

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH REPORTS

COMPLETED OCTOBER 31, 2016

Regarding

JAMES NICKLE (1822 – 1904)

PREPARED BY THE ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

for

**SAMUEL WILLIAM AYLESWORTH
CALGARY, ALBERTA CANADA**

Summary comments:

- This research was commissioned to clarify the family history of James NICKLE. Related research was also undertaken regarding Agnes BLACK, and that material has been reorganized into a separate report. Agnes and James were the grandparents of Samuel Clarence NICKLE Sr., who married Gudrun Olga Mylada SIMONSON. This Samuel and Olga were the maternal grandparents of Samuel William AYLESWORTH. Thus, Agnes BLACK and James NICKLE were the great-great-grandparents of Samuel Wm. AYLESWORTH, his siblings and their Nickle-cousins.
- **James NICKLE (1822 – 1904)** was likely from County Armagh in Ireland, according to Nickle-family anecdotal history. Born in about 1822, he immigrate to Canada in about 1849. Prior to undertaking this research, nothing was known about the parents or siblings of this James NICKLE.
- We do not know if Agnes BLACK and James NICKLE knew one another before coming to Canada.
- **Agnes BLACK and James NICKLE married in Canada on April 16, 1855** in the township of Dumfries, Ontario, Canada. They later settled in the township of Zone, and eventually had a home in Thamesville, Ontario.

Table of contents:

- Transcribed Marriage Certificate, dated April 16, 1855
- "Preliminary Report," completed in April 2016
- "Final Report," completed in October 2016
- Conclusions: possible leads regarding the family of James NICKLE -- as detailed in the report.
- Maps of the Civil Parishes of County Armagh

Also see the separate report regarding Agnes BLACK.

I do hereby certify that on the
 sixteenth day of April in the
 year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty five
 James Nickle of the township of Dunfries
 and Agnes Black of Beverly were
 married by me Thomas Fawcett a
 Minister of the Wesleyan Methodist
 Church in Canada in the presence
 of George Black and Mary Ann Black
 which said marriage was solemnized
 by banns
 Witness my hand at St George
 April 16th A.D. 1855
 Thomas Fawcett
 Wesleyan Minister
 James Black
 Mary Ann Black

"I do hereby certify that on the sixteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five James Nickle of the township of Dunfries and Agnes Black of Beverly were married by me Thomas Fawcett a Minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada in the presence of George Black and Mary Ann Black which said marriage was solemnized by banns

Witnyss my hand at St George
 April 16th a.d. 1855
 Thomas Fawcett
 Wesleyan Minister

Witneyss
 James Black
 Mary ann Black"

Transcribed: April 10, 2005
 By Samuel William Aylesworth

Great-great grandson as: (1) James Nickle & Agnes (2) George Nickle & Martha Jane Stanton (3) Samuel Clarence Nickle & Gudrun Olga Mylada Simonson (4) Agnes Alice Nickle & Robert Wesley Aylesworth (5) Samuel William Aylesworth & Sharon Diane Parson

Email: salesworth@shaw.ca

UHF3/16/018

[Please quote reference on all correspondence]

Sam Aylesworth
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Canada

March 2016 - begun

April 2016 - completed

"PRELIMINARY REPORT"

Dear Sam,

Thank you for your preliminary assessment enquiry and payment of £35 Sterling. You have requested information on the feasibility of researching the family history of Agnes Black.

You were able to tell us that she was born about 1831 in County Down, possibly in Dromara. She emigrated between 1835 and 1849 and married James Nickle in 1855. He was born around 1820, possibly in County Armagh and emigrated in 1849. Agnes had at least four siblings – Mary Ann, Eliza Jane, Samuel and George.

Your objectives are to identify Black and Nickle family members.

Searching for Ulster ancestors is not without its difficulties. Civil registration of all births, deaths and marriages did not commence in Ireland until 1864. Non-Catholic marriages are registered from 1 April 1845. Before these dates one is dependent on local parish registers for information relating to family history.

There are no complete census records for Ireland prior to 1901. Earlier census records were almost completely destroyed, either accidentally or deliberately. There are also no official records of emigration prior to the late nineteenth century. It must also be realised that many records have not yet been digitised and must be manually checked in the archives.

The Ulster Historical Foundation has indexed virtually all civil marriage records for counties Antrim and Down, 1845-1921. It has also indexed nearly all pre-1900 Catholic records for the same area as well as a large number, but by no means a complete record, of Protestant records and civil births.

We examined this index but did not find anything relating to your ancestors.

One way of accessing births, marriages and deaths online is through the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF). The IFHF is the co-ordinating body for a network of county based genealogical research centres in Ireland. These centres are now making their records available online via an online research system which will allow you to search an index of records and pay to view a record. You can access these records at www.rootsireland.ie. We examined this database but did not find anything of relevance to your search.

We next turned to what can be described as an early nineteenth-century census of farmers. In 1823 the Composition Act was passed which stipulated that henceforth all tithes due to the Established Church, the Church of Ireland, were to be paid in money rather than in kind as they previously could have been. This necessitated a complete valuation of all tithable land in Ireland, the results of which are contained in manuscript form in the tithe applotment books

arranged by parish. Exemptions included landless labourers, urban dwellers and those living on Church land.

We examined this index first for Black entries in County Down. We found 67 entries in the following parishes:

NOTE ...

The information in this report about the BLACK-FAMILY has been reorganized into a separate report about AGNES BLACK.

SWA

We also carried out a similar search exercise using the title index for the surname Nickle. We found various spelling variations - Nichol, Nichole, Nicholl, Nickel, Nickle and Nicoll. The surname was found in the following parishes in what is now Northern Ireland:

• Portglenone, Antrim:	22
• Connor, Antrim:	6
• Drummaul, Antrim:	5
• Loughgilly, Armagh:	5
• Dunluce, Antrim:	4
• Ballymoney, Antrim:	3
• Galloon, Ferm:	3
• Desertoghill, L'derry:	3
• Desertmartin, L'derry:	2
• Dunboe, L'derry:	2
• Maghera, L'derry:	2
• Derrykeighan, Antrim:	2
• Bodoney Lower, Tyrone:	2
• Leckpatrick, Tyrone:	2
• Drumragh, Tyrone:	1
• Banagher, L'derry:	1
• Aghalurcher, Ferm:	1
• Billy, Antrim:	1
• Tullyniskan, Tyrone:	1
• Derryloran, Tyrone:	1
• Ardstraw, Tyrone:	1
• Ramoan, Antrim:	1
• Clonoe, Tyrone:	1
• Kilmore, Armagh:	1
• Donaghery, Tyrone:	1
• Aghadowey, L'derry:	1
• Tickmacrean, Antrim:	1
• Ballyclog, Tyrone:	1
• Ahoghill, Antrim:	1
• Drummully, Ferm:	1
• Loughgall, Armagh:	1

You have an indication that James Nickle may have come from County Armagh and we find that there were five Nickle entries in the parish of Loughgilly so it may be worth examining the Presbyterian registers for that parish as part of further research:

Mountnorris Presbyterian Church
Baptisms, 1810-48; marriages, 1804-27. [MIC1P/29]

Tullyallen Presbyterian Church
Baptisms, 1834-85 [MIC1P/29].
Baptisms, 1792-1834 [In local custody]

The Ulster Historical Foundation offers a comprehensive ancestral research service and would welcome the opportunity to carry out a more in-depth investigation on your behalf.

Our researchers make regular visits to the General Register Office in Belfast where birth, marriage and death records for Northern Ireland are available.

Research could also take place at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland where church registers, valuation records, wills, etc. are available for consultation.

Success can never be guaranteed, of course, and it might well be the case that even after a great deal of checking your ancestors will remain elusive. I do not mean to sound overly pessimistic, but then neither would I wish to raise your hopes beyond what can be reasonably achieved.

In-depth Research begins at six hours of research at the GRO, PRONI or another archive. If you would like us to carry out research on your behalf I would suggest that you visit our website www.ancestryireland.com and go to Research Services. Here you will be able to register for a search and find out more about the services we offer. Our reports are interpretative as well as factual as we seek to build up a profile of your ancestors by assessing the information uncovered as well as presenting our findings in an uncomplicated way.

SPECIAL OFFER: Please note that if you commission full research with us within six months of the date of this email, you will receive a *free* electronic book of your choice. We currently have over 40 e-books available with more being added all the time. For a full list please visit our online bookstore <http://www.booksireland.org.uk/store/ebooks>. The books come in both Mobi (Amazon Kindle) and EPUB formats.

Some of our publications might also be of interest to you for example our Research Director, Dr William Roulston's volume, *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: the essential genealogical guide to early modern Ulster, 1600-1800*, provides information on surviving records of genealogical value from the seventeenth and eighteenth century for every parish in Ulster, including records from around 200 churches and 250 landed estate collections. It should be useful to anyone searching for ancestors in Ulster in this period regardless of denomination or background. All our publications can be ordered via our online bookstore www.booksireland.org.uk.

If you want to publicise your research interests you might consider joining the Ulster Genealogical and Historical Guild (information available from our website www.ancestryireland.com). This is managed as a research cooperative. The membership register has passed the 10,000 mark. It aims to prevent duplication of research effort and to bring together people with similar interests. Subscribers receive two annual publications: *Familia - Ulster Genealogical Review* which contains articles about Irish history and

genealogy and the *Directory of Irish Family History Research* which is the most complete and up-to-date record of Irish genealogical research in progress. Subscribers are also offered the option of having their research interests (as contained in the Directory) placed on UHF's Internet homepage. With millions of people browsing the Internet each day, your interests will be publicised to a worldwide audience through membership of the Guild. Our website is presently enjoying approximately 30,000 'hits' monthly.

Guild members now enjoy unlimited access to an ever-expanding range of online genealogical databases. Over 500,000 genealogical records are currently available with new records being added on a regular basis. Members now have free access to our gravestone inscriptions database (Members' Area only) and receive a privileged rate of access to our new database of over 1,500,000 birth, death and marriage records for Cos. Antrim, Down and the city of Belfast.

You might feel that it would be worth your while contacting the Ulster Heritage DNA Project for advice and assistance at using DNA to further your research. The website of this group is <http://ulsterheritagedna.ulsterheritage.com>.

Yours sincerely,

Research Officer (GH)

The requested research has now been completed and the findings are presented in the following report.

Completed: October 2016

"FINAL REPORT"

- You believe that your great great grandparents, Agnes (nee Black) and James Nickle left Ireland, separately, and arrived in Canada sometime before 1850.
- They married on April 16th, 1855 in the Township of Dumfries, Brant County, Ontario and had at least six children.

Research Objectives

Your hope is that this research will discover where your ancestors were born, how they lived and if any family remained in Ireland.

The Black Family

NOTE: The information in this report, pp. 1-4 on the BLACK-FAMILY have been reorganized into a separate report regarding AGNES BLACK
SWP

The Nickle Family

You have an indication that your great great grandfather, James Nickle, may have come from County Armagh. According to the various Canadian records you have read, he was born in the 1820s and his family may have been Presbyterian. The preliminary assessment indicated that a number of Nickle families lived in the Parish of Loughgilly so we began the search for James's baptism in that parish. Church Baptismal Registers for Loughgilly Church of Ireland, Ballymore Church of Ireland and Mountnorris Presbyterian are available for the relevant years 1820-1830 but James's baptism was not found. Ballenon Reformed Presbyterian had no early baptisms but Session Minutes 1820-1867 included a List of Members 1820-1821. We noted that on November 14th 1820 a William Nickle of Rathconvil townland was admitted to the fellowship. No other information was found.

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In order to progress the search and, as we had no Christian name for James's father and no birth location in County Armagh, we considered if James and Agnes might name their first son for James's father. This would be in line with the Celtic Naming Pattern, popular at that time, when the first son would be named for his paternal grandfather. As Alexander was born about 1857 and was probably their first son, James's father may have been Alexander Nickle. Therefore, we decided to look in the County Armagh Irish Civil Marriage Registration records, 1845-1870, for any marriage where the father of a bride or a groom was named Alexander Nickle/Nichol, Nicholl. We found two records only – interestingly both in 2nd Newtownhamilton Presbyterian Church in the Parish of Newtownhamilton, South Armagh.

“On February 14th 1860 Alexander Nickle, age 24, a bachelor, farmer of Cladybeg, Parish of Kilcluney to Ellen Clugston, age 19, a spinster of Ballintemple, Parish of Ballymoyer. Their fathers were farmers named Alexander Nickle and Thomas Clugston. The witnesses were George Thomson and William Clugston. The officiating minister was Rev. D. G. Brown”

“On May 19th 1870 Samuel Nickle, age 28, a bachelor, a farmer of Cladybeg, Parish of Kilcluney to Elizabeth Allen, age 18, a spinster of Newtownhamilton Parish of Newtownhamilton. Their fathers were farmers named Alexander Nickle and James Allen. The witnesses were William Bradshaw and Jane Johnston.”

2nd Newtownhamilton Presbyterian Church records are held in PRONI on Microfilm 1P/443.

The Baptismal Register commenced in 1823 but only one child of Alexander and Jane Nickle was recorded in the register – a daughter baptised on July 27th 1828 (no given name recorded).

No marriage was found for the couple in this church.

A church census taken in 1826 and recorded by townland held the following entries:

Blackbank Townland

Blackbank (formerly an army barracks in the 18th century) is in the townland of Cladybeg, Clady DED and north of the town of Newtownhamilton South Armagh. Only two families were recorded at this time.

William Nickle	Mrs Nickle	Esther married
Alexander Nickle	Jane Nickle	William and <u>James</u>

Assuming that William and James are children of Alexander and Jane, we decided to explore if this James, may be your great great grandfather. We studied church records for the parish, GRONI BMDs, Griffith's Valuation, PRONI records that is – Name search; Freeholders; Wills; Valuation Revision Books.

PRONI Freeholders online

It is interesting to see that there was an Alexander Nichol who was a freeholder in the townland of Lisnisk, Parish of Loughgilly dated September 26th 1817. You will see that the lease was held for three lives, two of which were Alexander Nichol. However no Alexander Nichol appears in the Tithe Applotment Books 1823-1840 for the Parishes of Loughgilly, Newtownhamilton and Kilclooney. The family appear in Griffith's Valuation 1864.

Griffith's Valuation

This Primary Valuation 1848-64 gives a list of occupiers of land, tenements and houses. It is arranged by county, within counties by Poor Law Union division, and within Unions by parish. Alexander and James Nickle are recorded living in the townland of Cladybeg in 1864. Their holdings were quite substantial compared to their neighbours and can be seen on-line at www.askaboutireland.ie

PRONI Valuation Revision Books, also online, name the family member who was the occupier/ rent payer over the years 1864-1930.

2nd Newtownhamilton Presbyterian Church

The Session Minutes were studied. A Session meeting which met on October 20th 1827 reports that William Nickle, a member of Session (an Elder), examined the young people wishing to become Communicant Members. He attended the recorded Session Meetings

until March 1st 1829 after which the 'Recording Book' was lost. When the records commenced again in May 1834, William was no longer recorded. As Elders in the Presbyterian Church hold the position 'for life', this suggests he was dead at this time.

It is interesting that only one of Alexander's children, a daughter, was baptised in this church but we know from this church's records that he had at least four sons: William, James mentioned in the 1826 Census and Alexander & Samuel who married in 1860 & 1870 respectively

Another interesting record was of a new communicant. Is this James the son of Alexander and Jane?

Admitted to Communion James Nickle November 1842

- Death records were then obtained for Jane and Alexander:

On January 31st 1865, Jane Nickle, aged 72yrs of Cladybeg, a farmer's wife, died of Bronchitis. Her husband, Alexander, was present at her death and registered it on February 6th 1865.

On April 17th 1873, Alexander Nickle, aged 77yrs of Cladybeg, widower, a labourer died. His cause of death was recorded as 'Complainey' (?) which he had had for 2 months, uncertified and no medical attention. Samuel Nickle was present at his death and registered it on May 2nd 1873.

Another Nickle family which was recorded in the Baptismal Register of 2nd Newtownhamilton Presbyterian Church was that of James and Margaret Nickle. No marriage record was found for this couple.

March 1 st 1829	Robert
January 31 st 1834	John
May 8 th 1836	William
June 10 th 1838	Eliza Jane
August 15 th 1841	James Alexander
January 14 th 1844	Mary Eliza
February 1 st 1846	Margaret

Records for the other churches in the Parish of Newtownhamilton were searched. A son (no given name recorded) of James Nichol was baptised on September 27th 1824 in Clarkesbridge Presbyterian Church. No other Nickle/Nichol/Nicholl family was found.

In 2nd Newtownhamilton Presbyterian Communion Attendance Lists up to 1927-1930 we noted descendants of these Nickle families.

The list dated 1927-1930 records the following Nicholl communicants: Ellen, Thomas, Margaret, Eliza Jane, John (new), James, James Andrew. NB: The spelling of Nickle changed to Nichol/Nicholl over the years.

When we studied 2nd Newtownhamilton Presbyterian Church Registers and the online GRONI BMDS for Nickle/Nichol/Nicholl in the Newtownhamilton area, there was no evidence to indicate that William and James, sons of Alexander and Jane, remained in the Cladybeg area. It is possible that one or both died young. Alexander and Ellen, Samuel

and Lizzie, who married in 1860 and 1870, respectively, were living in Cladybeg in 1901. Samuel and Lizzie died in 1905 and 1906 respectively. Their Letters of Administration can be seen on PRONI Wills. Alexander and Ellen were still alive in 1911. Ellen died on January 12th 1915 aged 76 while Alexander died on July 6th 1919 aged 86. His will can be read online on PRONI Wills.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to confirm that William and James, sons of Alexander and Jane are your Irish ancestors. However, there is a very strong possibility that they are related to you. There are a number of Nickle/Nichol/Nicholl families living in this area of County Armagh at the present time.

Conclusion

This concludes our findings to date. Although we have searched the available church registers in mid Down parishes and beyond, we have been unable to find baptisms for Agnes and her siblings within the present budget. We realise that this is a very disappointing result for you but hope it may be tempered by the fact that we may have found your great great grandfather, James, in Cladybeg, near Newtownhamilton, County Armagh. You may wish to identify any Nickle/Nichol/Nicholl still in the area today from online telephone directory: www.thephonebook.bt.com and contact them to see if they have information on their ancestors.

We hope you find this report of use and interest in your search for your Irish ancestors. If you feel that we could help you further, please do not hesitate to contact the Ulster Historical Foundation.

Sources

Ulster Historical Foundation:

www.ancestryireland.com

Birth and Marriages – County Down

www.historyfromheadstones.com

Black and Nickle/Nichol/Nicholl Memorials – County Down and Armagh

Public Record Office NI, Titanic Quarter, Belfast:

Church Records

County Down

Parish of Dromara:

1st Dromara Presbyterian MIC1P/89.

Parish of Magherahamlet:

Magherahamlet Presbyterian Church MIC1P/300.

Parish of Dromore:

Dromore Church of Ireland Cathedral MIC 583/35-36.

Dromore Methodist (Wesleyan) MIC1E/43

Dromore Methodist (Moirra and Dromore Circuit) MIC429/1/496

Newry Methodist Circuit MIC429/1/410

1st Dromore Presbyterian MIC1P/140

Drumlough Presbyterian MIC1P/359

Parish of Annahilt:

Loughaghery Presbyterian MIC1P/119

Parish of Hillsborough:

Annahilt Presbyterian MIC1P/360

Parish of Tullylish:

Tullylish Church of Ireland MIC1/70-71

Newmills Presbyterian MIC1P/398

Tullylish Presbyterian MIC1P/385

Parish of Aghaderg:

Glascar Presbyterian MIC/1P/63

Scarva Presbyterian MIC/1P/182

Parish of Drumballyrone:

Ballyrone Presbyterian MIC1P/168

Parish of Magheradrool:

2nd & 3rd Ballynahinch Presbyterian MIC1P/110

County Armagh

Parish of Loughgilly:

Loughgilly Church of Ireland MIC1/66-67

Mountnorris and Tullyallen Presbyterian MIC1P/29

Parish of Newtownhamilton:

Newtownhamilton Church of Ireland T808/14963

Clarksbridge Presbyterian T2523

1st Newtownhamilton Presbyterian CR/3/74

2nd Newtownhamilton Presbyterian MIC1P/443

Creggan and Freeduff Presbyterian MIC1P/444

Online Resources

www.ancestry.com : Various Canadian records. Courtesy of NI Libraries.

www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni : Freeholders; Name search; Valuation records; Wills.

www.rootsireland.ie : County Armagh Baptisms and Marriages.

www.askaboutireland.ie : Griffith's Valuation.

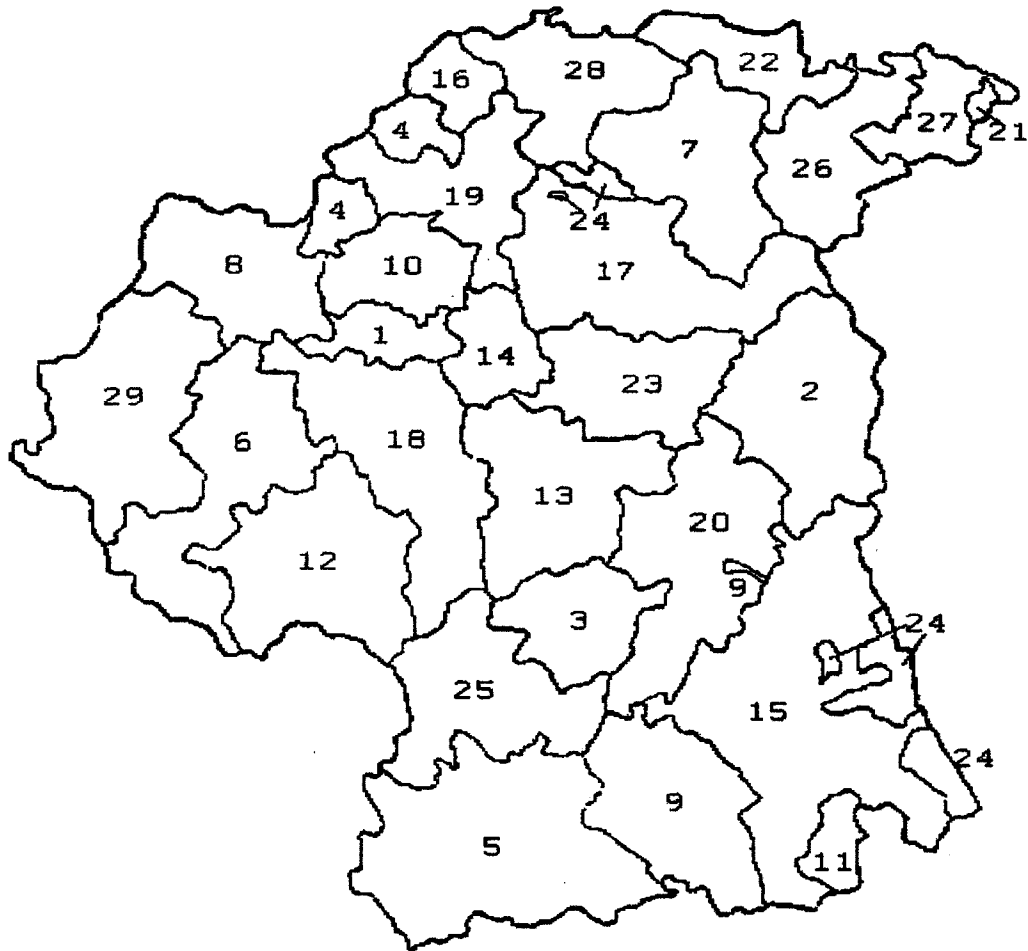
www.nationalarchives.ie : Census 1901 & 1911.

www.igp-web.com/armagh : Tithe Applotment Books 1823-38.

www.geni.nidirect.gov.uk : Registration of deaths.



The Civil Parishes of County Armagh



Key

1	Armagh	2	Ballymore	3	Ballymore
4	Clonfeacle	5	Creggan	6	Derrynoose
7	Drumcree	8	Eglish	9	Forkill
10	Grange	11	Jonesborough	12	Keady
13	Kilclooney	14	Kildarton	15	Killevy
16	Killyman	17	Kilmore	18	Lisnadill
19	Loughgall	20	Loughgilly	21	Magheralin
22	Montiaghs	23	Mullaghbrack	24	Newry
25	Newtownhamilton	26	Seagoe	27	Shankill
28	Tartaraghan	29	Tynan		