

# 2021

Story by Colleen Hickey

## Michael Hickey's Journey to Australia



O'Rourke's Tower and a ruined church and abbey at Clonmacnoise, County Offaly, Ireland



*It started with a simple question – “when did your parents migrate to Australia?” As I did not know the answer concerning my father (or did anyone else I asked), it prompted me to learn more about my father and his migration from the green fields of Offaly Ireland to Australia.*

## Michael Hickey (born 04/08/1929) – Offaly Ireland



Michael Hickey my father was born in **Fahy Ballyburly Co. Offaly Ireland on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1929**. He was from a very large country family and was one of 15 siblings (one lived for less than a year). His family tree is provided on the following page. At school, I had to ask for extra paper when drawing up my family tree. My mother (from Co. Antrim) was also from a very large family and it was a challenge for me to remember the names of all my relatives in my younger years at school. I have close to 80 cousins.

Our family visited Ireland on numerous occasions. Our first trip to Ireland was in 1977 (in winter), but that trip was without Dad. My sister and I saw snow for the first time. On another family trip in 1990 (in summer), Dad visited Ireland for the first and only time since leaving.

Below are pictures of Dad's parents Margaret and Michael with snow at their feet. To the right are pictures of **some** of his siblings (the ones that I have – any updates are welcome). I remember when Dad wrote letters to his family, he would always start by discussing the weather and would talk a lot about sports and family life in Sydney Australia. He would write really small and covered every single piece of space on his letters. I imagine the recipients would have appreciated his efforts of keeping in touch and they did respond with their own letters.

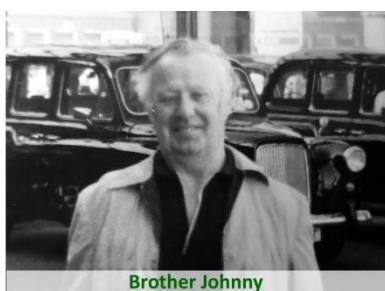


The house shown to the left is where Dad was raised. His Aunt Rose also lived in the house with the family. What a beautiful cottage.

Dad was very fond of sports and was so proud that one of Josephine's sons was a very talented Irish Gaelic footballer. His nephew's league and championship career with the Offaly senior team spanned eighteen seasons from 1976 to 1992.



Parents Margaret & Michael Hickey



Brother Johnny



Sister Moll



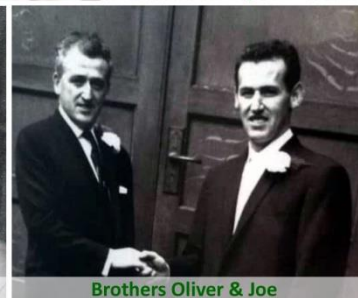
Sister Josephine



Brother Christy



Sister Patsy



Brothers Oliver & Joe

The Hickey family grave (Rhode Graveyard):

<https://www.irishgraveyards.ie/plot.php?plotno=305&yardid=542&section=B>

# Hickey Family Tree

POSITION	NAME	CHILDREN	NEXT GENERATION	POSITION	NAME	CHILDREN	NEXT GENERATION
1/14	Brigid Hickey 1922			6/14	Michael Hickey 1929	 Colleen Shannon	0 4
2/14	Johnny Hickey 1924	 Michael John Jim	3 0 2	7/14	Christy Hickey 1930		
3/14	Jimmy Hickey 1925	 Michael Rita Nora Joan Carmel Fionnualla Kieran Vincent Paul	0 3 2 1 2 0 0 2 0	8/14	Rosaleen Hickey 1932	 Joe	2
4/14	Mary Butler 1927 Nickname: Moll	 Frank Helen Gerard Mary Teresa Ann	0 0 2 2 2 2	9/14	Angela Conlan 1933	 Margaret Jodie Frankie	7 0 0
5/14	Josephine Mooney 1928	 Thomas Marie Breda Sylvia John Anne Patricia	0 2 4 1 3 1 3	10/14	Patsy Kane 1936	 Geraldine Michael	3 1
				11/14	Teresa Doorey 1937	 Anthony Pauline Annie	2 3 2
				12/14	Oliver Hickey 1938	 Oliver Siobhain	0 1
				13/14	Joe Hickey 1940	 Jackie Adrian	4 2
				14/14	Frances Mahon 1942	 Paul Brendan David	3 2 2
				#15 sibling A sibling named Noel Christopher (born 1935? after Angela), died aged about 9 months (had been sick for a while before he died)			
Family Tree provided by Dublin cousin				HICKEY FAMILY TREE PARENTS - MARGARET & MICHAEL HICKEY			



## Dad's Journey to Australia

Someone asked me very recently “when did your parents migrate to Australia?”. I could not answer this question regarding my father.

Dad was a quiet and private person and he was the only member of his family to migrate to Australia. So I thought I would do a bit of research.

I started by asking my overseas cousins a few questions, which helped me gather information. Some of my father's remaining sisters and sister-in-law also provided a few interesting stories.



I learnt that Ireland in the 1950s was very poor and there were few jobs available. So many people had little other option but to migrate to other countries, or to move to more prosperous parts of Ireland. My cousin in Offaly provided me further details about Ireland being an emerging state in the 1950s and his story is included in the DOCUMENTS section at the end.

A few of Dad's family spent some time working in England, in places like Manchester and Sheffield. Some however did return to Offaly after having their families. Dad's older brother Johnny remained in Sheffield England and his sister Moll settled in Dublin. I imagine that many of their extended families still live in Sheffield and Dublin respectively.



**Dad at Coogee Beach in Sydney Australia**

In our younger years, our family were so glad to have spent a large part of the year going to Coogee Beach on Sundays

Other than the information and stories from the overseas relatives, my best sources of information were the following:

1. **National Archives of Australia** website (<https://www.naa.gov.au/>) - the first search
2. **SS Asturias** ship website (<http://www.ssasturias.net/>)
3. **Ancestry** website - free access via my library


Vicki Doherty was the contact person for the **SS Asturias** ship website. She was so helpful and also provided me with the passenger list for my Dad's journey.

Vicki told me that her father came to Australia as a 17 year old, but he was always a bit unsure about the actual date. One day she went to the archives and looked through **old microfiche reels**, until she found the passenger list with her father's name on it. She was so excited! From that, she thought maybe other people might be interested in the Asturias ship – she reported there was absolutely nothing on the internet. So she developed the little website which grew with contributions. She gave me permission to use some content from her website.

Below I tell the story of my father's travel to Australia, how he spent his time **before meeting Mum at the Gaelic Club in Sydney in 1964** and then married life in this sunny country, where he settled in Sydney. Much of the earlier details were previously unknown to me.

## NAA Arrival Records

The original search I did to find details of my father's arrival in Australia was on the NAA website. I was surprised to discover so much detailed information was available online. Here I first discovered that Dad travelled to Australia with his friend Paddy McNamee at **age 22 (my mother in comparison was 38 when she migrated in Australia)**.



# RecordSearch

Login

HelpRecordSearch ForumView previous searches

Basic searchAdvanced searchNameSearchPhotoSearchPassenger arrivalsNewly scanned records

Item detailsWelcome guest

New searchRefine search

⏮⏪⏩⏭


Displaying 9 of 9

☐List report☒Details report

Item details for: MP195/1, 1953/38/1032/HICKEY MRequest copy

Title	Hickey, Michael born 1929 - arrived Melbourne per SS ASTURIAS 27 June 1952
Contents date range	1951 - 1951
Series number	<a href="#">MP195/1</a> Click to see which government agency or person created this item.
Control symbol	1953/38/1032/HICKEY M
Citation	NAA: MP195/1, 1953/38/1032/HICKEY M
Item ID	32838305
Location	Melbourne

And Patrick (Paddy) McNamee on the same ship and date:



# RecordSearch

Login

HelpRecordSearch ForumView previous searches

Basic searchAdvanced searchNameSearchPhotoSearchPassenger arrivalsNewly scanned records

Item detailsWelcome guest

New searchRefine search

⏮⏪⏩⏭

Displaying 2 of 2

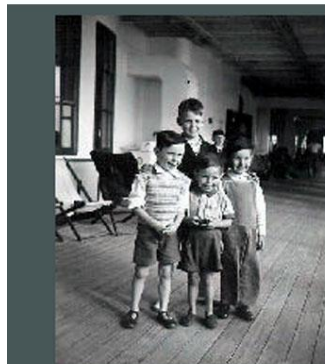
☐List report☒Details report

Item details for: MP195/1, 1953/38/1032/MCNAMEE PRequest copy

Title	McNamee, Patrick born 1927 - arrived Melbourne per SS ASTURIAS 27 June 1952
Contents date range	1951 - 1951
Series number	<a href="#">MP195/1</a> Click to see which government agency or person created this item.
Control symbol	1953/38/1032/MCNAMEE P
Citation	NAA: MP195/1, 1953/38/1032/MCNAMEE P
Item ID	32838338
Location	Melbourne



## 1952 May 28 – Travel on SS Asturias (Southampton England to Melbourne Australia via Suez Canal)



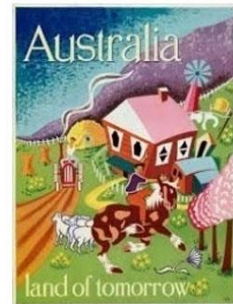
Michael (R) and friends



On Deck



Tom & Millie, Foredeck



High Seas



Wash Day



Tropics

BREAKFAST		
Compo of Fruit		
Breakfast Cereal		
Flaked Oats		
Fried Egg		
Wiltshire Bacon		
Turned Scones	Fresh Rolls	
Tea	Preserves	Coffee
LUNCHEON		
Scotch Broth		
Spaghetti aux Tomates		
Corned Silverside of Beef		
Haricot Panaché		
Mashed Potatoes		
COLD :-		
Assorted Cold Meats		
Salad in Season		
Compo of Rhubarb & Custard		
Fresh Fruit		
Coffee		
S.S. "ASTURIAS" Tuesday, December 20, 1949		



Entering Suez Canal



The park in Aden



Leaving Aden



Colombo

All images from <http://www.ssasturias.net>

## SS Asturias Stories

The SS Asturias ship was at action during WW2 and was crippled by a torpedo in 1943. After being restored in Belfast, **she made 24 trips to Australia**, carrying more than 30,000 migrants between **1946 and 1952**. Many migrants came under an assisted passage scheme, which cost £10 for adults to travel to Australia and was free for children. Many people left UK for Australia following WW2.

The trip from the UK to Australia when SS Asturias served as a 'migrant ship' took approximately **4 weeks**.

The route from Southampton varied, with some voyages via Malta, the Suez Canal, Aden and Colombo and others via Karachi and Bombay. **Dad and Paddy took the first route**. The images above will hopefully give a taste of the voyage.

After **September 1952**, she was commissioned as a troop ship and before being **decommissioned in September 1957**, she was used for scenes in the film **A Night to Remember**, the first film about the sinking of the Titanic.

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As Dad and Paddy **left Southampton on May 1952**, I found two stories from the website page <http://www.ssasturias.net/passengerstories.html> that I thought were interesting and relevant.

### Story 1 from ship – **March 1952** travel by the Tubb Family

**A shortened version:** The ship stopped at Malta, Port Said, Aden, Colombo, Freemantle, Melbourne Sydney. They were amazed at the colourful bazaars, camels pulling carts, bright coloured clothing and also the poverty and smell of the backstreets of some ports.

### Story 2 from ship – **May 1952** travel by the Scarlett Family (same voyage as Dad and Paddy)

In May 1952, Robert and Mary Scarlett came out to Australia along with their two children Maureen aged 9 (the writer of this little story) my brother John aged 5 and my dad's widowed Mam Mary Scarlett - our grandmother. We came under the 10 pound Pom scheme (only my parents were Irish).

For us kids it was an amazing time. We stopped in the harbour of Malta and I remember how very, very bright everything was - the sea, the rocks, the houses. I guess it was the stark contrast to dark old coal burning England in Rockferry where we had lived.

The ship broke down in the Suez Canal. We saw hundreds of flying fish. A lovely lady in Colombo whose husband was working there for the British Government stopped in her car and took us around to many sites and to her home for afternoon tea.

Crossing the equator made our cabins so hot and many families took their mattresses up on deck like us. We saw whales off the Western Australian coast going north to give birth. It was an amazing education for kids. My Dad in particular thoroughly enjoyed the journey as he was in the Royal Navy for 12 years before and after the war. Mum I'm sure enjoyed the rest and free from the worry of Ration Books. Our dining room steward always kept us back and gave us kids extra deserts. Anyway, we settled in Geelong and my brother eventually played football for the great Geelong Football Club, as did his son Matthew Scarlett. The greatest fullback ever in the history of the AFL. A legend. Liverpool Football Club's greatest loss!

Written by Maureen Scarlett



## 1952 to 1964 – Travel and work around Australia

Dad and Paddy arrived in **Melbourne on June 27 1952**.



Above are some of the few photos we have of Dad as a younger man. I try to imagine where he was and the type of worker's camp he may have been located at in Australia. Are they dressed in their Sunday best clothes? My father worked in various locations about Australia for **12 years**, before he met my mother and **settled in Sydney (1964)**. Below is what I heard about my father's work. These accounts are from relatives of my father, my mother and family friends.

### VIC - Railways

My father and Paddy disembarked the ship in Melbourne. According to relatives in England, they remember reports of them being busy working on the railways after first immigrating to Australia. The Victorian Railways did employ a lot of migrants and so too did car factories and other industries.

Paddy eventually returned to England after working in Australia for the minimum period and he was the best man at my father's brother's (Johnny) wedding in Sheffield England. Johnny married Edna who is still alive and is aged 101.



## QLD - Mt Isa

I always thought it was glamorous that my father worked in Mt Isa, such a remote location known for its red dust, spinifex and heatwaves. According to the **1958 Electoral Rolls** shown in the DOCUMENTS section at the end, my father was working as a greaser in **Mt Isa** and was based in the **Star Gully Barracks**.

The *Holden FJ* series (the car in the first image above: **QLD plate NCB 542**) was a range of motor vehicles produced in Australia by *Holden* from **1953 to 1956**.

Mt Isa Mines operates the **copper, lead, zinc and silver** mines near Mt Isa. This business has made a significant contribution to the growth and economic prosperity of Queensland and for a brief period in 1980, the mine was Australia's largest company. In 1958, there was a new dam constructed on the Leichhardt River to supply water to Mount Isa and for the operation of the mines.



Overlooking Mt Isa Mine site – 1958 (image from [bonzle](#)); lead ore was discovered at Mount Isa in 1923 by prospector John Campbell Miles and the mines became established in January 1924

## NSW - Snowy Mountains

Like many other migrants, my father worked on the Snowy Scheme. A contact from the 'Snowy Scheme Museum, Adaminaby NSW' informed that it was likely that workers were based in Cooma or in one of the construction camps. She thought that some of the pictures above of my father could have been taken in the Snowy Mountains. The people certainly looked dressed for the cold.

The Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme had a construction period from **1949 - 1974**. This scheme is a hydroelectricity and irrigation complex in South-East Australia and as well as being the largest engineering project in Australia. It also provided work for many migrants coming to Australia after WW2. The water of the Snowy River (and some tributaries) is captured at high elevation and diverted inland to the **Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers** irrigation area.



Map of the scheme and the irrigation areas - Murray & Murrumbidgee Rivers (image from [NMA](#))

## ACT - Lake Burley Griffin

The Lake Burley Griffin project in Canberra was other work that my father did in Australia. My mother described my father as digging out the ground for the lake.

The construction of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra was delayed by the two world wars. But construction was fast once it began. Construction of the Scrivener Dam (named after surveyor Charles Scrivener) began in **September 1960**. The dam was designed to stop the flow of the Molonglo River that was running through the centre of Canberra and to trap the water in Lake Burley Griffin. The Molonglo floodplain was cleared of vegetation. Two bridges over the lake were constructed in 1960 (Kings) and 1961 (Commonwealth). Scrivener Dam was completed in 1963 during a long drought, but it took until **April 1964** for the lake to reach its planned capacity after heavy rain.



Canberrans flock to see the just completed Scrivener Dam in 1963 from which Lake Burley Griffin was created (image from [Canberra Times](#))



Out of all these above locations, Lake Burley Griffin is the most familiar to me. I have often attended the Floriade Festival in Canberra in Spring. Due to pandemic restrictions, the **2020 Floriade Festival** was not in its usual fixed location. Instead, one million bulbs and annuals were planted by the Floriade horticulture team and Canberra community groups, creating a tulip trail throughout the city and suburbs. There were many beautiful flower displays we got to enjoy whilst cycling around the lake. I reflected on the work my father would have done.



Lake Burley Griffin in 1964 when it was still being filled (image from [Canberra Times](#))



## 1960 to 1964 – Immigration of the future inlaws – the McAleese clan

By **1964**, half of the McAleese siblings (six of twelve – including Kathleen, Dad's wife to be) had migrated to Australia. All except for Charles (Charlie) and John had come via ship. Four other siblings remained in Ireland and two others settled in England.

Year	Family Immigration Details	
1952	<b>Michael Hickey &amp; Paddy McNamee</b>  Travelled per <b>ASTURIAS</b> departing Southampton on 28 May 1952; arrived Melbourne 27 June 1952	
1960		<b>Alex &amp; Betty McAleese &amp; 4 children</b>  Travelled per <b>ARCADIA</b> departing Tilbury on 31 May 1960; arrived June 1960  May have lived in VIC initially, but settled in WA; Alex has lived in Leonora, Kalgoorlie, Esperance and now Collie in WA; Alex is the only sibling of Mum who is still alive (almost 90)
1961		<b>Francis McAleese</b>  Travelled per <b>LAKEMBA</b> departing Victoria B.C. Canada; arrived Sydney 19 March 1961  Frank was in <b>Canada</b> from the early 1950s to 1961; this picture is from <b>May 1955</b> ; Shannon has a letter sent to Frank in Canada from his mother (just before she died – in 1954)
1963		<b>Ellen McKenna (nee McAleese) &amp; Kathleen Hickey (nee McAleese)</b>  Travelled per <b>STRATHMORE</b> departing UK on 20 June 1963; arrived Sydney 25 July 1963  Ellen spent some time in <b>New Zealand</b> and gave birth to her second child there
1964		<b>Charles &amp; John McAleese</b>  Travelled per <b>AIRCRAFT</b> ; arrived Sydney 5 February 1964  Charlie & John lived in Frank's home in Paddington and a few others stayed for shorter periods with Frank e.g. Kathleen, Ellen, James, Eddie, Austin

Ship travellers were assisted by the [Assisted Passage Migration Scheme](#) (known as the Ten Pound Poms)



## 1964 – Meeting Kathleen



Mum and Dad met at the **Gaelic Club in Sydney during 1964**. Dad had been in Australia for 12 years then, but had likely not been long in Sydney. Mum was living with her brother Frank at the time in Paddington. They got married one year later on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1965. Mum was 40 years old and Dad was 36. Mum and Dad enjoyed their **honeymoon at the Jenolan Caves**. Three children followed with Michael in 1966, Colleen in 1967 and Shannon in 1968. Michael only lived for two days.

My mother was very caring and social and Mum and Dad supported many people visiting from Ireland. My mother loved running **BBQs** and invited many people.

My mother kept in touch with Dad's family by ringing his sister Patsy on a fairly regular basis. Her phone was a window to the world. People in Ireland said that Mum knew the news in Ireland before even they did. Dad was more of a letter writer.



Dad on his work site during the early 1970s teaching his young daughters a few driving techniques.



Dad had a passion for the yearly St Patrick's Day parade held in Sydney (this one was 2003). Even in a wheelchair. Mum was always active organising floats for her county Antrim (or neighbouring county).

What I most enjoyed about my childhood (and that my father made possible), was our Sunday visits to **Coogee Beach** in Sydney when it was warm enough (usually for 9 months of the year). Dad was passionate in his swimming. The other adults preferred to talk on the sand. He really powered through his swimming, in the small pool at Coogee.

I would describe my father as having a strong work ethic and he was extremely determined, honest, but a very private person. He did not speak badly of other people and never wasted a single cent of money. He enjoyed raking leaves in the garden, generally keeping active and was always crazy about both Irish and Australian sports. He followed the **NRL in Australia**. He also enjoyed reading, both the newspaper and other books. He was famous for asking visitors to make him **TEA AND TWO TOASTS** as he relaxed in his kitchen. He was also a passionate **Connect 4** game player.

## 1990 – Dad’s visit back to Ireland



**Dublin Wedding**

From left to right: Edna, Margaret, Sheila, Johnny, Michael (Jimmy’s son), Oliver, Teresa, Michael (Dad), Patsy, Joe, Frank (Moll’s son) and Kathleen (Mum)

In 1990, Dad returned to Ireland for the first and only time since leaving. We were warmly welcomed by a lot of the family at the airport. In Dublin, we were lucky enough to attend a wedding of Moll’s daughter.



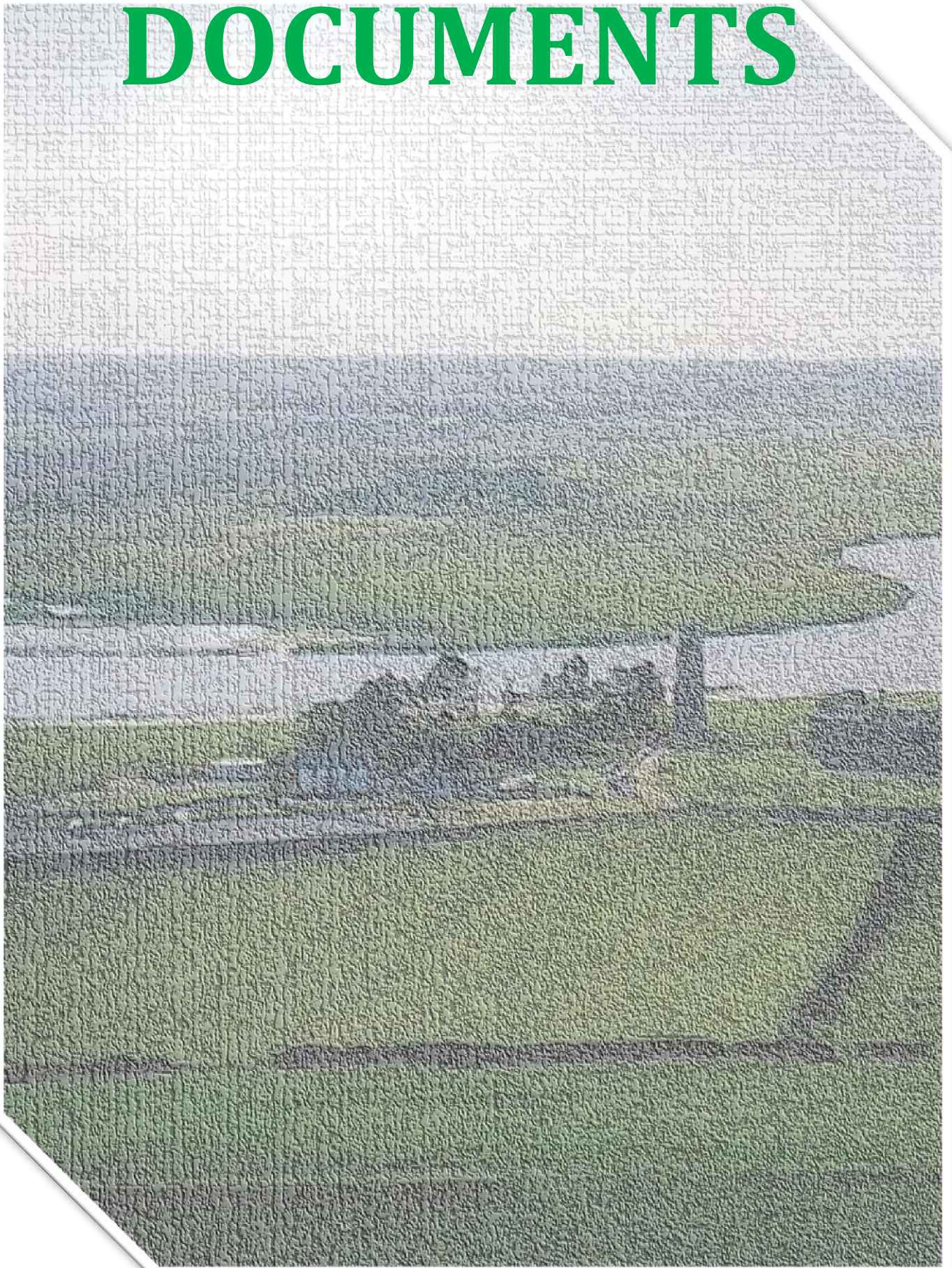
As well as getting to know the relatives better, our trip involved scenic tours, early morning donkey rides and a few games of Connect 4 of course. Dad is playing here with his sister Teresa.

**Clonmacnoise**, shown in the image to the top left above (a popular tourist spot in Offaly), is a sixth century monastic site, located on the banks of the **River Shannon**. It is home to three high crosses, a cathedral, seven churches and two round towers.

Dad stayed in the house he was brought up in and we enjoyed many nights of singing together.



# DOCUMENTS





# 1901 & 1911 Census of Ireland

## CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

### FORM A.

No. on Form B. 15

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

NAME AND SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
John Hickey	Head	R <sup>n</sup> Catholic	Cannot Read	44	M	Labourer	married	King's Co.		
Bridget Hickey	wife	R <sup>n</sup> Catholic	Read & Write	48	F	Labourer's wife	married	King's Co.		
Dora Hickey	daughter	R <sup>n</sup> Catholic	Read & Write	18	F	Labourer's daughter	not married	King's Co.		
Katie Hickey	daughter	R <sup>n</sup> Catholic	Read & Write	14	F	Labourer's daughter	not married	King's Co.		
Leggie Hickey	daughter	R <sup>n</sup> Catholic	Read & Write	12	F	Scholar	not married	King's Co.		
Bridget Hickey	daughter	R <sup>n</sup> Catholic	Read & Write	10	F	Scholar	not married	King's Co.		
Michael Hickey	son	R <sup>n</sup> Catholic	Read & Write	7	M	Scholar	not married	King's Co.		

1 - John Hickey is the grandfather of Michael Hickey (born 1929)  
 2 - Bridget Hickey is the grandmother of Michael Hickey (born 1929)  
 7 - Michael Hickey (born 1893) is the father of Michael Hickey (born 1929)  
 Ireland was under British rule at the time and Co. Offaly was then known as King's county  
 Census documents provided by Offaly cousin

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic., cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

John Gallagher, Enumerator. (Signature of Enumerator.)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

John Hickey, Head of Family. (Signature of Head of Family.)

## CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.

Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

### FORM A.

No. on Form B. 13

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

NAME AND SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
John Hickey	Head	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	54 years	Labourer	Married	King's County	English	
Bridget Hickey	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	53 years	Labourer's wife	Married	King's County	English	
Bridget Hickey	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	31 years	Labourer's daughter	Married	King's County	English	
Michael Hickey	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	17 years	Labourer	Single	King's County	English	

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII., and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Henry Lacey, Enumerator. (Signature of Enumerator.)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

John Hickey, Head of Family. (Signature of Head of Family.)



## 1952 May 6 - Document of Identity

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION  
AUSTRALIA HOUSE  
LONDON

No 89618

6th May, 1952.

**Document of Identity**

This Document is issued in lieu of a Passport to

**Michael HICKEY**

for travel to Australia as an approved migrant accompanied by his  
~~wife~~ and children as specified on the back hereof.

**DESCRIPTION**

BEARER

NATIONALITY	Irish	
Place of Birth	Fahy, Co. Offaly	
Date of Birth	11.8.1929	11.8.1929
Height	5'10"	1.81m
Colour of Eyes	Blue	BLUE
Colour of Hair	Brown	Brown
Visible Distinguishing Marks	—	NONE
Weight	12.7	12.7

SPECIMEN SIGNATURE

*Michael Hickey*

*W. J. O'Farrell*  
Chief Migration Officer.

This document is valid for a single journey only and must be surrendered to the Immigration Authorities at the Port of Disembarkation in Australia.

**My Offaly cousin was kind enough to provide this information:**

At the time of the 1901 and 1911 Census, the Hickey homestead was at Clonmore, obviously living on the land where Uncle Oliver built his house. What they were living on would be a very poor living for a family.

Then sometime in the 1920s, our grandfather got married and moved from there to Ballyburley. At that time there was a state company called 'The Land Commission' whose function was to acquire land from the British Landlords who lived here and owned most of the land at the time. The local landlord in Ballyburley was the Wakeley family who lived almost directly across the road from the Hickey household in Ballyburley. The Wakeley family probably owned over a thousand acres of land in the area. This land was acquired by the L.C. and divided into smaller farms and given to local people to farm. Obviously our grandfather was seen as a suitable recipient of some land and consequently he was given the land at Ballyburley and that is where our respective backgrounds began in the 1920s.

**Ireland in the 1950s was an emerging state**, after gaining independence in the 1920s and was very poor, very few jobs and not much prospect of the situation improving. Hence there was huge emigration from here, the Hickey family, including your Dad had little option but to leave.


Angela (my father's sister), recalls my father leaving Ireland sometime between **1950 to 1951** and was headed for England. Dad apparently called to her house on a bicycle to say goodbye, probably the night before he left to go to England. She thinks it was wintertime and fairly late at night, as she was in bed. He was on his way home from Edenderry from saying goodbye to some people that he was friendly with. This was quite common apparently, because Edenderry was the only area in close distance with a sizeable population and people from rural areas would go there regularly.

Dad mentioned to her that Paddy McNamee was also emigrating with him. As far as she is aware, both Dad and Paddy worked in England for a while before going to Australia.

Paddy McNamee (who apparently was not related to the Hickey family) and Dad went to Ballybryan National School together and probably were in the same classroom, as the numbers in each class would have been quite small due to the rural location. It was common in such circumstances to group a couple of classes in the same classroom and have the same teacher.



# 1952 May 28 - SS Asturias Passenger List



Nav. (Passenger) Reg.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Navigation Act.

Page No. 1

Form P.-2.

(Amended.)

## PASSENGER LIST—INCOMING PASSENGERS.

Return of Passengers Brought to the Port of FREMANTLE from Places Outside Australia.

(To be furnished in Triplicate.)

Name of Ship.	Official Number.	(a) Port of Registry. (b) Ownership.	Master's Name.	Tonnage— (a) Gross. (b) Net.	Date of Arrival.	Voyage.
"ASTURIAS"	148146	(a) Belfast Owners: H.B.M. Government (b) Managers: Royal Mail Lines, Ltd	P.M. BURRELL	(a) 22444.90 (b) 12702.91		Southampton, Malta, From Port Said & Colombo To Fremantle, Melbourne & Sydney.

On 28<sup>th</sup> May 1952, my father Michael Hickey and friend Patrick McNamee were embarking on their voyage to Australia via **Malta, Port Said (Egypt) and Colombo (Sri Lanka)**. They left the ship at **Melbourne**.

S.S. " ASTURIAS "

LIST OF PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT SOUTHAMPTON ON 28TH MAY, 1952.

VOYAGE 127/27 (OUTWARDS).

GRADE "A" FOR MELBOURNE.

No.

Berth No.

Name.

Age.

Occupation.

Address in Australia.

PAGE NO. 12.

422

164

HEATHCOTE

Mr George

31

Coal Mining

c/o Immigration Dept., Melbourne.

423

157

"

Mrs Ivy

27

Housewife

-do-

424

162

"

Mstr Kevan

7

-

-do-

425

159

"

Mstr Barry

5

-

-do-

426

1501

HICKEY

Mr Michael

22

labourer

-do-

427

1294

HICKIE

Mr Maurice

29

Crane Driver

-do-

428

166

HICKS

Mr Thomas James

35

Factory Worker

-do-

429

161

"

Mrs Marie Agnes

36

Housewife

-do-

430

163

"

Miss Linda Marian

4

-

-do-

431

542

HILL

Mrs Edith Maud

74

Domestic

-do-

432

617

HILL

Mr James William

31

Coal Cutter Operator

-do-

433

619

"

Mrs Florence Kate

28

Housewife

-do-

434

620

"

Miss Loraine Barbara

8

-

-do-

435

623

"

Miss Christine Lilian

6

-

-do-

436

625

"

Miss Donna Katrina

3

-

-do-

437

COT

"

Miss Vivienne Lesley

8m

-

-do-

PAGE NO. 18.

664

677

McMANUS

Mr Lawrence

35

Brick Worker

c/o Immigration Dept., Melbourne, Victoria.

665

679

"

Mrs Elizabeth

27

Housewife

-do-

666

681

"

Mstr Ian

6

-

-do-

667

683

"

Miss Maureen

3

-

-do-

668

COT

"

Mstr Edward

1

-

-do-

669

1330

McMILLAN

Mr Arthur Douglas

29

Driver

-do-

670

420

McMCNAGLE

Miss Josephine

22

Shop Assistant

-do-

671

1503

McNAMEE

Mr Patrick

25

Labourer

-do-

672

1332

McNULTY

Mr Desmond Anthony

23

Truck Driver

-do-

673

1519

McTERNAN

Mr Frederick

26

Warehouseman

-do-

674

422

MACKINNON

Miss Annabella

27

Nurse

-do-

675

1305

NELSON

Mr James

25

Fitter

-do-

SUMMARY OF PASSENGERS.

NUMBER OF ADULTS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN  
1 to 12 YEARS

NUMBER OF INFANTS

TOTAL MALES

TOTAL FEMALES

GRAND TOTAL

MALES

FEMALES

MALES

FEMALES

MALES

FEMALES

427

262

135

125

6

8

628

395

1023

There were just over 1000 passengers on board, with many more men on board.



## Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980 (Ancestry)

Residence: 1958 - Mount Isa, Kennedy, Queensland, Australia

Division KENNEDY (Subdivision MOUNT ISA).

33

1901	Hermesen, Anthony, Barclay Downs Station, Camooweal, labourer, M
1902	Hewitt, Clayton, Camooweal, truck driver, M
1903	Hick, Mavis, 4 Fern st., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1904	Hickey, Arthur Jameson, Barracks C, Room 20, Star Gully, Mt. Isa, watchman, M
1905	Hickey, Denis Gerrard, "Kia Ora," 72 Camooweal st., Mt. Isa, flotation, atten., M
1906	Hickey, Michael, H20, Star Gully Barracks, Mt. Isa, greaser, M
1907	Hickey, Patrick Anthony, "Kia Ora," 72 Camooweal st., Mt. Isa, watchman, M
1908	Hicks, Cedric Howard, 9 Twenty-first ave., Mt. Isa motor mechanic, M
1909	Hicks, Edwin James, Mt. Isa Mines, Mt. Isa, blacksmith's striker, M
1910	Hicks, Honora, Coal Stage, Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1911	Higgins, James Francis, Pamela st., Mt. Isa, labourer, M
1912	Higgins, John Joseph, Pamela st., Mt. Isa, labourer, M
1913	Higgins, Thomas Travers, Pamela st., Mt. Isa, labourer, M
1914	Hill, Archibald Thomas, Barclay Downs, Camooweal, pumper, M
1915	Hill, Enid May Christine, 5 Ironbark st., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1916	Hill, Ethel Amy, Miles st., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1917	Hill, Herbert Thomas, Atherton st., Mt. Isa, labourer, M
1918	Hill, Marjorie, Simpson st., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1919	Hill, Thomas William, 5 Ironbark st., Mt. Isa, clerk, M
1920	Hill, William James, Simpson st., Mt. Isa, carrier, M
1921	Hilliard, Dorothy Jessie, Atherton st., Mt. Isa, barmaid, F
1922	Hilliard, Gordon Francis, Argent Hotel, Mt. Isa, labourer, M
1923	Hilliard, Selwyn Jack, Atherton st., Mt. Isa, labourer, M
1924	Hinder, Michael John, 13th ave., Mt. Isa, agent, M
1925	Hindmarsh, Stewart Andrew, Star Gully, Mt. Isa, miner, M
1926	Hindson, Alexander, Staff Mess, Mt. Isa Mines, shift boss, M
1927	Hird, Frederick James, Beaumont Station, Camooweal, drover, M
1928	Hiron, Francis Leslie, 10 Marshall st., Mt. Isa, plumber's assistant, M
1929	Hiron, George Edwin, West st., Mt. Isa, pipe fitter, M
1930	Hiron, Grace Elizabeth, 173 Camooweal st., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1931	Hiron, Grace Elizabeth, 10 Marshall st., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1932	Hiron, Mervyn Kerrod, 173 Camooweal st., Mt. Isa, miner, M
1933	Hiron, Neville John, 173 Camooweal st., Mt. Isa, contractor, M
1934	Hiron, Rita Hazel, West st., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1935	Hoare, Norma May, 10 Marian st., Mt. Isa, clerk, F
1936	Hoban, Maurice John, Camooweal st., Mt. Isa, fitter, M
1937	Hobarth, Frederick Joseph, Doreen st., Mt. Isa, crane-driver, M
1938	Hobl, Albert Leslie, 15 Kauri st., Mt. Isa, electrician, M
1939	Hobl, Catherine Sneddon, 15 Kauri st., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1940	Hockings, Florence Jean, West st., Mt. Isa, F
1941	Hodder, Iris Helen, 2 Hilton rd., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1942	Hodder, Kenneth Eli, 2 Hilton rd., Mt. Isa, miner, M
1943	Hodgetts, Joan Adelaide, 9 Fifth ave., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1944	Hodgetts, John Thomas, 9 Fifth ave., Mt. Isa, miner, M
1945	Hodgins, Florence Kathleen May, 2 Nigella st., Mt. Isa, shop assistant, F
1946	Hodgson, Daphne May, Cottage 78, Mt. Isa Mines, Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1947	Hodgson, Horace Edward, Cottage 78, Mt. Isa Mines, ball-mill operator, M
1948	Hodgson, Horace William, 7 Mines Flat, Marian st., Mt. Isa, electrician, M
1949	Hodgson, Leonard Bradley, 23B Coal Stage, Mt. Isa, clerk, M
1950	Hodgson, Mary Germain, General Office, Mt. Isa Mines, home duties, F
1951	Hoey, Edward Francis, Breakaway Creek, Mt. Isa, labourer, M
1952	Hofmeister, Victor Montgomery, Room 2, Barracks 6, Mt. Isa, crane driver, M
1953	Hogan, Ernest Patrick, Railway Quarters, Mt. Isa, engine driver, M
1954	Hogan, Jack, Barracks 10, Room 4, B.S.D., Mt. Isa, miner, M
1955	Hogan, Stuart Keith, Commonwealth Bank, Mt. Isa, bank clerk, M
1956	Hogarth, John, Duchess rd., Mt. Isa, electrician, M
1957	Hogarth, June Eileen, Duchess rd., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1958	Hogg, Daniel Arthur, Barracks G, Room 1, B.S.D., Mt. Isa, truck driver, M
1959	Hogg, Hope Laurel, 2 Acacia st., Mt. Isa, home duties, F
1960	Hogg, James Fletcher, Miles st., Mt. Isa, clerk, M

## Epilogue

This story would not have been possible without email correspondence from some very helpful cousins in Ireland and England and also some old family friends. My sister as usual has been fantastic with photos, has always been passionate about family history and often shares stories with relatives on Facebook. Communication has certainly moved on from the letter writing days.



Mum migrated to Australia with her sister Ellen when she was 38 years old (Ellen was 26). Mum had worked in Ireland for **18 years looking after a family of 7 children**, after their mother died giving birth to twins. She decided to come to Australia a few years after the youngest child Maraid turned 18.

This is Ellen having fun on the **Strathmore Ship** on her way to Australia in **1963**. Mum and Ellen said this was the best trip of their lifetime. Mum remembers the announcement of having crossed the Equator and she wondered why she did not feel the bump. A few people died during the voyage and were buried at sea.



Above is my father's sister-in-law **Edna** (wife of Johnny Hickey), who turned **101 in January 2021**. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, the family were not allowed to visit, but she received a lot of cards and gifts.



World travel has certainly changed since my father travelled to Australia by ship almost **70 years ago**. But as I write this story (**February 2021**), the world is still in the midst of a global pandemic. We have severe travel restrictions around the world, so we can only dream of our next travel destination. Colleen and Shannon have both enjoyed a few overseas trips. Colleen's longest trip away was to **South America** and Shannon's was to **Eritrea**.

When I visited Sheffield in 1990, I enjoyed listening to Edna playing some lovely tunes on the accordion. In 1952, she also recalls playing music at a dance, where it was announced that Michael and Paddy were shortly migrating to Australia.

### Suggested further reading: A major event in Ireland - Irish Famine

From **1845-1849**, there was a major famine in Ireland which left its mark for generations to follow. For those interested in Irish history, it would be worthwhile doing some research on this major event. The Irish population fell by 20–25% due to death (one million people) and emigration.