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I am seeking all genealogical and biographical details for the family documented below including their ancestors, children, and grandchildren and the spouses thereof, including the full names of those spouses' parents. All additions and corrections within this scope, however speculative, will be greatly appreciated.

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### **Mary (Boyd) (Thompson) (McHatton) Mullen of Greenwood, Steuben County, New York**

Very little can be stated about the origins of my great-grandmother, Jennie (Thompson) Brown, with any great degree of confidence. The limited records available often have conflicting data. *Thompson* is an English name while *Boyd* is Scotch-Irish; although the latter is common in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, it is even more common just across the North Channel of the Irish Sea in Scotland.

1. WILLIAM<sup>A</sup> THOMPSON was born, probably in County Antrim, [then Ireland, since 1922] Northern Ireland, probably circa 1840 or earlier, and he died, probably in County Antrim, after 1866 and probably circa 1872. He married, probably in County Antrim, as her first husband, MARY BOYD; she was born in the Country Antrim about 1840 (*1880 Federal Census*). Mary (Boyd) Thompson was married second, probably in the Country Antrim, probably circa 1873, to ROBERT MCHATTON. Robert was probably born circa 1840 or earlier and certainly no later than 1853; he probably died circa 1874 or 1875. Mary was married third, at the parsonage of the Presbyterian Church, Andover, Allegany County, New York on 29 September 1879 to HUGH<sup>2</sup> MULLEN (*Archibald*<sup>1</sup>), born [County Antrim] Ireland about 1825, died 26 June 1894, son of Archibald<sup>1</sup> Mullen of County Antrim, Ireland and Greenwood, Steuben County, New York. Mary (Boyd) (Thompson) (McHatton) Mullen was probably the Mary Mullen (1840-1885) who died on 5 May 1885 and was buried in the Mead Settlement Cemetery, Ridge Road, West Greenwood Hill, Town of Greenwood, Steuben County, New York; no gravestone can be found today.

Presumably twice-widowed, Mary left Ireland some time after 28 May 1874, when her son, Robert Burus McHatton, was born and before 1875 when her daughter, Jennie Thompson, emigrated alone, at the tender age of ten, to join Mary in America. Strangely, Robert did not immigrate until 1884, about the time that his mother apparently died. These unusual circumstances, particularly the significant difference in Jennie and Robert's dates of immigration, present quite a puzzle.

Perhaps Mary's string of bad luck prompted her emigration. She must have been too poor to afford simultaneous passage for herself and her children. As she was able to save enough money, she must have sent first for her daughter and then for her son. One wonders who watched

over the children while they were in Ireland. Mary worked as Hugh Mullen's housekeeper and eventually married him.

Thurs., Oct. 2, 1879. From Andover: Married, at the Presbyterian parsonage, on the 19th inst., by Rev. A.C. Titus, Mr. Hugh McMullen to Miss Mary McHatten [*sic*], both of Greenwood. (Judy Cwiklinski, "Steuben County items mentioned in the *Allegany County Reporter* [Wellsville, New York])

It seems odd that Mary was designated as a "Miss" in the announcement of her third marriage! Hugh Mullen was a son of Archibald Mullen:

In the 1880 Federal Census, Hugh Mullen (55) and Mary Mullen (39), were residing in the Greenwood household of Hugh's father, "Archie" Mullen. Later that same year, Archie died:

Died: Mullen—At his residence in Greenwood township, Steuben Co., N.Y. on Sabbath, Sept. 5th, Mr. Archibald Mullen, aged 82 years and 3 months. He was born in Antrim, Ireland in 1798, he emigrated to American in 1848 and lived for a few years in Brooklyn and afterwards moved to Allegany Co., NY... He was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Andover for thirty years. His only book was the Bible and its well worn pages testify how much it had been read. He was a man of prayer... A.C. Titus. (*Allegany County Reporter* [Wellsville, New York], 23 Sep 1880)

These newspaper items suggest that Mary may have been Presbyterian rather than Catholic. Yet, when "*Jenny Thompson*," daughter of "*Guliami Thompson et Mari McHatton*" was married at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church on 13 February 1893 to Alexander Brown, there is no indication in the original parish register that Jennie was not Catholic. Perhaps Jennie's father was Catholic or perhaps Jennie converted to Catholicism at some point prior to her marriage.

Jennie (Thompson) Brown's marriage record indicates that her mother Mary's maiden name was McHatton, yet we know that Mary's son, Robert Burus McHatton, was younger than Jennie. That Mary's maiden name was actually Boyd comes from Robert's death certificate. Perhaps Mary did not actually marry William Thompson and/or Robert McHatton; we must consider the possibility that either one or both of her children were born out of wedlock.

If Mary (Boyd) (Thompson) (McHatton) Mullen was actually a Presbyterian, she may well have been related to Daniel<sup>1</sup> Boyd who was born in County Antrim, Northern Ireland in 1799 and emigrated to West Greenwood Hill by 1850. Daniel<sup>1</sup> Boyd and his family were staunch Presbyterians, like the family of Mary's third husband, Hugh Mullen. Despite being of different faiths, Mary's daughter, Jennie, and her husband, Alexander<sup>2</sup> Brown, frequently visited the family of Daniel's son, Wallace<sup>2</sup> Boyd. Although they were neighbors, and obviously friends, this fact may have been based on ties of kinship. Incidentally, Daniel Boyd's granddaughter, Arbella I. "Belle" (Boyd) Slaght, was the adoptive mother of my paternal grandmother, Virgil Elizabeth (Mahoney) (Slaght) Streeter.

Following Mary's death, Jennie still resided in the household of her step-father, Hugh Mullen in 1892; Robert McHatton was not listed (*1892 New York State Census*). However, Michael Hadden was the only other individual living in Hugh Mullen's household in 1892. As

discussed in more detail below, *McHatton* is a variation of *McIlhatton*. Imagine that Robert McHatton was actually residing in the Mullen household and that after his name was stated, the census-taker asks for it to be repeated. Thinking that only the surname has been questioned, someone says "McHatton" or "McIlhatton" very slowly and the census-taker hears "Michael Hadden."

Hugh Mullen never adopted Jennie or Robert. Per his estate records, he left "no widow or children." His assets totalled \$591.43, including \$9.33 in cash and \$17 in cheese from the cheese factory. Everything was distributed to his biological family. Robert filed a claim for an unknown amount against the estate; the following letter from attorney William Greenwood Kellogg, dated 19 March 1896, is included in the case file:

Enclosed find agreement and refer [to] claim of Robert McHatton against estate of Hugh Mullen deceased, for your your approval. If all satisfactory pelase return to me at Greenwood.

The Surrogate Court must have decided in favor of Robert, a note, "approved and just," was appended to the letter.

In 1803, information was gathered in Northern Ireland to prepare for the possibility of invasion by Napoleon. (John Craig and Constable, *Antrim List of Stock 9th Nov 1803: 23 Townlands in the Barony of Cary* [hereinafter *ALS*]; transcription by Harry Doyle). *Boyd* and *Thompson* are very common surnames throughout Antrim. However, *McHatton* or variations thereof, appears to be quite rare. *McHatton* appears to be a variant of *McIlhatton*, a surname primarily found in Loughguile Parish (*ALS*). The householders of 1803 were of earlier generations than the parents of William Thompson, Mary Boyd and Robert McHatton. However, analysis of surname clustering when coupled with the Irish tradition that the eldest son was named after his paternal grandfather, provides us with possibilities for more in-depth research. It is important to note that an Irish Townland is a much smaller unit of land than a Town or Township in the United States.

In all of *ALS*, there is only one Parish in which the surnames of Boyd, Thompson, McHatton, and McIlhatton co-existed. In Derrykeighan, there were fourteen Boyd households, two Thomson/Thompson households, and two McHatton/McIlhatton households. John "McHattn" of Dervock Townland, Derrykeighan was the only bearer of the McHatton spelling in all of *ALS*. Alexander and John Hatton both resided in of Ballybregagh Townland, Loughguile Parish. There were five Boyd households in Dervock: Alexander, James, Joseph, Samuel and William. There were four Boyd households in Ballybregagh: Daniel, Hugh, John and Robert.

The only households held by Thompsons named William were in Stroan Townland, Derrykeighan and Balnalube Townland, Loughguile. Edward and Joseph Boyd were also residents of Stroan. Robert Thompson resided in Cool Townland, Derrykeighan.

Griffith's Valuation was initiated in 1848; there are nearly 100 men named William Thompson scattered throughout County Antrim. There are no McHattons identified in County Antrim but the name *Hatton* occurs frequently in Shankill Parish where 24 men named William Thompson resided.

Child of William and Mary (Boyd) Thompson:

- \* ii. JENNIE; b. Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland 25 May 1866; d. Town of Greenwood, Steuben Co., NY 6 Jan 1915. m. St. Mary's Church, Rexville, Town of West Union, Steuben Co., NY 13 Feb 1893 Alexander<sup>2</sup> Brown (*Daniel*<sup>1</sup>), b. [Kilcroagh Townland, Armoy Parish,] Co. Antrim 15 April 1847, d. Canisteo, Steuben Co., NY 22 August 1938, bur. Old Catholic Cemetery, Rexville, NY; my great-grandparents; see *Daniel Brown of Greenwood, Steuben County, New York* for more information.

Child of Robert and Mary (Boyd) (Thompson) McHatton:

- iii. ROBERT BURUS MCHATTON, b. in [Co. Antrim], Northern Ireland 20 May 1874; d. Rexville, Town of West Union, Steuben Co., NY 11 March 1936; farmer; naturalized citizen; m. LAURA C. ANDRUS; b. NY ca. 1881; bur. Greenwood Cemetery, Greenwood, NY 14 March 1936; no children.

Robert Burns [*sic*] McHatton, well known resident of Rexville, died late yesterday afternoon at the family home after a lingering illness. He was 61 years old.

Mr. McHatton had been in ill health for about nine years and for the past several months his condition had been serious. He failed rapidly since Sunday.

Born in Ireland, Mr. McHatton had lived in this section for several years. He was engaged in farming in the town of West Union until nine years ago when he moved to Rexville.

His only survivor is his widow. Funeral arrangements are incomplete. (*Obituary*, scrapbook, Greenwood Historical Society)

## **Index**

This is a complete every-name index for the entire document; each woman is indexed under her maiden name and her married name(s). A question mark, (?), indicates an unknown maiden name.