

To: Steve Hargadon  
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from: Ed Hargadon



# County Sligo Heritage and Genealogy Society

CUMANN OIÐHREACHTA AGUS GINEALAIS CHONDAE SHLIGIGH

Edward J. Hargadon  
451 Evergreen Road  
King of Prussia  
PA 19406  
U.S.A.

Ref: H357-09TPF  
Rec: 4728

13<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Dear Edward,

Thank you for your completed application form and your initial assessment fee of €75.00. The purpose of assessing each application is to determine whether relevant records are available and also to provide a quotation of further research costs if any.

The County Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Society work consists of compiling information using the surviving parish registers of all denominations; 1858 Griffith Valuations and the 1901 & 1911 Census. Please bear in mind that we only deal with enquiries concerning Sligo and that we are confined to the timescales of each parish.

You have advised us that your ancestor Michael Hargadon was born in County Sligo circa 1850. Unfortunately, Michael's parent's names are unknown. Michael married a Bridget Walsh and they had several children, one of which was named John your grandfather.

As there are many ways of spelling the surname Hargadon we have standardized it on our computer to Hargadon. When this is entered all variants will appear i.e. Haragaden, Hardagan, Hardagon, Hardigan, Hardigon, Hargadan, Hargaden, Hargadin, Hargadon, Hargidan etc. Standard surnames are determined by consulting various sources, mainly 'The Surnames of Ireland' by Dr. Edward MacLysaght and 'A Dictionary of Surnames' by Hanks and Hodges. Generally speaking, this is often the most common spelling of that particular surname.

Before we begin, it is worth noting that the dates that church record keeping began varied tremendously from parish to parish throughout County Sligo some starting as early as 1796, while others did not start until 1890. It must also be noted that there are 'gaps' in the records, owing to complete records books being discarded, lost or damaged. Civil registration (county/state records) for births, marriages and deaths began in Ireland in 1864, prior to this date only the surviving church records are available.

**CO. SLIGO HERITAGE AND GENEALOGY SOCIETY**

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A MEMBER OF THE IRISH FAMILY HISTORY FOUNDATION



I began your enquiry by searching the church marriage registers for the union of Michael Hargadon and Bridget Walsh. A marriage entry, typically, will indicate the date of the wedding together with the names of the contracting parties and witnesses. The results of this search are as follows:

- There were one hundred and fifteen grooms located in our files with the surname Hargadon and variants of that name.
- Thirteen of these men were named Michael or Micheal; however none of these thirteen men married a bride with the maiden name Walsh.
- There were three hundred and eighty brides found in our records with the maiden name Walsh.
- Eighty four of these ladies were named Bridget or Brigid; however none married a groom with the surname Hargadon or similar sounding surname.
- No church marriage record was located for the union of Michael Hargadon and Bridget Walsh.

As mentioned previously, there are two sources of records (depending on the dates) for births, deaths and marriages – the surviving church records and the civil (state) records. We here at the Sligo Genealogy & Heritage Centre are fortunate to have copies of the civil marriage records in our office; therefore these were also searched for the union of Michael Hargadon and Bridget Walsh. I confirm that a civil marriage record was located for this couple in the year 1867. It would appear from this record that both Michael and Bridget were from the Kilmacshalgan area. The surviving church marriage records for this area only date back to January 1868; this would account for no church record being found for this couple. I would like to point out that this civil marriage record listed both the bride and groom's ages, their place of residence at the time of their marriage, their father's names and occupations and the witnesses to this ceremony.

The baptismal registers were then checked for the children of Michael Hargadon and Bridget Walsh. A typical baptismal entry will specify the exact date of baptism, the name of the child and the names of the parents including very often the maiden name of the mother, the names of the sponsors and sometimes the street or townland. The results of this search are as follows:

- There were five hundred and fourteen records located in the baptismal registers with the surname Hargadon and variants of that name.
- Three of these children had a father listed as Michael Hargadon and a mother listed as Bridget Walsh.
- One child was found with parent's names recorded as John Hargadon and Bridget Walsh. I cannot say if this child was part of Michael and Bridget's family as his name was not one of the children's names listed on your application. However his year of birth would tie in with the other baptismal records located.
- Another Hargadon child (Margaret) was found in the mid 1880s; her parent's names were listed as Michael Hargadon and Bridget Hargadon. It is possible that the priest recorded her mother's married name rather than her maiden name.

The surviving baptismal registers for the Catholic parish of Kilmacshalgan dates back to 1868; however the first child located for Michael and Bridget found in our files was in 1872. It would appear that there are several gaps in these registers, as we were unable to locate all the children you had mentioned in your application form. Unfortunately, we do not have access to the civil birth records for this area; therefore I cannot trace the remainder of these children in this source. Neither can I link or dismiss the child whose father's name was listed as John Hargadon.

Between 1821 and 1911 a census was carried out in Ireland every ten years. The original sheets for the census of 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891 were discarded and destroyed when the statistical data was extracted. The census returns of 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851 were important social documents showing the state of Ireland both before and after the Famine. These documents were retained and held in the Four Courts, Dublin. During the Civil War in 1922, the Four Courts was set ablaze and all the records were destroyed. Therefore the earliest returns available to us are the 1901 entries. Michael, his wife Bridget and three of their children were residing in the townland of Doonbeakin. (Only one of these children's baptismal records was located in our files). The next census was taken in 1911; Michael and Bridget were still living in Doonbeakin; a married son and daughter-in-law were also residing with them.

The 1911 census returns carried additional information regarding the length of each couples marriage, how many children they had and how many of these were still living. Bridget stated that they were married forty four years and they had nine children of which eight were still living.

Although Michael and Bridget's ages were recorded on their civil marriage record and the census returns, their estimated year of births varied tremendously with each record i.e. Michael was born between 1833 & 1841; Bridget was born between 1840 & 1851. Unfortunately both Michael and Bridget were born prior to civil registration, so no civil birth record will exist for them and the surviving church registers for the Catholic parish of Kilmacshalgan only dates back to 1868, therefore we cannot say what year Michael or Bridget were born.

In the absence of early census returns the Griffith Valuations are relied upon as another source of genealogical information. There were sixty five entries located in these valuations with the surname Hargadon. Only one person with this surname was located in the townland of Doonbeakin. This man's name tallied with the name recorded as Michael's father on his civil marriage record. As these valuations only recorded the head of household and did not list any family details I cannot be certain that this man was Michael's father.

I also searched the Tithe Applotment Books of the 1820s/1830s for the surname Hargadon. These records for each parish contain a list of land tenants all of whom were liable for payment of Tithes to the Established Protestant Church regardless of their religion. Beside the tenants name was entered the name of his townland, the acreage of his farm, its valuation and the yearly tithe for which he was liable. There were twenty four entries located with this name found in these books. Two men were located in the townland of Doonbeakin in the year 1833. One of these men had the same initial as the man in the 1858 Griffith Valuations; he was possibly a son of the

other man, but again this is only surmising as these books did not list any family details.

I would like to draw to your attention that there was another man with the surname Hargadon residing with his wife and children in the townland of Doonbeakin when the 1901 & 1911 census returns. It would appear that this couple were married the year before Michael and Bridget. Further research of our records indicates that Michael and this man had the same father's first name. It is quite possible that Michael and this other man were brothers.

The Co. Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Society has transcribed all the baptismal, marriage and death records from every parish in the county. Unfortunately, for some reason unknown to us, most of the catholic parishes did not record deaths and those which are recorded cover a very short timescale. Although there were thirty five death records found in our files with the surname Hargadon, none were found in the Kilmacshalgan area.

There were fifty four gravestone inscriptions found with the surname Hargadon in our files, of which two headstones, referring to four people were found in Churchill Graveyard, Dromore West. The first of these headstones refers to a man named James from Ballyglass; the second headstone refers to two girls who died in the mid 1900s and another James Hargadon who died in 1954. It is possible that this second headstone refers to the other Hargadon family residing in Doonbeakin and possibly cousins of your grandfather.

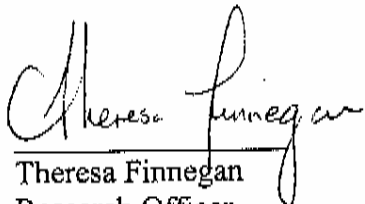
If you believe that the records we have traced relate to your ancestors and you wish to have copies of all or part of this information we would be obliged if you would forward the following being our fees for this service:

- Civil marriage details of a Michael Hargadon and a Bridget Walsh, together with the baptismal details of five children €45.00
- Copies of the 1901 & 1911 census returns; the 1858 Griffith Valuations and 1833 Tithe Applotments listing the surname Hargadon in the townland of Doonbeakin. €25.00
- Civil marriage details of a Hargadon groom (possibly Michael's Brother), together with the baptismal details of six children. €45.00
- Gravestone inscriptions listing the surname Hargadon, found In Churchill Graveyard, Dromore West. €25.00

If you would like to purchase the records offered to you by credit card, may we suggest that you telephone your card details through to us on the following telephone number: 00353 71 9143728 or if you wish, you can forward a cheque (drawn to the equivalent amount) and made payable to Co. Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Society. This can be remitted to Co. Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Society, Aras Reddan, Temple St., Sligo, Ireland.

It is our policy to keep fees to a minimum and to base them on the time and expense involved in the research and not necessarily on the results. We also wish to remind you that all revenue accrued from research fees go exclusively towards defraying the cost of maintaining our Genealogical Service.

Yours sincerely,



Theresa Finnegan  
Research Officer