Rourke of 38 Denmark St. The only person listed for many years in the Dublin directories for those years at 38 Denmark St. is a broker named Thomas Rourke. So Maria Rourke must be related to him. And the address 38 Denmark St. is also given at the marriage of Michael and Margaret’s daughter Mary to John Douglas in 1892. I would suspect the Rafters were renters and the Rourkes were the landlords. From another Ancestry tree and from scouring baptisms, I found this couple, Michael and Margaret, had at least two children: Mary born June 1, 1866, and Edward John born August 8, 1870. The biggest takeaway from this recent research is that it looks even more promising that Patrick Rafter, shoemaker first in Dublin, and then later in Callan (Kilkenny) could really be the same person, and the father of Michael and Patrick Henry.

So we have various descendants of William Rafter of Kilkenny and London, some living in England and some in Ireland. Sister Mary’s pronouncement about having a “first cousin in London” who might know about their property in Ireland seems to loom very large in the overall story of Patrick Henry Rafter.