

WHITE HOUZZ RESEARCH

16229 SW STAHL DRIVE, PORTLAND, OR 97223 | whitehouzz@icloud.com

Date: 25 July 2021
Report to: Client
Subject: Maurice Langan (1837-1927), born in Ireland
Prepared by: Kim Gehrman White

Background: Conflict is found between the obituary of Maurice Langan, which states he was from County Kerry, Ireland, and a photo found on Find a Grave of Maurice's sister's (Ellen *Langan* Carrig) grave marker with the inscription of County Limerick as her place of birth in Ireland. Maurice is the 2x great grandfather of the client and she states, family lore-maintained County Limerick was his place of birth.¹

Task: Determine the Irish origins of Maurice Langan, who was born about 1837 in Ireland, was married to Margaret Kennelly about 1857 in Ireland, and died 4 February 1927 in Platte County, Nebraska.

Limitations: Services not to exceed 20 hours. Research is limited to online resources. Permission has been given to request a copy of the original death certificate for Maurice Langan. Deliver report via standard postal service. Expenses anticipated are related to shipping costs. No other expenses are anticipated.

Principal Finding

Maurice Langan was baptized, 14 July 1837, in the parish of Shanagolden, County Limerick, Ireland. His baptism record noted his father, John Langan, but a mother's name was not documented. Ellen Langan was baptized, 19 October 1828, in the parish of Shanagolden, County Limerick. Ellen's parents were noted as John Langan and Elizabeth Wall.

ONLINE RESOURCES CONSULTED

¹ There are several spelling variants for the surname Langan in the sources consulted and used. The same holds true for his wife's name, Margaret Kennelly. This report will spell Maurice Langan and Margaret Kennelly, as such. Variants will still be found in citations for documents and for the use of quotations.

Ancestry. Databases and digital images. <https://search.ancestry.com/> : 2021
Ask About Ireland. <https://www.askaboutireland.ie> : 2021.
County Limerick Genealogy. <https://www.countylimerickgenealogy.com> : 2021.
FamilySearch. Databases and digital images. <https://familysearch.org> : 2021.
Find A Grave. Database with images. <https://www.findagrave.com> : 2021.
Find My Past. Database and digital images. <https://www.findmypast.com> : 2021.
Grenham, John. Irish Ancestors. “Irish Names.” <https://www.johngrenham.com> : 2021.
Irish Genealogy. <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie> : 2021.
Morse, Stephen P. One-Step Webpages. <https://stevemorse.org> : 2021.
National Archives and Records Administration [NARA]. <https://www.archives.gov> : 2021.
National Archives Catalog. <https://www.catalog.archives.gov> : 2021.
National Archives of Ireland. <https://www.nationalarchives.ie> : 2021.
National Library of Ireland. Database and digital images. <https://www.registers.nli.ie> : 2021.
Nebraska. Department of Health. Death Certificates. Bureau of Vital Statistics, Lincoln.
Nebraska GenWeb Project. <https://www.negenweb.us> : 2021.
Nebraska State Historical Society. <https://www.nebraskahistory.org> : 2021.
Newspapers.com. Database and digital images. <https://www.newspapers.com> : 2021.
Roots Ireland. <https://www.rootsireland.ie> : 2021.
U.S. Census Bureau. Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses From 1790 to 2000. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2002. Digital images. United States Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov> : 2021.
United States. Congress. Act of May 20, 1862 [Homestead Act]. Public Law 37-64. <https://www.archives.gov> : 2021.
Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org> : 2021.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

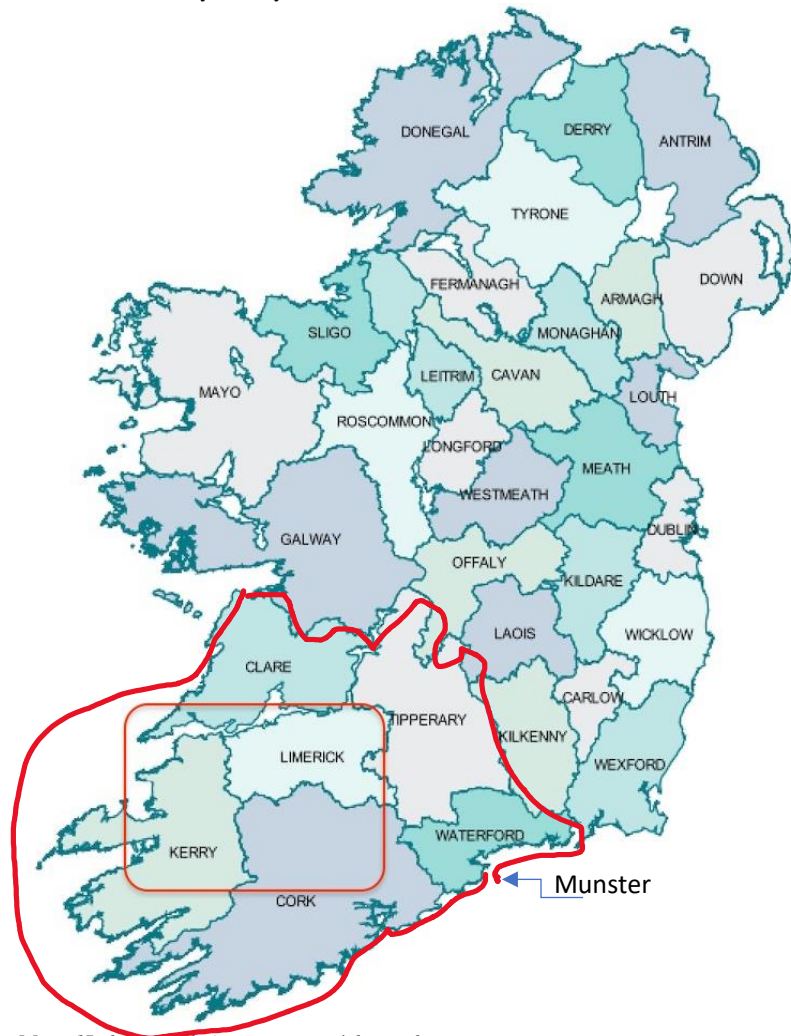
The research objective and parameters surrounding this report were met; Maurice Langan’s birthplace has been identified.

1. Maurice Langan was born and baptized in County Limerick, Ireland, not County Kerry as written in his obituary. The date of his baptism was 14 July 1837 in the parish of Shanagolden. His father, John Langan, was identified in the record.
2. Ellen *Langan* Carrig’s place of birth is supported by records from her baptism and marriage. Details may be found in the *Sources and Analyses* section of this report.
3. Information supporting the belief that Maurice was born in County Kerry, Ireland, was not found in the resources consulted for this assignment.

RESEARCH NOTES and ANALYSES

Resources and Impediments to Research

Both counties Kerry and Limerick are located in the province of Munster, in southwest Ireland.² The northeast edge of County Kerry abuts the western edge of County Limerick (see map). Per compiled summaries of Griffith's Valuation (1847-64), there were five Langan households in County Limerick and twelve in County Kerry.^{3,4}



Map of Ireland. *Irish Ancestors*. www.johngrenham.com

Government censuses in Ireland began in 1801 and were taken every ten years. Unfortunately, the census schedules taken in 1831, 1841, and 1851 were largely destroyed in Dublin's Four Courts fire in 1922. Additionally, census records for the years 1861 and 1871 were never preserved, they were "pulped" shortly

² Wikipedia contributors, "Munster," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Munster&oldid=1037373999> : accessed 13 November, 2021) page last edited 25 September 2021.

³ John Grenham, *Irish Ancestors*, (<https://www.johngrenham.com> : 17 July 2021), surname history & statistics for "Langan," Home > Surname Search > Langan.

⁴ The Griffith's Valuations were completed over 150 years ago by Sir Richard Griffith. Genealogists find these to be a treasured substitute for missing census records for mid-nineteenth century Ireland. Sir Richard was tasked with the enormous undertaking of valuing the land of the entirety of Ireland. The final product was to provide an "unbiased and equitable tax base for the wealthy and the poor alike." James R. Reilly, *Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland* (Baltimore, Maryland : Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000), viii.

after the data was mined.⁵ Research in Irish records necessitates using documents that can substitute for census record loss.

Analysis of Conflict and Approach to Resolution

- The newspaper clipping of an obituary, a black & white photo of Maurice Langan Jr. at the grave of his Aunt Ellen *Langan* Carrig and information from the Find a Grave memorial for Ellen *Langan* Carrig have been supplied by the client.
- Maurice's obituary was found in a scrapbook handed down to the client from her mother. It is a newspaper clipping with no identifying source information. A photo of Maurice Langan Jr., standing at the grave of his Aunt Ellen *Langan* Carrig, led the client to FindaGrave.com to view memorials of relatives.
- The obituary for Maurice provides a great deal of circumstantial evidence. Without knowing who the informant was for the biographical material, it is difficult to determine its validity. It does provide clues that should be investigated and not dismissed. The same can be said for the information provided in the photo of Ellen's grave marker. We do not know who the informant was for the inscription, but it was likely her husband.

Research Plan

1. Review the information contained in Maurice Langan's obituary for consistency and clues to pursue through research.
2. Begin with an examination of American based, online records such as U.S. passenger lists, naturalization records, and newspapers.
3. Request an official death record for Maurice Langan from the State of Nebraska's Department of Health.
4. Build upon the foundation of U.S. based records, moving forward to identify online availability of record repositories in Ireland.
5. For Irish jurisdictions focus should begin with Limerick county records. Ellen *Langan* Carrig was only 64 years old at the time of her death in 1892 and her husband, James Carrig was still alive. He would have been a reliable source of information for the inscription on her headstone. Maurice died a widower and did not have the benefit of leaving a spouse to provide information regarding his place of birth.
6. Priority should be given to finding both Maurice and Ellen within the same household in Irish records; thus, providing greater confidence of having found the correct Langan family.

Previously Known Information

The client provided a newspaper obituary, a simple family tree on Ancestry.com, and a photo of Maurice Langan Jr., at his Aunt Ellen's grave. These information items are used as a point of departure to distinguish Maurice uniquely within research activity.

The family tree on Ancestry contained details for a few generations, starting with the client. Document images were attached to the tree, which included vital records, census records, and personal notes about certain individuals.⁶ Although Maurice Langan (1837-1827) was not personally known by the client, the two

⁵ David E. Rencher, "Ireland Census and Census Substitutes," 2021 Syllabus, Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (virtual course), session 4, Part I - 3, p. 96.

⁶ "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 November 2021), "Irish Branch," family tree by [private], profile for Maurice Langan (1837-1927) and family.

generations after were close family members; their details are considered reliable. The table below is a representation of the online family tree:

Maurice Langan Ireland 1837-1927	Margaret Kennelly Ireland ? - 1904	Larry Fitzsimmons Ireland	Delia Riley Ireland
Maurice Langan, Jr. Ireland 1875-1942		Marcella Fitzsimmons Iowa 1889-1962	
Marriage Nebraska 1906			
“Aunt” Marc Langan, Nebraska, 1908-1984			
Lawrence Langan, Nebraska, 1910-1942			
“Aunt” Phil Langan, Nebraska, 1912-1988			
Gertrude Langan, Nebraska, 1919-1993			
“Bunny” Langan, Nebraska, 1923-1992			

1927 Obituary for Maurice Langan⁷

The following information is pulled from the obituary, in keeping with space limitations: Maurice Langan died at the home of his son, Jerry, at the age of 90, due to the problems of “advanced” age. He was born in County Kerry, Ireland in 1837. He was married to Margaret Kennelly. Maurice and Margaret came to America in 1876 and homesteaded in Platte County [Nebraska]. They maintained their farm until Margaret’s death in 1904. Maurice then moved to Columbus [Platte County] until 1924 when he came to live with his son, Jerry [Platte Center, Platte County, Nebraska].

Four sons survived Maurice: John, Jerry, and Patrick, all of Platte Center and Maurice, Jr., of Columbus. Two daughters also survived him: Mrs. Mary Dugan, of Omaha, and Mrs. Eugene Sullivan, of Greeley [all located in Nebraska]. He also leaves forty-one grandchildren and twenty-two great, grandchildren.

Find a Grave Memorial for Ellen [Langan] Carrig⁸

Inscription:

<p>ELLEN CARRIG BORN IN CO. LIMERICK IRE 1832 – 1892 AGE 60 YEARS</p>

A death certificate for Ellen Langan Carrig does not appear to exist. The state of Nebraska did not record deaths at the county level, nor was registration of deaths required with the state until late-1904.⁹

⁷ “Pioneer of County Dies at Age of 90: Maurice Langan, Platte Center, Lived Here 51 Years,” *The Columbus Daily Telegram* (Columbus, Nebraska), 5 February 1927, Saturday, p. 3, col. 5; image copy, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 18 July 2021).

⁸ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/41043992/ellen-carrig> : accessed 19 July 2021), memorial page for Ellen Langan Carrig (1832-1892), Find a Grave Memorial ID 41043992, citing Saint Patricks Cemetery, Platte Center, Platte County, Nebraska; Maintained by LBeebe (contributor 47085083).

⁹ Alice Eichholz, ed., “Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources,” 3rd edition, (Ancestry Publishing : Provo, Utah, 2004), 409.

*1927 Death certificate of Maurice Langan*¹⁰

Name: Maurice Langan
Place of Death: Lost Creek Township, Platte Center, Platte County, Nebraska
Marital Status: Widow
Age: About 91
Date of Birth: About 1837
Birthplace: Ireland
Name of Father: Don't Know
Name of Mother: Don't Know
Name of Spouse: Margaret Kenelly [*sic*]
Occupation: Retired Farmer
Date of Death: 4 February 1927
Place of Burial: St. Patrick's cemetery, Platte County, Nebraska
Informant: Jerry Langan, Platte Center, Nebraska

Although the death certificate is a new addition to the client's resources, the information is consistent with that found in the online family tree. The death certificate of Maurice Langan indicates he was born in Ireland and the informant did not know the names of his parents. The document also identifies Maurice Langan as the widower of Margaret Kennelly. The informant on the certificate was Jerry [Jeremiah] Langan, the 7th born child, of eleven, who was caring for his father at the time of his death. The death certificate provided no additional information regarding the birthplace of Maurice Langan.

NEW FINDINGS

The research undertaken centered upon Maurice, his wife, Margaret, his sister, Ellen, and the paper trails they left during their lifetimes. Research is focused upon either supporting or invalidating County Kerry as the birthplace of Maurice Langan.

Research: Maurice Langan, United States

*1882 Naturalization Record for Maurice Langan*¹¹

(Front of card)

Name: Maurice Langon [*sic*]
Address: N.I. Nebraska
Country of Birth: N.I.
Title and location of court: Dist. Ct. Platte Co.
When Born (or age): 1839
Date and Port of arrival: N.I.
Date of Naturalization: 6 March 1882
Names of witnesses: John Eusden & John Walker

(Back of card)

Other facts of record: Dec. of intention vol. A, page 184
Ct. jour. vol. B, page 395

¹⁰ Nebraska State Department of Health, Certificate of Death, Register no. 2063 (stamped), Maurice Langan (1927); Bureau of Vital Statistics, Lincoln; image copy of official record privately held as of 2015 by Kim White, Tigard, Oregon.

¹¹ "Nebraska, Naturalization Records, 1855-1989," index and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 18 July 2021), Maurice Langon [*sic*], 1882.

This index card of naturalization information was produced by the Works Projects Administration (WPA) from original records. The designation “N.I.” denotes, “not indicated.” Country of birth has not been listed where we would expect to find it on the document. Unfortunately, volume A of the Declarations of Intention was not found in the National Archives and Records Administration online catalog of records available.¹² The naturalization record provided no additional information regarding the birthplace of Maurice Langan.

*1882 Homestead Record for Maurice Langan*¹³

This homestead record file for Maurice Langan consists of 13 loose papers (viewing digital images of the file). Enclosed is the final paper granting citizenship to Maurice Langan on 6 March 1882. The pertinent information pulled from the record follows:

Name: Maurice Langan
Date of Oath: 6 March 1882
Native Country: Ireland
District Court: Platte County, Nebraska

In some cases, land records may list the former place of residence. The Homestead Act of 1862, “provided that any adult citizen, or intended citizen, who had never borne arms against the U.S. government could claim 160 acres of surveyed government land.”¹⁴ Although the homestead file does not provide detailed information of where in Ireland Maurice was from, it does provide the date he filed his application for citizenship. His “Application No. 6890,” was signed 20 April 1877.¹⁵

The date that Maurice signed the application is relevant to establishing the window of time with which to search passenger lists for Maurice’s immigration. The obituary mentioned his immigration year as 1876. A passenger list in 1876 for Maurice Langan is referenced below the census record information.

*1910 & 1920 Census Records for Maurice Langan*¹⁶

The 1910 and 1920 census enumerations identify the year of immigration to the United States for all foreign-born individuals.¹⁷ Both census records list Maurice’s year of immigration as 1876, thus confirming the date given in the obituary and the passenger list referenced below.

¹² Negative finding for Maurice Langan declaration of intent, vol. A, page 184, the record catalog lists vol. B as an available record group, but not vol. A; Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the Omaha Division of the District of Nebraska; National Archives Catalog, “Declarations of Intention for Citizenship, 1867-1909,” <https://www.catalog.archives.gov> : accessed 14 November 2021.

¹³ “U.S., Homestead Records, 1863-1908,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 19 July 2021), entry for Maurice Langan [sic]; Naturalization Final Paper, copy of Certificate of Citizenship, 6 March 1882, in Maurice Langan [sic] (Platte County) homestead file bearing final certificate no. 4470, 26 May 1882, Grand Island, Nebraska, Land Office; citing Land Entry Case Files, 1869-1893; Record Group 49; Records of the Bureau of Land Management; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹⁴ “Act of May 20, 1862 (Homestead Act),” Public Law 37-64, (12 STAT 392); 05/20/1862; Enrolled Acts and Resolutions of Congress, 1789-2011; General Records of the United States Government, Record Group 11; National Archives Catalog (<https://www.archives.gov> : accessed 23 July 2021).

¹⁵ “U.S., Homestead Records, 1863-1908,” database entry for Maurice Langan [sic], Grand Island, Nebraska, Land Office, copy of application for citizenship.

¹⁶ 1910 U.S. census, Lost Creek Township, Platte County, Nebraska, population schedule, Platte Center village, enumeration district (ED)185, sheet 4-B (penned), household 91, Maurice Langan; NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 853; 1920 U.S. census, Columbus City, Platte County, Nebraska, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 188, sheet 28-A (penned), dwelling 604, family 618, Morris Langan; NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 999; accessed via 1910 & 1920 “United States Federal Census[es],” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.search.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 November 2021).

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, *Measuring America: The Decennial Census From 1790 to 2000* (Washington, D.C. : Government Printing Office, 2002), p. 45 (for 1910), p. 58 (for 1920), last revised 8 October 2021; digital images, *United States Census Bureau* (<https://www.census.gov> : accessed 14 November 2021).

*1876 Passenger List for Maurice Langan*¹⁸

Name: Maurice Langan
Gender: Male
Arrival Age: 35
Birth Date: Abt. 1841
Country of birth: Ireland
Departure Place: Liverpool, England
Arrival Date: 28 July 1876
Arrival Place: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Ship: SS *Ohio*

The passenger list from the SS *Ohio* lists Maurice Langan along with 157 other passengers in steerage. He was not travelling with his wife and children. Information provided by Maurice in the ship's manifest is scant, only giving an age of 35, birthplace of Ireland, and occupation of laborer. No other passengers with the surname, Langan, were listed.¹⁹ The date provided on Maurice's citizenship application is consistent with his arrival in the United States before 20 April 1877. His date of entry into the United States is valuable to uniquely distinguish him from other same-named men.

Research: Irish Records

*1875 Parish Baptism Record for Maurice Langan, Jr.*²⁰

Date: 17 July 1875
Name: Maurice, son
Father: Maurice Langan
Mother: Margaret Kennealy [*sic*]
Sponsors: John Kennealy and Mary Madigan.
Priest: Rev. E. Tracey, C.C.
Location: Parish of Askeaton, Diocese of Limerick, Ireland.

Information is taken from a digital image of the original parish. This is the baptism record for Maurice Langan Jr. He was the last child of Margaret Kennelly and Maurice to be baptized in Ireland. This record supports the connection Maurice Sr. had with County Limerick prior to his emigration to America a year later in July 1876.

¹⁸ "Pennsylvania, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1800-1962," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 19 July 2021), entry for Maurice Langard [Maurice Langan], arrival 28 July 1876; citing NARA microfilm publication M425, roll 36.

¹⁹ "Pennsylvania, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1800-1962," database, *Ancestry*, entry for Maurice Langan, 35, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1876. No other passengers on this ship/voyage had the same surname, spelling variant, and/or misspelling of surname as that of Maurice Langan.

²⁰ "Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms," database with images, *Find My Past* (<https://www.findmypast.com> : accessed 19 July 2021), entry for Mauritium Langan [Latin], 17 July 1875; "Catholic Parish Registers," *National Library of Ireland* > Parish Register, Diocese of Limerick, Parish of Askeaton and Ballysteen, Baptisms, Sept. 1, 1861-Dec. 26, 1880 and Marriages, Oct. 3, 1861-July [?], 1880.

*1857 Parish Marriage Record of Maurice Langan and Margaret Kennelly*²¹

Date: 22 August 1857
Groom: Mauritius Langan [Maurice]
Bride: Marg^a Kennelly [Margaret]
Sponsors: Michael O'Connell and Helen Bourke
Location: Parish of Askeaton, Diocese of Limerick, Ireland.

Information pulled from the original parish register digital image. Maurice and Margaret were married in the church parish where at least eight of their thirteen children were baptized.²² This information supports Maurice's connection with County Limerick.

*1836 Parish Baptism Record for Margaret Kennelly*²³

Date: 6 October 1836
Name: Margret [*sic*]
Father: Cor[?]lius Kennelly (Cornelius)
Mother: Margret Nestor (Margaret)
Sponsors: Pat^k McMaha[?] and Cather[?] Reidy (Patrick and Catherine)
Location: Askeaton parish, Diocese of Limerick, Ireland

The names in parentheses are from a transcription written by a volunteer after digitization. This is the baptism document for Margaret, wife of Maurice Langan.

*1837 Parish Baptism Record for Maurice Langan*²⁴

Date: 16 July 1837
Name: Mauritius [Maurice]
Father: Joannis [John] Langan
Mother: none listed
Sponsors: Joanne [John] Walsh and Ellena [Ellen] Scully
Location: Diocese of Limerick, Parish of Shanagolden, Ireland

The entry of Maurice's baptism into the register differed from the other entries on the previous two pages in that it did not list a mother's name. The absence of his mother's name begs the question of whether she died in childbirth.

²¹ "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915," database with images, *National Library of Ireland* (<https://registers.nli.ie> : 19 July 2021), entry for Mauritius Langan [*sic*], year range, 1829-1861, microfilm no. 02419 / 04.

²² "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 14 November 2021), entry for Catherine Langan, 1858; entry for John Peter Langan, 1860; entry for Michael Langan, 1862; entry for Mary Langan, 1870; entry for Jeremiah Langan, 1871; entry for Helen Langan, 1873; entry for Elizabeth Langan, 1874; citing National Library of Ireland (Dublin), microfilm no. 02419 / 04 & 05.

²³ "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 23 July 2021), entry for Margret [*sic*] Kennelly, 1836; citing National Library of Ireland (Dublin), microfilm no. 02419 / 04.

²⁴ "Catholic Parish Registers," *National Library of Ireland* (<https://registers.nli.ie> : accessed 19 July 2021), entry for Mauritius Langan [*sic*], 16 July 1837; Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI > Diocese of Limerick, Shanagolden parish, 3 Aug 1835-19 Aug 1842, microfilm 02481 / 03.

*1828 Parish Baptism Record for Ellen Langan*²⁵

Date: 19 October 1828
Name: Ellenam [Ellen]
Father: Joanin [John] Langan
Mother: Elizabetta [Elizabeth] Wall
Sponsors: Mauritius [Lane?] and Elena Wall
Location: Diocese of Limerick, parish of Shanagolden, [townlands of] Robertstown & Ballyhahil [sic], Ireland

Ellen's baptism entry lists her father John Langan, her mother Elizabeth Wall, and County Limerick as her birthplace.

Research: Ellen Langan, Canada

*1856 Marriage Record of Ellen Langan and James Carrig, Canada*²⁶

Date: 24 November 1856
Bride: Ellen Langan of Co. Limerick
Groom: James Carrage [sic][Carrig], no indication of origin
Sponsors: Michael Naughton and Mary M'Carthy
Location: Saint Paul's, city of Toronto, County of York, Ontario, Canada
Clergyman: F. Fitz Henry

The marriage record between Ellen Langan, Maurice's sister, and James Carrig is included here to support the implied connection of marriage between Ellen Langan and James Carrig. The record also notes Ellen's birthplace as County Limerick.

- Space limitations preclude the attachment of supporting documents, and a formal Source List for this assignment. In accordance with ProGen specifications for smallest acceptable font size, the body of the report uses an 11-point font and the footnotes are an 8-point font.

²⁵ "Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms," *Find My Past* (<https://www.findmypast.com> : accessed 21 July 2021), entry for Ellenam [sic] Langan, 19 October 1828; citing National Library of Ireland (Dublin), "Catholic Parish Registers," microfilm no. 02418 / 01.

²⁶ "Ontario, Canada, Roman Catholic Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1760-1923," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 July 2021), entry for Ellen Langan and James Cansse [sic][Carrig], 24 November 1856, St. Paul parish register, vol. 2, 1846-1856; citing Archdiocese of Toronto (Ontario, Canada), Archives of Ontario, Toronto.