



Ulster Ancestry



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Results of an initial search of the archive of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in relation to the family of George Stewart of Newtownstewart Co Tyrone Ireland.

Research commissioned by:

Dale Stewart

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Information given by the client on which this research has been based:

Ancestor's name: George Stewart

Religion: Protestant

Place of Birth: Newtownstewart Co Tyrone

Date of birth: February 1st 1924 (I have taken this as 1824)

Father's name : Not known

Mother's name: Not known

Place of parent's marriage : Not known

Ancestor's wife: Margaret Jones

Children of George and Margaret:

Robert Fred. 26th Jan 1854

James, John, Charles, George.

Farmers in Ontario therefore likely farmers in Ulster.

The Search

Civil registration of Protestant marriages came into effect on 1st January 1845.

With Robert Fred, the first child of George and Margaret Stewart being born in 1854 The researcher felt there was a reasonable chance that the couple's marriage certificate may be found at the General Registers Office of Northern Ireland.

With this in mind the researcher visited GRONI and carried out an index search for the marriage of George Stewart and Margaret Jones between the years 1845 and 1860

No record of the marriage was found.

Two possible reasons for this:

1 The marriage was simply not registered

2 The couple married before Jan 1st 1845

A further search was carried out for any marriages between a Stewart male and a Jones female.

Only two were found in the years 1845 to 1922

11th Dec 1897

James Stewart and Ellen Jones at Belfast, St Marks Church Dundela

11th September 1915

Alexander Stewart and Sarah Anne Jones at Belfast, St Anne's Cathedral.

Neither of the above have any bearing on our research.

Having failed to find a marriage certificate for George and Margaret which would have given us precise information in relation to both families the researcher turned to the land valuation records in an effort to at least narrow the research area.

Newtownstewart is a market town in the Parish of Ardstraw. It has been my past experience that with Newtownstewart only having a population of about 200 persons in 1831 that few people who claimed to come from the town actually did so. Most lived in surrounding townlands but as Newtownstewart was an easily recognized place, and their townland name was not they gave it as their place of birth in Ireland.

In 1824 as a result of the Composition Act all holders of arable ground (the rural population was made up almost entirely of small tenant farmers) were obliged to pay a tax or "tithes" in support of the established Church, the Episcopalian Church of Ireland.

This tax was levied on all irrespective of whether the person was a member of that Church or not. Needless to say it was a very unpopular tax among both Presbyterians and Catholics.

These "tithes" payers are recorded for us in the original books by name townland and Parish in what we term The Tithe Applotment Books.

The researcher looked up the Tithe Applotment Book for the Parish of Ardstraw.
Ref Fin/5A

Results:

Year	Name	Townland	Parish
All 1834			All Ardstraw
	Alexander Stewart	Back Street Newtownstewart	
	Benjamin Stewart	Strawletterdallen	
	Charles Stewart	Whitehouse	
	Charles Stewart	Belnalone	
	Charles Stewart	Drumclaph	
	Charles Stewart	Whitehouse	
	D. (possibly David) Stewart	Drumlegagh	
	Eliza Stewart	Killymore	Widow
	George Stewart	Killymore	
	George Stewart	Strawletterdallen	
	John Stewart	Strawletterdallen	
	James Stewart	Coolnacrenagh	
	James Stewart	Deerpark	
	James Stewart	Killymore	
	James Stewart	Birnaghs	
	James Stewart	Whitehouse	
	John Stewart	Drumclaph	
	John Stewart	Strawletterdallen	
	Joseph Stewart	Erganagh	
	Matthew Stewart	Drumclaph	
	Oliver Stewart	Boytun	

From the above;

Only one Stewart household is found actually in the town of Newtownstewart that being the home of Alexander Stewart .

However,I feel that this may not necessarily be the client's family. Irish family naming patterns were very strong in 19th century Ireland with families retaining and reusing the same first names in each succeeding generation. It would be likely that George was called for a close family member, either his father, grandfather or an uncle. In turn George would have named his sons in the same manner although the wife's family of Jones would of course also have been brought in.

Bearing this in mind the families in Killymore and Strawlatterdallen look the most likely while.Deer Park and Birnaghs are also close to the town. Whitehouse Drumclaph and Erganagh are removed from Newtownstewart and someone from these townlands would be more likely to give Castlederg as their place of birth if asked .

As no official record of George and Margaret's marriage was found to prove conclusively (if such evidence exists) just where they married and where they lived, it would be necessary to do a detailed search of the Church registers of baptism marriage and burial for the Parish of Ardstraw.

These survive as follows:

ARDSTRAW, CO. TYRONE

Key: CI= Church of Ireland P= Presbyterian M= Methodist

C.I. Ardstraw (Derry diocese)

[Earliest registers destroyed in Dublin]

Sunday register, 1821-57, recording details of collections, numbers attending services etc., with occasional baptisms and publication of banns.

T/2728

Baptisms, 1882-; marriages, 1845-; burials, 1887-; vestry minutes, 1872-; registers of vestrymen, 1870-; preachers' books, 1821-.**In local custody**

C.I. Baronscourt (Derry diocese)

[Earliest registers destroyed in Dublin]

Baptisms, 1877-; marriages, 1858-; burials, 1878; register of vestrymen, 1870-.**In local custody**

Sunday register, 1821-57, giving details of services.

C.I. Drumclaph (Derry diocese) [Earliest registers destroyed in Dublin]	
Baptisms, 1877-1962; marriages, 1846-1928; burials, 1872-1943; vestry minutes, 1876-1921; register of vestrymen, 1870-1985.	MIC/1/304
M. Cavandoragh [<i>sic</i> Cavandarragh][Wesleyan Methodists] Baptisms, 1822-1961; marriages, 1874-1937.	MIC/1E/62
M. Coolnacrunaught [Wesleyan Methodists] Baptisms may be included in Castledearg baptisms, 1822-.	MIC/1E/62
M. Lisleen [Wesleyan Methodists] Baptisms, 1822-1961; marriages, 1883-1937.	MIC/1E/62
M. Newtownstewart Baptisms, 1866-1978 [there may be baptisms for Newtownstewart in the Omagh Circuit baptism register membership register and quarterly class roll, 1863-1954; circuit schedule book, 1866-79.	MIC/1E/24, 26
Baptisms, 1825-30.	MIC/429/1/264
P. Ardstraw Baptisms, 1837-90; marriages, 1837-1939.	MIC/1P/50
P. 1st Castledearg (or Garvetagh) Baptisms, 1823-1985; marriages, 1854-98.	MIC/1P/73
P. Clady Marriages, 1845-71.	MIC/1P/50
P. Douglas Baptisms, 1831-64 and 1868-1946; marriages, 1832-1936.	MIC/1P/50, 59
P. Drumlegagh (or 2nd Ardstraw) Baptisms, 1865-1986; marriages, 1845-1930.	MIC/1P/303
P. 1st Newtownstewart Baptisms, 1890-1903; marriages, 1845-1907.	MIC/1P/59
Baptisms, 1848 and 1861-1905; marriages, 1846-1910.	MIC/1P/59
P. 1st and 2nd Newtownstewart Baptisms, 1903-85; session minutes, 1903-68.	MIC/1P/59;
T/2563	

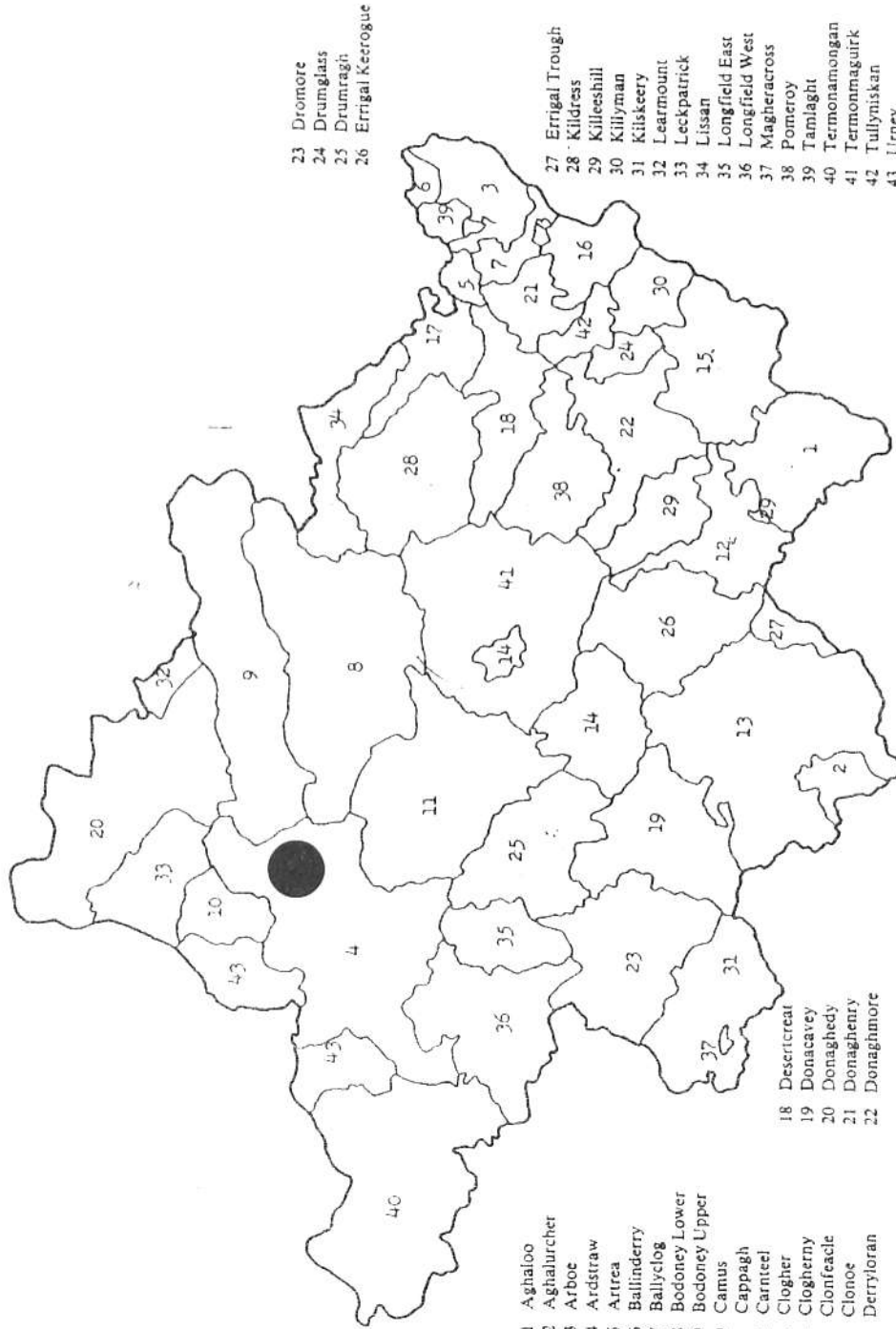
As you can see Ardstraw was very well served by a great many Protestant Churches of different denominations. Some cover the research time period others do not but in reality as we do not know which Church your Stewart family attended we must thinking at this stage about having to search them all.

Here my initial research must end. It has been disappointimng that the marriage certificate was not found as this would have answered a great many questions but I hope despite this that the client will find my work and my report to be of interest and perhaps value.

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August 2004

THE PARISHES OF COUNTY TYRONE



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