

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of Ann Keating

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Ann Keating.

Those details are –

The birth date of Ann Keating is about 1811, and her birth place is likely in County Tipperary, Ireland, possibly Cahir.

Her parents are unknown.

She married William Merigan in Cahir, County Tipperary, Ireland on 16th February 1833.

She died on 28th August 1868, at 7 Wilmer Gardens, Hoxton, London.

(The research for this brief was conducted in early 2024).

A note about Ann's name

“Ann” is commonly spelled as “Anne”, and vice versa.

Some records note William's wife's name as “Anne”, for example, her family's 1851 English Census record (see the record below). Her name is also spelled “Anne” in the birth certificate of her son William, for which she was the informant (the certificate is in Appendix 1 to the brief relating to Elizabeth Merigan).

Other records name her as “Ann”, for example, her death certificate (below), and her family's 1861 English Census record (see the record below).

Other records for her are in Latin, and use “Annam” or “Annae”. The former translates to “Anne”,¹ and the latter translates to the attributive of “Ann or Anna”.²

Neither spelling predominates in records relating to her, so “Ann” is the spelling adopted in this brief, notwithstanding that a birth or baptism record has not been located to confirm her birth name.

(Note that Family Search searches in the one name return hits for the other, so the search engine treats the names as interchangeable).

Ann's marriage

Ann married William Merigan in Cahir, County Tipperary, Ireland on 16th February 1833.

See the brief relating to William Merigan for verification of that fact.

¹ See <https://www.lingq.com/en/learn-latin-online/translate/la/annam/>.

² See <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/annae>.

Ann's death

Ann's death certificate in Kath Palyga's papers states that she died aged 59 years from heart disease/dropsy on 28th August 1868, at 7 Wilmer Gardens, Hoxton, London. This is the certificate:

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE **GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE**

Application Number *R 204263*

REGISTRATION DISTRICT *Shoreditch*

1868 DEATH in the Sub-district of *Haggerston West* in the County of *Middlesex*

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
<i>48</i>	<i>Twenty eighth August 1868 7 Wilmer Gardens Hoxton</i>	<i>Ann Merigan</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>Wife of William Merigan Labourer</i>	<i>Heart Disease Dropsy</i>	<i>Mrs Merigan Present at the Death 7 Wilmer Gardens Hoxton</i>	<i>Twenty eighth August 1868</i>	<i>G. E. Larwood Registrar</i>

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the *23rd* day of *June* 19*92*

DXZ 075107

See note overleaf

CAUTION:- It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

DL 8394766 8106684 50M 292 Mo(232988)



Her occupation is given as "Wife of William Merigan Labourer". He is named as the informant, and his address is given as 7 Wilmer Gardens, Hoxton.

(The brief relating to Elizabeth Merigan substantiates that this William and Ann Merigan were her parents).

A FreeBMD search for Ann's death provides a link to an image of the relevant GRO record of her death in the district of Shoreditch.

This is a close up:

DEATHS registered in July, August, and September 1868.									
Vol.	Page		Age.	District.	Vol.	Page			
8 d.	520	MEREDITH, Walter Owen.	0.	Bath	5 c.	417	METCALF, Fanny Chi		
8 d.	462	— William.	0.	Liverpool	8 b.	102	— George.	16.	P
8 a.	227	— William Merry.	2.	Atcham	6 a.	430	— George Henry.		
8 c.	543	MERES, Ann.	70.	Leicester	7 a.	170	— George William.		
9 a.	212	MERFIELD, Bertie.	0.	Islington	1 b.	221	— Henry.	0.	Th
7 a.	357	MERIDETH, Mary.	1.	Prescott	8 b.	513	— Herbert.	0.	C
7 b.	429	MERFIELD, Mary Elizabeth.	0.	Luton	3 b.	307	— Isabella.	1.	D
7 b.	52	MERIGAN, Ann.	59.	Shoreditch	1 c.	145	— Isabella.	64.	1
		MERIGAN, Ellen.	0.	St. George S	1 d.	131	— James.	3.	Bu

This is the full page:

Image from FreeBMD

[illegible]

Ann's birth and parentage

Ann had a child William in 1851, see Appendix 1 to the brief relating to Elizabeth Merigan, when presumably she was less than say 45 years of age. She also married in 1833, when presumably she was more than 16. That suggests that the window in which she was born was between 1806 to 1817, the mean of which is 1811-1812.

In her death certificate (above), Ann was said to be 59 at her death on 28th August 1868. If that is correct, she was born between 29th August 1808 and 28th August 1809.

The following 1851 England Census record for Ann's family notes that she was then aged 38:³

³ The Family Search database record for the event is at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:SG64-T7N>. URLs of Family Search records linked herein include “61903”, presumably a specific member number, and likely need adapting to function.

Ten years later, the 1861 England Census record for Ann's family notes that she was then aged 50:⁴

(The brief relating to Elizabeth Merigan shows why these two census records relate to her mother Ann's family).

⁴ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2ML-HJBO>.

The 1851 and 1861 England Censuses were done on 30th March 1851 and 7th April 1861 respectively.⁵ If Ann's age was correctly stated in 1851, she would have been born between 31st March 1812 and 30th March 1813, and if her age was correctly stated in 1861, she would have been born between 8th April 1810 and 7th April 1811. The mean of those two date ranges is a date in 1811.

These various ages that were given for Ann suggest that she was born around 1811.

As noted above, Ann was married in Cahir in 1833, and no earlier record for her which might place her elsewhere has been located. Her children Mary, Michael and Patrick were baptised there in 1834, 1835 and 1838, see Appendix 1 to the brief relating to Elizabeth Merigan.

These facts tend to suggest that Ann may well have been born in Cahir.

As does the fact that there were numerous Keatings in Cahir at the relevant time, which was observed upon a manual examination of the microfilmed Cahir parish baptism records from 1809 to the end of 1815 looking for Ann's baptism (see below). A search for Ann's daughter Elizabeth's baptism was conducted by manually examining microfilmed Cahir parish baptism records over a 4½ year period from 1838 to 1842 (see the brief relating to Elizabeth Merigan), and that also revealed numerous Keating baptisms in Cahir at that time, likewise suggesting numbers of them in Chair a generation earlier. (There were many more than in Bansha, making that a less likely birth place for Ann, notwithstanding that it is the location of a known family event, namely the baptism of Ann's son Joseph in 1843 – see Appendix 1 to the brief relating to Elizabeth Merigan).

However, on Family Search searches, no Ann/Anne/Annae/Annam Keating baptism in Cahir at about the requisite time was located.⁶ (The search returned one record only, of an Anne Keating baptised in Cahir to Thomas Keating and Johanna Herbert, but this turned out to have occurred in 1780). A search of the wider area⁷ returned six further Ann/Anne Keating baptisms: two at Clonmel,⁸ about 9½ miles east of Cahir, both in 1810; two (in 1809 and 1811) at Clogheen, 7 miles south-south-west of Cahir;⁹ one in 1815 in Cashel, 10 miles north of Cahir; and one in 1805 in Loughmore-Castleiney, 26 miles north of Cahir. As may be expected, nothing in the linked person records for these entries indicated that any of these Anns might be Elizabeth's mother Ann.

It should be noted that the Anne Keating baptised in 1815 in Cashel was baptised to Pierce Keating and Anne Brenan, and the search also returned another baptism in Cashel in May 1807 of an unnamed child to a Keating (no first name recorded) and Ann Brennan. This is discussed further below.

Searches for an Ann with a mother, sister or sister-in-law named Elizabeth

At Ann's marriage to William Merigan in Cahir on 16th February 1833, Elizabeth Keating was named as a witness (see the brief relating to William Merigan). It is very likely that this was Ann's mother, sister or sister-in-law.

Without information as to the names of Ann's brothers, allowing for Family Search searches of them marrying an Elizabeth, the sister-in-law possibility could not be investigated further.

⁵ See <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/census-records/>.

⁶ See, for example,

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.birthLikeDate.from=1805&q.birthLikeDate.to=1815&q.birthLikePlace=Cahir%2C%20County%20Tipperary%2C%20Ireland&q.birthLikePlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Ann&q.surname=Keating&q.surname.exact=on>. The single record returned is at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:62XC-YJ4G>. No year of baptism is given, just a baptism date (10th May). Family Search's software suggested a match of this record to an Anne Keating baptised in Cahir in 1780 – see <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/L1K4-1GN>. The Cahir baptisms in 1780 are microfilmed, and the baptism was indeed on 10th May 1780, see <https://registers.nli.ie/registers/vtls000632131#page/34/mode/1up> at page 34, hence this is not the relevant Ann.

⁷ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.birthLikeDate.from=1805&q.birthLikeDate.to=1815&q.birthLikePlace=Cahir%2C%20County%20Tipperary%2C%20Ireland&q.givenName=Ann&q.surname=Keating&q.surname.exact=on>.

⁸ Interestingly, a post at <https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/history-and-genealogy/ancestor-database/william-merrigan> half-heartedly suggested a connection between William Merigan's family and Clonmel: "family tradition has it that the family came from Clonmel in Tipperary but it seems it may have been the Bansha/Ballinleenty area about 23 miles away".

⁹ A third one baptised in Clogheen on 24th June 1815 was located on a slightly varied search, but with no given name recorded, see <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.birthLikeDate.from=1805&q.birthLikeDate.to=1815&q.birthLikePlace=County%20Tipperary%2C%20Ireland&q.birthLikePlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Ann&q.surname=Keating&q.surname.exact=on>. Upon examination of the original record at <https://registers.nli.ie/registers/vtls000632282?locale=en#page/4/mode/1up> (page 4 of Clogheen Microfilm 02453/04), the entry proved to be for a child named Joannis.

As to the possibility that the marriage witness Elizabeth Keating was Anne's mother or sister, if a local Keating family of the time with both an Ann and an Elizabeth could be located, that might be Ann's family.

However, a Family Search search for an Ann Keating with a mother Elizabeth in Cahir at the time returned no potential record.¹⁰

A wider Family Search search for an Elizabeth Keating in County Tipperary at the time, and with an Ann Keating as a family member, did not return a Family Search record sufficiently identifying any such persons with any such link.¹¹ And, also, a Family Search search for an Elizabeth Keating baptised at about the requisite time to be Ann's sister (between about 1805 and about 1818) returned none for Cahir, and only seven for the wider area.¹² As may be expected, nothing in the linked person records for those seven Elizabeths indicated any connection to William's wife Ann Keating.

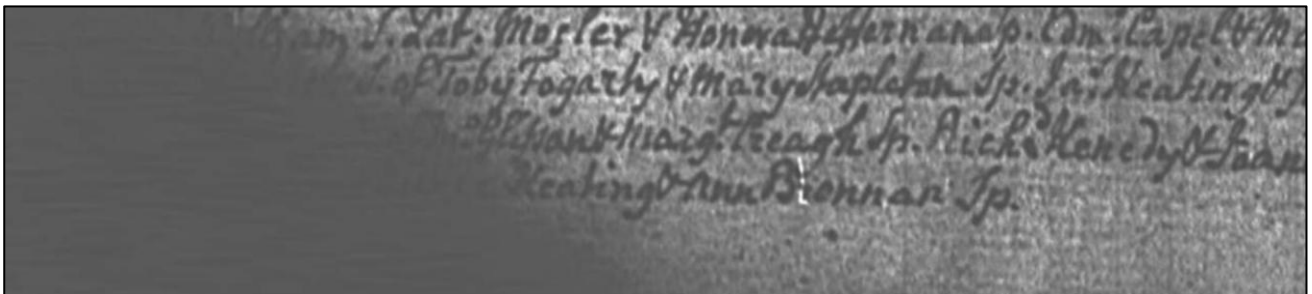
The seven results included baptisms at Clonmel in 1818, and Clogheen in 1815 and 1816. Those parishes also had Ann Keating baptisms (see above), but the parents were different in all cases, so no parents for any of the Anns matched the parents of any of the Elizabeths.¹³

The Family Search database searches therefore failed to locate a County Tipperary Keating family of the time with an Elizabeth as a sister, sister-in-law, or mother, to Ann Keating.

The Cashel family of Pierce Keating and Ann Brennan

As noted above, a Family Search search for Ann Keating returned an unnamed child baptised in May 1807 in Cashel to a Keating (no first name recorded) and Ann Brennan.

The baptism records for Cashel are available online through the National Library of Ireland, and were inspected to see if they provided further information, but they did not. The record, which is largely obscured, is on page 65 of Cashel Microfilm 02501/02.¹⁴ The record is at the foot of the page, and only shows "Keating & Ann Brennan" (thus resulting in the abridged Family Search database record):



The Anne Keating baptised in Cashel in 1815, referred to above, was baptised to Pierce Keating and Anne Brenan. The same location of Cashel, the same father's name of Keating, and the same mother's name of Ann

¹⁰ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1812&q.anyPlace=Cahir%2C%20County%20Tipperary%2C%20Ireland&q.givenName=ann&q.motherGivenName=elizabeth&q.motherSurname=keating&q.recordCountry=Ireland&q.surname=keating&c.birthLikePlace1=on&f.birthLikePlace0=9&c.birthLikePlace2=on&f.birthLikePlace1=9%2CIreland&f.birthLikePlace2=9%2CIreland%2CCounty%20Tipperary>.

¹¹ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1812&q.givenName=elizabeth&q.otherGivenName=ann&q.otherSurname=keating&q.recordCountry=Ireland&q.surname=keating&c.residencePlace1=on&f.residencePlace0=9&c.residencePlace2=on&f.residencePlace1=9%2CIreland&f.residencePlace2=9%2CIreland%2CCounty%20Tipperary>.

¹² See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1805&q.anyDate.to=1818&q.anyPlace=Cahir%2C%20County%20Tipperary%2C%20Ireland&q.givenName=Elizabeth&q.otherGivenName=Ann&q.otherSurname=Keating&q.surname=Keating&c.birthLikePlace1=on&f.birthLikePlace0=9&c.birthLikePlace2=on&f.birthLikePlace1=9%2CIreland&f.birthLikePlace2=9%2CIreland%2CCounty%20Tipperary>.

¹³ Both the Ann and Elizabeth searches return an unnamed child baptised in Clogheen on 24th June 1815 to Joannis Keating and Catharinae Day. As those parents did not feature in any other record returned on the two searches, they likely had no other children, so it seems likely that even if that child was named Ann, she did not have a sister Elizabeth, or, if named Elizabeth, she did not have a sister Ann.

¹⁴ See <https://registers.nli.ie/registers/vtls000632678?locale=en#page/65/mode/1up>.

Brennan suggests that the 1807 baptism was to the same parents as Anne. In case the child baptised in 1807 may have been an Elizabeth, the family was investigated further.

The 1815 baptism occurred on 15th March 1815, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X3MF-YL7H?lang=en>:

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Anne Keating

Birth • Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900

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 "Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900",
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 (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X3MF-YL7H: Wed Mar 12 04:15:22 UTC 2025),
 Entry for Anne Keating and Pierce Keating, 15
 Mar 1815.

[Copy Citation](#)

Name Anne Keating

Father's Name [Pierce Keating](#)

Father's Sex Male

Mother's Name [Anne Brennan](#)

Mother's Sex Female

Event Type Baptism

Event Date 15 Mar 1815

Event Place Cashel, County Tipperary, Ireland

Anne Keating's Parents and Siblings

Name	Relationship	Sex
Anne Brennan	Mother	F
Pierce Keating	Father	M

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Similar Records

Anne Keating
 Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900

It is noted that this Anne Keating would be just shy of 18 if she married William Merigan on 16th February 1833, or perhaps, if she had been born a month or more before her baptism, she had just turned 18 by the date of that marriage. Marrying at or on the cusp of the age of 18 might potentially be considered a corroborating fact.

Further searches specifically relating to baptisms in Cashel to Pierce Keating and Anne Brennan produced the following Cashel baptism records:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Baptism date</i>
Unknown (a possible Elizabeth)	May 1807
Patrick	3 rd April 1809
Pierce	21 st October 1811
Anne	15 th March 1815
James	23 rd March 1817
James	21 st July 1818
Richard	24 th October 1819

(The first James likely died shortly after childbirth).

Unfortunately, none of that information advances the matter. It is, however, noted that the original May 1807 Cashel record does seem to be obscured as a result of poor microfilming, rather than smudging or damage. The Tipperary Family Research Centre was therefore emailed, and requested to advise the details of the entry in full. No response was received.

At the end of the day, the likelihood is that the May 1807 baptism is not of an Elizabeth: it is far more likely that the given name is one of a myriad of other common given names of the time, and there is only a 50% chance of a female to start with. And, even if the May 1807 baptism was for an Elizabeth, the relative commonality of the names Elizabeth and Ann in County Tipperary at the time, something that was observed on the inspection of

many contemporaneous records, would mean that it was far from conclusive that Elizabeth's mother Ann was the daughter of Pierce Keating and Anne Brennan. Accordingly, the matter was not pursued.

Searches for Ann with a brother Edmund/Edmond Keating

Another line of enquiry was to look for an Edmund/Edmond Keating who was a brother to an Ann Keating.

This came about because Ray and Patricia Burke (also keen researchers of Patricia's Merigan heritage) had advised Kath Palyga in a letter dated 18th September 1992 that Ann may have had a brother called Edmund:¹⁵

Tricia's father, James Colgan, and a family friend, Fred Cutcliffe, accepted a probable distant relationship, probably through a common Keating ancestor. We felt it likely that Anne Keating was probably a sister of Fred's Edmund Keating. We were overjoyed to find a record of an Edmund Keating's birth about the right time. We have since ascertained that Fred's Edmund was born in the adjoining parish of New Inn about 18 months earlier! There goes another theory.

The Burkes enclosed two letters from the Tipperary Heritage Unit dated the 6th and the 24th August 1992 which make clear that the Unit had been looking for information about Ann Keating at the request of the Burkes. The Unit's findings, reported in their 6th August 1992 letter, were that –

after a thorough and detailed search of all 46 parishes in the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly, we were unable to locate any information on the Keating of [sic] Merrigan families.

The Burkes obviously then requested the Tipperary Heritage Unit to look for the possible brother of Ann, Edmund Keating, as the Unit's follow up letter of 24th August 1992 included the following record, which the Unit described as Edmund's "possible" baptism:

<u>PARISH OF TIPPERARY</u>			
Baptism:			
DATE	CHILD	PARENTS	SPONSORS
1816.01.11	Keating Edmund	keating John Doyle Mary	Connolly William Bailey Margaret

A Family Search search returned 3 other Edmund/Edmond Keatings baptised in County Tipperary between 1806 and 1815.¹⁶ Those baptisms were all at Clonmel, about 9½ miles east of Cahir, so the Tipperary Heritage Unit's Edmund Keating investigation for the Burkes would appear to have been quite superficial. (To be fair, perhaps they were only asked to look in Tipperary parish).

A Family Search search for an Edmund Keating with an Ann Keating as a family member did not return a record sufficiently identifying any such persons with any such link.¹⁷ The search for a local Keating family at the time with an Edmond/Edmund as a brother to an Ann thus proved fruitless.

It is worth noting that Ray Burke himself cast doubt on the Edmund Keating thesis in his 1998 paper *Our Merrigan Heritage* (apparently written about 2006):¹⁸

¹⁵ The Burkes also provided Kath Palyga with a family tree. It gave Ann's birth year as 1809. No birth day or parents were noted.

¹⁶ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1812&q.anyPlace=Cahir%2C%20County%20Tipperary%2C%20Ireland&q.givenName=edmund&q.recordCountry=Ireland&q.surname=keating&c.birthLikePlace1=on&f.birthLikePlace0=9&c.birthLikePlace2=on&f.birthLikePlace1=9%2CIreland&f.birthLikePlace2=9%2CIreland%2CCounty%20Tipperary>.

¹⁷ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1812&q.anyPlace=Cahir%2C%20County%20Tipperary%2C%20Ireland&q.givenName=edmund&q.otherGivenName=ann&q.otherSurname=keating&q.recordCountry=Ireland&q.surname=keating>.

¹⁸ The document, which was provided by Tom Moore to Steve Palyga, is a Word document. Under File/Info, it was last printed in 2006.

Kath Palyga (a great granddaughter of Elizabeth Merrigan) suggested that Ann had a brother, Edmund, whose parents were Edward Keating and Elizabeth Mahoney, and whom she says: was baptised at New Inn, Tipperary, on 1 June 1814; married a Johanna Walsh; emigrated and arrived in Sydney on 14 February 1842 and died at Lidcombe on 19 February 1885.¹⁹ If Ann was his sister then those are her parents too but, it must be conceded, that any hard support for the relationship is missing. Kath's notes actually say that "grandma" (Elizabeth Merrigan) had relatives named Keating who lived at Lidcombe. New Inn is about 12 kms east of Bansha on the Cahir-Cashel road.

Ken Cutcliffe MSC and Fred Cutcliffe, descendants of that Edmund Keating, (and they have the family tree to support them) think it otherwise. That Edmund, aged 23, immigrated to Australia in February 1842 on the Sir Edward Pagett. With him was his wife, Johanna neé Welch or Walsh, his sister Ellen, aged 21, and Johanna's sister, Eliza. The Cutcliffe's accept a relationship with our Ann Keating but not as a member of that particular family. Tricia²⁰ adds the comment that her father, James Bolan Colgan, commented that Ken Cutcliffe was about his "ninth cousin" – in short, related but not closely.

While it all seemed convincing enough to accept that Ann had a brother Edmund and Edward Keating and Elizabeth Mahoney were the parents of both of them in the end result that seems quite improbable.

To which it might be added that, based on the known facts, it seems much more likely that Ann was from Cahir, or thereabouts, and not Tipperary town or New Inn.

Searches for Ann born in the Aherlow Valley to John Keating and Anne Brennan

Tom Moore wrote as follows in his 2024 book *Family Ties: The Patriarch and the Matriarch: John Charles Noblet, Elizabeth Jane Merrigan, and their families*:

Anne Keating was born two years after her husband [his birth year being 1808] and also in the Aherlow Valley. Her parents were John Keating and Anne Brennan, whose birth dates are unknown.

Tom Moore advised Steve Palyga (via email on 21st February 2024) that he believes he obtained Ann's birth year (1810), her birth place, and her parents' names, from ancestry.com.²¹

If this birth actually happened, and Ann was born about 1810, her father John Keating would likely have married her mother Anne Brennan in the late 18th or early 19th Century. Family Search searches for such a marriage anywhere in County Tipperary at any time returned 18 records, but none within that time period.²²

Three John Keating marriages are recorded in County Tipperary at about the correct time, but, as noted, none to an Anne Brennan.²³ One was in Cahir on 23rd January 1800 (marrying a Maria Cantwell), another in Cahir on 14th June 1804 (marrying a Joanna Casey) and one in Ballingarry (22 miles north-east of Cahir) on 17th January 1815 (marrying a Cath McCarthy). None of those 3 records hinted at any connection to Elizabeth's mother Ann Keating.

Searches for an Ann or Anne Keating being baptised to a John Keating anywhere in County Tipperary returned 9 records, but none dated in the late 18th or early 19th Century. The exact same 9 records were returned on searches for an Ann or Anne Keating being baptised to an Anne Brennan anywhere in County Tipperary. 158 records were returned on a search for a John Keating being born anywhere in County Tipperary. Only one was

¹⁹ There was no document in Kath Palyga's files relating to this New Inn Edmund thesis, and it actually seems to have been first mentioned by the Burkes, see the extract from their letter to Kath Palyga dated 18th September 1992 quoted above.

²⁰ Patricia, Ray Burke's wife and Kath Palyga's half second cousin.

²¹ A person posting at <https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/history-and-genealogy/ancestor-database/william-merrigan> claimed that Ann "possibly" came from the Aherlow Valley, 6 miles west of Bansha. However, no evidence was advanced for this claim, which would appear to be mere speculation rather than family history received by the contributor.

²² See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.givenName=John&q.recordCountry=Ireland&q.spouseGivenName=Anne&q.spouseSurname=Brennan&q.surname=Keating&c.marriageLikePlace1=on&f.marriageLikePlace0=9&c.marriageLikePlace2=on&f.marriageLikePlace1=9%2CIreland&f.marriageLikePlace2=9%2CIreland%2CCounty%20Tipperary>.

²³ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1810&q.givenName=John&q.recordCountry=Ireland&q.surname=Keating&c.marriageLikePlace1=on&f.marriageLikePlace0=9&c.marriageLikePlace2=on&f.marriageLikePlace1=9%2CIreland&f.marriageLikePlace2=9%2CIreland%2CCounty%20Tipperary>.

born before 1799, a “Joannem” on 25th January 1785 in Cahir, but his record did not suggest any family connection to Elizabeth’s mother Ann Keating.

Twenty-nine Ann or Anne Brennans were recorded as baptised in County Tipperary, but the earliest baptism occurred in 1815. Given the lack of Irish public records at the relevant time (the late 18th or early 19th Century),²⁴ the information reported by Tom Moore cannot be ruled out, but neither can it be verified from the available record.

Nothing in the information and records sighted in extensive research regarding Elizabeth’s mother Ann’s birth tended to verify that her birth location was Aherlow, or that her father and mother were John Keating and Anne Brennan. As stated above, it seems much more likely that Ann was from Cahir, or thereabouts, and not the Aherlow Valley, which is west of Bansha.

Other researches

As suggested above, on the available information, the starting place for research as to Ann’s birth would be Cahir. The National Library of Ireland has no microfilmed Cahir parish baptisms from 1793 to 1809 – see <https://registers.nli.ie/parishes/1097> – and that almost certainly means Family Search also does not have those records digitised and in databases.

Nevertheless, Cahir being the more likely birthplace, the available baptism records for the parish commencing (as they do) from August 1809 were manually examined up to the end of 1815. See Cahir Microfilm 02459/04 at <https://registers.nli.ie/registers/vtls000632133#page/1/mode/1up>, pages 1 to 80.

What was quite apparent on that lengthy manual inspection is that Cahir and its immediate locality is a stronghold of Keatings. There were at least seven different Keating families baptising children in Cahir about 1810, and before the end of 1812.²⁵ At least another seven Keating families, all different to each other and to the seven families baptising children in 1812 or earlier, baptised children in Cahir in 1813.²⁶ Another three Keating families, different again, baptised children in Cahir in 1814.²⁷ Additionally, there were at least four Keating families (different again) having children baptised at the time in Ardfinnan, 5 miles south of Cahir.²⁸

Nevertheless, no Ann Keating baptism in Cahir was located in the available parish baptism records that were manually inspected (that is, from August 1809 to the end of 1815). Notably, this physical review of records was not able to be exhaustive in any event. About one-tenth or so of the entries inspected were illegible due to smudging, fading, or poor handwriting. Pages are also missing – the records jumped from August 1810 to April 1812 – see page 30. The entries are in Latin, which also does not help.

Bansha is another place with a known family event, namely, the baptism of Joseph Merigan in 1843 (see Appendix 1 to the brief relating to Elizabeth Merigan). Pre-1820 Bansha parish baptisms – see

²⁴ Further as to which, see Appendix 2 to the brief relating to William Merigan.

²⁵ Namely, that of Jacob Keating and Honor Lonergan (who baptised a Helen on 21st December 1809, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6KCV-WTWW> and also <https://registers.nli.ie/registers/vtls000632133#page/22/mode/1up> and who also baptised an Eleanor on 15th May 1811, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6P6C-ZP4L>), that of Galpidie Keating and Elena Bedter (who baptised a Margaret on 3rd February 1810, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6KY1-GMX2>), that of Edmund Keating and Joanna Scanlan (who baptised an Ellen in 1810, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:62MN-9D11>), that of Maurice and Mary Keating (who baptised an Honor in 1810, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:62MN-9DBT>), that of John Keating and Mary Griffeth (who baptised an Honor on 15th March 1811, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:62XH-2B57>), that of John Keating and Ellen Cleary (who baptised a Michael on 1st December 1811, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6LVG-PFXH> and also a Galfridium on 12th May 1814, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6K6X-DRYD>), and that of Maurice Keating and Mary Purcell (who baptised a Nicholas on 19th May 1812, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:62WQ-L217> and also a Catherine on 27th September 1814, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6KRR-6JT7>).

²⁶ Namely, the families of John Keating and Catherine Meagher, William Keating and Mary Meagher, Michael Keating and Judith Dempsey, Jacob Keating and Margaret Wall, Jacob Keating and Joanne Hanin, Thomas Keating and Honor Phillips, and Edmund Keating and Mary Hill. See page 3 of the full search for Keating baptisms in County Tipperary at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&offset=40&q.anyDate.from=1809&q.surname=keating&c.birthLikePlace1=on&f.birthLikePlace0=9&c.birthLikePlace2=on&f.birthLikePlace1=9%2CIreland&f.birthLikePlace2=9%2CIreland%2CCounty%20Tipperary>.

²⁷ Namely, the families of William/Guilielmi and Mary Keating, Edmund Keating and Judith Hogan, and Thomas Keating and Catherine Wall. See page 3 of the search referenced in the preceding footnote.

²⁸ Namely, Jacob Keating and Margaret Malloney (who baptised an Ellen on 29th April 1811), Robert Keating (who baptised a Jacob on 26th May 1812), Daniel Keating and Johanna Finessy (who baptised a William/Guilielmum on 18th October 1812), and Jacob Keating and B Connolly (who baptised a David in 1812). See page 2 of the search referenced in the previous footnote.

<https://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0245> – are also not microfilmed. So if Ann was born pre-1820 (which she would have been given she married in 1833) and had been baptised in Bansha, that record would not be returned on a Family Search search, nor could a manual search be made for it.

Tipperary parish is not a likely location for Ann's baptism, as there is no proven family connection there. There are some Keatings, such as is proven by the 1816 Tipperary baptism of Edmund Keating, see above. There are also some Merigans, as is proven by the 1808 Tipperary baptism of William Mergin to John Mergin and Catherine Byrne, at one time the Burkes' candidates for William's parents (see the brief relating to William Merigan). But, overall, there is a dearth of Keatings and Merigans in Tipperary. In their paper *Irish Genealogy*, the Burkes reported that, on 26th June 1996, whilst in Tipperary: "We visited the St Mary's cemetery which is now a Church of Ireland establishment but is apparently a cemetery of largely Catholic derivation however found no Merrigans, Byrons or Keatings."

Given the mediocre quality of research by the Tipperary Heritage Unit in the early 1990s, as noted above and also in the brief relating to William Merigan, the comprehensiveness of their 1992 search of county parish records for Ann Keating's baptism is questionable. Nevertheless, they also drew a blank.

It is noted that the task of locating Ann's birth or baptism record is significantly impaired by the state of the record. There are no extant County Tipperary records for the 1821, 1831 and 1841 Irish censuses²⁹ (see Appendix 2 to the brief relating to William Merigan) which might have assisted in locating Ann Keating's birth date and place. There are also huge gaps in the County's public records at the relevant time for the other reasons explained in Appendix 2 to the brief relating to William Merigan. That not only means the correct record may be missing, but it also means that, even if an apparently relevant Ann Keating baptism could be located, it might be difficult to definitively conclude that it is for Elizabeth's mother. When there are gaps in the record, unless a candidate matches conclusively, one can never be sure that there is no better matching candidate.

Griffith's Valuation was also checked to see if it might assist in the search for Ann's family. See Appendix 1 to the brief relating to William Merigan for a full description of the Valuation. As noted in that brief, the results of any search of the Valuation is taken to be a snapshot of landholdings in County Tipperary at about 1848, by which time Ann had likely emigrated to, or was in the process of emigrating to, England (see the brief relating to Elizabeth Merigan). The Valuation lists occupiers, their immediate lessors, and the area and value of the land held. It also has a basic description of the land, such as "land", "house", "house and land", "office", "garden", "plantation", "grave-yard" etc. Accordingly, it does not provide the sort of detail which assists much in ascertaining family relationships.

There was no Ann or Anne Keating recorded in the Valuation as either an occupier or an immediate lessor in Tipperary South Riding (i.e. South Tipperary County). However, there were 526 separate records (i.e. records relating to separate parcels of rateable land) where a Keating was named as such, rendering impossible the task of using any data in the Valuation to identify any particular Keating family.³⁰

If we accept what are likely to be Ann's own statements as being the most reliable available evidence, she was likely born about 1811 given the estimated ages of 38 and 50 stated for the 1851 and 1861 England Censuses (although even that estimate is questionable given the two year age discrepancy between the ages stated for the two censuses). One cannot be more specific given the general imprecision as to a person's age of the times.

Otherwise, Ann's exact day of birth or baptism is unknown because, despite extensive searching, a birth or baptism record for her was not located. Her parents are thus also unknown. Her place of birth is also unknown, although one suspects it is likely to have been in County Tipperary, and possibly at Cahir.

²⁹ Except for Thurles parish in the 1841 census.

³⁰ Ann unlikely had sufficient means to own land in any case. Shoreditch in London, where she and William lived for almost 20 years until her death in 1868, was a slum, or came to be so, see the brief relating to Elizabeth Merigan.