

Letter from Ireland

Records show that on the 3rd of February 1861 Thomas Bamberry married Mary Kirby in Listowel Co Kerry. Records also show nine children born of that union. Richard 1862, James 1864, Maurice Joseph 1868, Mary 1871, Margaret 1874, Honora 1876, John 1878, Bartholomew 1879, and Bridget 1881.

Mary died on the 30th of July 1909 aged 74, Thomas died on the 14th of February 1922 aged 88. I knew one of those people, Bartholomew or Ball as he was known. He was my Grandfather and he died in 1972 when I was 7, so my memories of him are hazy.

I have dipped in and out of ancestry research over the last ten years and there were times when I wondered about the value of perusing old documents looking for

ancestors, but in remembering the past I linked up with extended family in the present and one of the names on those old records, that of my Grand Aunt Mary was brought to life for me. I now correspond with her Great Grandson Bob and the emails go back and forth as the letters must have gone back and forth many years ago. From pen and ink to compose and send, from words carried by ships on the high seas to words passing under the sea through fibre optic cable.

The essence of life that Thomas and Mary passed on to their children is one thread among many carried in following generations but it is a thread we can keep hold of. Greetings and best wishes to my Cousins attending the Dore Family Reunion.

Maura Bambury