



Irish Genealogy SERVICES



Ancestor Biography Report

PATRICK REILLY

1839-1919

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Initial information

Initial information on Patrick Reilly was relayed to Irish Genealogy Services by email together with a small number of scanned documents. The emails suggested a certain amount of conflicting information had already been gathered about Patrick Reilly and the client was keen to untangle fact from fiction.

Patrick Reilly trained in Ireland as a medical doctor; he had joined the British Army and served under Sir George Wright in the Afghan War 1879/80. Thereafter he served in the Indian Medical Service where he pioneered a number of operations and procedures, for which he later became well known. The Reilly's were a predominantly Dublin based family, they had a connection to a public house on the north side of Dublin city and they were Roman Catholics.

The scanned documents (attached); death notice *The Irish Times* January 2nd 1919 and three obituaries from *The Irish Times* January 5th, 1919, *The Lancet* Vol. 4 1919 February 15th, 1919 and (later identified) *The British Medical Journal*, 1919 March 112; 1, p. 221). In the course of the research these were identified as press cuttings from the Dr Kirkpatrick archive currently held in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, 6 Meath Street, Dublin. The only other written information received was a hand written part transcription of an article on Patrick Reilly published in the *Irish Times* of January 12th, 1919 (attached).

Although the above sources contained quite an amount of information about the professional life of Patrick, these sources threw little light on his personal life and background, the only information received in this regard was that he was said to have 'married a wife from Holland and had one son and two daughters'.

The emphasis for this research was to clarify information already known about Patrick Reilly and establish, in as much as is possible, a more reliable account of his personal and professional life.

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Patrick Reilly (1839 - 1919).

Patrick Reilly, Lieutenant Colonel and medical doctor, was born on 17th December 1839¹. He was the fourth eldest of eight children born to Laurence (occ. sp. Lawrence) and Mary Reilly, his siblings being Anne (b. 1833), John (b. 1836), Mary or Henry (b. 1838), Honoria (b.1842), James (b. 1843), Laurence (b. 1844) and Joseph (b. 1845) all of whom, including Patrick, were baptised in the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Thomas's, Diocese of Dublin².

Patrick was raised in Great Charles Street³ (now Belvedere Street) on the north side of Dublin and he received his early education at nearby Belvedere College⁴, a boys Catholic school established in 1832 by the Society of Jesus better known as the Jesuits; he spent his last year in secondary education as a boarder at Clongowes Wood College, near Clane, Co. Meath, also run by the Jesuits⁵.

After leaving school Patrick entered TCD in October 1858 aged 17 years where he began a four year undergraduate course working towards a BA (in subjects such as Mathematics, Classics, History and Literature) and an MB (Bachelor of Medicine) both of which he obtained in the winter of 1862⁶. During his time as a student in T.C.D. and until he joined the British Army in the mid 1860's, he obtained several medical qualifications in both Ireland and England⁷.

In 1866 Patrick joined the Indian Medical Service (I.M.S) where he served with the Central Indian Brigade for 13 years. He went on to become a Surgeon-Major and during the Second Anglo-Afghan war c. 1878-1880 he took part in Sir George Wright's famous march from Kabul to Kandahar in August 1879.

After the war Patrick went into civil practice and held the position of Resident Surgeon at the charitable hospital at Madras, India, for c. fifteen years (*ibid.*). Throughout the 1880's and 1890's he published several papers in *The Lancet* and *The Indian Medical Gazette* on his innovative medical practices and his published works culminated in the publication of two books, the first in 1886 entitled 'Indian Medicine' and the second in 1890 entitled "Indian Medicine for Children with a Description of Recent

¹ The Irish Times, Jan. 2th, 1919.

² NLI Bap. Rec. R.C.Parish St.Thomas's, P.9154.

³The exact no. in Gt. Charles St. is unclear. The earliest source consulted Grif. Val. 1854 (www.askaboutireland.ie) gives Patrick Reilly's father Laurence's add. as no. 43. In 1857 when Patrick entered Clongowes Wood, his father's add. was recorded as no. 41 (email:mdoyle@clongowes.net). In 1864, Laurence's son John is living in no. 43 with his wife when their first child Mary Elena is born (b. cert GRO Dublin North, Vol. 12, p. 576 Ref. from IGI www.familysearch.org) and he is still living there in 1878 when his eight child is born (GRO b. cert. Vol. 4, p. 660). In 1866 Patrick Reilly is registered in The Medical Directory at an add at no. 32 Gt Charles St.

⁴ Obit. The Irish Times, Jan. 7th, 1919; The Brit. Med. J. Mar. 12th, p. 355, 1919.

⁵ mdoyle@clongowes.net

⁶ lockhara@tcd.ie

⁷ Obit. The Irish Times, Jan 7th, 1919; The Brit. Med. J. Mar. 12th, p.355, 1919.

Improvements'. While in India it is thought that he married a German woman by the name of Barbel Gunt and had one son and two daughters⁸. His son is thought also to have been called Patrick Reilly and was a Captain in the Indian Army before moving to Chicago, U.S.A⁹.

Patrick Reilly retired from the Indian Medical Service in 1894¹⁰. Where he resided in the years after he retired is unclear; although it is mentioned in his obituary in *The Lancet*, Feb. 6th, 1919 that he passed the latter years of his life in Ireland, little record of this could be found.

Shortly after his 79th birthday Patrick Reilly died (January 4st, 1919) from Pylelites Pneumonia at his home in Seagrove, Dalkey, Co. Dublin with his wife B. Gunt present at his death¹¹. His funeral mass was held in St Mary's church, Ranelagh Road¹² close to St Brendan's Road and to no. 15, a house which had a long association with the Reilly family.¹³ He is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery¹⁴ alongside his younger brother James who predeceased him by 32 years and several other members of the extended Reilly family.¹⁵

Abbreviations

NLI: National Library of Ireland

Grif. Val: Griffiths Primary Valuation c.1847-1864

IGI: International Genealogical Index

GRO: General Register Office

RCPI: Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

⁸ No reliable record had been found in regard to his marriage date, where it took place or the full name of his wife. (However, no research on sources connected with his life in India have been consulted). The Brit. Med. J. Mar. 12th, 1919 Obit. stated that he had one son and two daughters, this was also stated (and probably copied from the earlier Obit.) in The Irish Times, Jan. 7th, 1919. His death cert. noted that his wife B. Gunt was present at his death.

⁹ 1919 Events of the year from Chicago Daily News. Marriage Notice: Captain Indian Army, only son of the late Col. Patrick Reilly of Dublin, and Mrs Reilly. Dublin papers please copy.

¹⁰ Obit. The Irish Times, Jan. 7th, 1919; Obit. The Brit. Med. J. Mar. 112th, 1919, p. 355.

¹¹ Death cert. GRO. (Ref. Vol. 4, p. 347 from www.familysearch.org). Copy attached.

¹² Death notice The Irish Times, Jan. 2nd, 1919.

¹³ Several different records, i.e. 1911 Census online (www.census.nationalarchives.ie)/death certs./burial records (www.glasnevintrust.ie), various Reilly family members give this house as their last address.

¹⁴ Death notice The Irish Times, Jan. 2nd, 1920.

¹⁵ www.glasnevintrust.ie. Patrick Reilly is buried in Section: St. Bridget's; Figure: 44; Letter BH, along with five others, four of whom are Reilly family members. On visiting the grave, it was noticed that at least nine names were listed on the headstone. A computer check in the Cemetery Museum Reception (not possible to search by grave no. on a home computer) discovered that this was a double grave and an additional four members of the Reilly family were discovered to have been buried in Grave no. 44.5.