

## The Family of John Walsh living in Broad Street, Magherafelt in 1901

John Walsh and his family were listed in both the 1901 and the 1911 Census Returns living in Broad Street, Magherafelt where they ran an hotel. The hotel was situated at the corner of Broad Street and Union Road, so called because it led to the Union Workhouse, now the Mid-Ulster Hospital.

### 1901 Census [Magherafelt DED] [PRONI: MIC354/5/40]

Below are details of the persons resident in the house and hotel of John Walsh on the night of the 31st March 1901 when the Census was taken. There were 14 persons, of which 8 were members of the Walsh family. The other 6 were hotel staff. There do not appear to have been any guests staying in the hotel on the night of the census. The house and hotel had 22 front windows and 35 rooms which, as you will see later, appears to be somewhat excessive.

House No. in Census	Forename	Surname	Relationship	Religion	Education	Age	Sex	Profession	Marriage	Where Born
12	John	Walsh	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read & write	52	M	Hotel Proprietor	Married	Co. Derry
12	Jane	Walsh	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read & write	48	F		Married	Co. Derry
12	Mary C.	Walsh	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & write	22	F	Undergraduate R.U.I.	Not married	Co. Derry
12	Jane F. E.	Walsh	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & write	21	F	B.A. R.U.I.	Not married	Co. Derry
12	James A.	Walsh	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & write	20	M	Undergraduate R.U.I.	Not married	Co. Derry
12	Elizabeth G.	Walsh	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & write	17	F	Scholar	Not married	Co. Derry
12	Louis A.	Walsh	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & write	15	M	Scholar	Not married	Co. Derry
12	William P.	Walsh	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & write	13	M	Scholar	Not married	Co. Derry
12	Charles	McGuckin	Barman	Roman Catholic	Read & write	21	M	Barman	Not married	Co. Derry
12	Thomas	McGuckin	Butler	Roman Catholic	Read & write	50	M	Waiter	Not married	Co. Derry
12	John	McGuigan	Boots	Roman Catholic	Read & write	24	M	Hotel Boots	Not married	Co. Derry
12	Matilda	O'Neill	Servant	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	40	F	Cook	Not married	Co. Derry
12	Margaret	McGuone	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read & write	40	F	Kitchen Maid	Not married	Co. Derry
12	Elizabeth	Devlin	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read & write	40	F	House Maid	Not married	Co. Derry

## 1911 Census [NAI: 1911 Online Census]

In 1911 there were only 9 persons resident on the night of the census, 1<sup>st</sup> April 1911. The difference was caused by the fact that some of the children had grown up and had probably left the family. No occupations were given for the children [now adults] living in the house/hotel. Were they all employed in the hotel? The House and Building Return Form now shows 16 windows and 17 rooms which suggests that the 1901 form may have been giving the number of windows and rooms for two buildings.

House No. in Census	Forename	Surname	Relationship	Religion	Education	Age	Sex	Profession	Marriage	Where Born
5	John	Walsh	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read & write	65	M	Hotel Proprietor	Married	Co. Londonderry
5	Jane	Walsh	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read & write	58	F		Married	Co. Londonderry
5	Mary .	Walsh	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & write	32	F		Single	Co. Londonderry
5	James	Walsh	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & write	29	M		Single	Co. Londonderry
5	Lily G.	Walsh	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & write	27	F		Single	Co. Londonderry
5	Willie.	Walsh	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & write	23	M		Single	Co. Londonderry
5	Thomas	McGuckin	Waiter	Roman Catholic	Read & write	60	M	Waiter	Single	Co. Londonderry
12	Matilda	O'Neill	Cook	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	60	F	Cook	Single	Co. Londonderry
12	Patrick	Mooney	Barman	Roman Catholic	Read & write	25	M	Barman	Single	Co. Londonderry


## Marriage of John Walsh and Jane Harbison

Because all of the family, except the eldest son John Joseph, were listed in the 1901 Census, finding both the marriage of John and Jane Walsh [nee Harbison] and the births of their children was relatively easy. It was likely that the couple were married in the 1870s. I began by searching the *Irish Genealogy: Central Signposting Index*, which is free. It will tell me if I am likely to find their marriage in the *Derry ~ Londonderry Genealogy: Marriage Records for Co. Derry* online database. Below is a search for any Walsh who married a Jane. In this case I did not narrow the search by using the first name John. As you can see below it came up with seven marriages. Again, I could have narrowed the search by date.

Surname (Husband)	Firstname (Husband)	Surname (Wife)	Firstname (Wife)	Source Year	Source *	Centre
WALSH	JAMES	MACKEY	JANE	1835	M	<a href="#">Derry Genealogy Centre</a>
WALSH	HENRY	BREDIN	JANE	1871	M	<a href="#">Derry Genealogy Centre</a>
WALSH	JOHN	MCKEOWN	JANE	1872	M	<a href="#">Derry Genealogy Centre</a>
WALSH	JOHN	HARBISON	JANE	1874	M	<a href="#">Derry Genealogy Centre</a>
WALSH	JOHN	HARBISON	JANE	1874	M	<a href="#">Derry Genealogy Centre</a>
WELSH	ALEXANDER	ROSS	ELIZA JANE	1895	M	<a href="#">Derry Genealogy Centre</a>
WELSH	ALEXANDER	ROSS	ELIZA JANE	1895	M	<a href="#">Derry Genealogy Centre</a>

The two candidates here must be Jane McKeown and Jane Harbison. I then searched the *Derry ~ Londonderry Genealogy: Marriage Records for Co. Derry* online database for a marriage of a John Walsh c.1872 and the two marriages came up. The question was which one was it? Both were possible. I then carried out the search shown below on the grounds that the “my” John Walsh was likely to have been married in Magherafelt Roman Catholic Church.

1 match for the search criteria: **Walsh (plus variants) John 1868-1876 Parish: MAGHERAFELT (RC)**

Action	Source	Surname	First Name	Year	County
<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Church Marriage	Walsh	John	1874	Co. Derry 

**Free Index Search for Co. Derry**


Type\*:  ▼



Surname\*:

Firstname:

Year\*:  +/-  ▼

Parish / District:  ▼

Surname Match\*:  ▼ 

The details of the marriage can be obtained from the online database, the church records or the civil records.

John Walsh, hotel porter of Magherafelt was married to Jane Harbison, spinster of Magherafelt on 23rd November 1874 in Magherafelt Roman Catholic Parish. The father of the groom was John Walsh (deceased), hotel porter. The father of the bride was James Harbison, merchant. The witnesses were Patrick Meehan and Lizzie Harbison.

### Births of the children of John Walsh and Jane Harbison

Seven children were born between 1875 and 1887 and, according to the 1911 Census, all were still alive in 1911.

John Joseph, born 9th October 1875.

Mary C., born 8<sup>th</sup> June 1877.

Jane Francis Ellen, born 10th January 1879.

James A, born 27th May 1880.

Elizabeth, born 24th June 1882.

Louis, born 27th December 1885.

William Patrick, born 14th December 1887.

Only six of these children were listed in the 1901 Census. John Joseph, the eldest son, would have been 26 by 1901 and, presumably had left home. The births up to 1880 were recorded as both civil births and church births. However, there are no church records for Magherafelt Parish available on microfilm after 1880, and those that are available are difficult to both find and read on the microfilm. There is, of course, no problem here because all births were registered as civil births in the Magherafelt Registration District.

Again finding the births in both the *Derry ~ Londonderry Genealogy: Birth Records for Co. Derry* online database and the *Ireland, Civil Registration Indexes* was also relatively easy. The only problem was finding the first child missing from the 1901 Census Returns. Below is a screenshot of my search for the children in the *Derry ~ Londonderry Genealogy: Birth Records for Co. Derry* online database. I used the date 1878 to cover the children born between 1875 and 1882.

**12 matches for the search criteria: Walsh (plus variants) 1874-1882**

Action	Source	Surname	First Name	Year	County	
<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Civil Birth	Walsh	John Joseph	1875	Co. Derry	
<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Civil Birth	Welsh	James Alexander	1875	Co. Derry	
<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Civil Birth	Walsh	Martha	1877	Co. Derry	
<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Civil Birth	Walsh	Mary	1877	Co. Derry	
<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Civil Birth	Walsh	Martha Jane	1878	Co. Derry	
<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Civil Birth	Walsh	Jane F. E.	1879	Co. Derry	
<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Civil Birth	Walsh	James A.	1880	Co. Derry	
<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Church Baptism	Walsh	Joseph John	1880	Co. Derry	
<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Church Baptism	Walsh	John	1881	Co. Derry	
<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Civil Birth	Welsh	Agnes	1881	Co. Derry	

Pages :  
1 2 >Next

**Free Index Search for Co. Derry**

Type\*:  v

Surname\*:

Firstname:

Year\*:  +/-  v

Father Surname:   
Only enter if different from child's surname

Father Firstname:

Parish / District:   
v

Surname Match\*:  v ?

Clearly, not all of these children were John and Jane's children, It was relatively easy to eliminate those who were not by selecting Magherafelt (RG) (RD) in the Parish/District box and, one by one, typing in each first name in the Firstname box. I eventually discovered that their first child was John Joseph born in 1875 which is consistent with the date of their marriage. It has to be said, however, that the addition of another search box that would allow the mother's name to be included in the search would make the task easier and, in the vast majority of cases, remove the lottery element in the search.

The database entry giving the details of the second child, Mary, is shown on the next page.

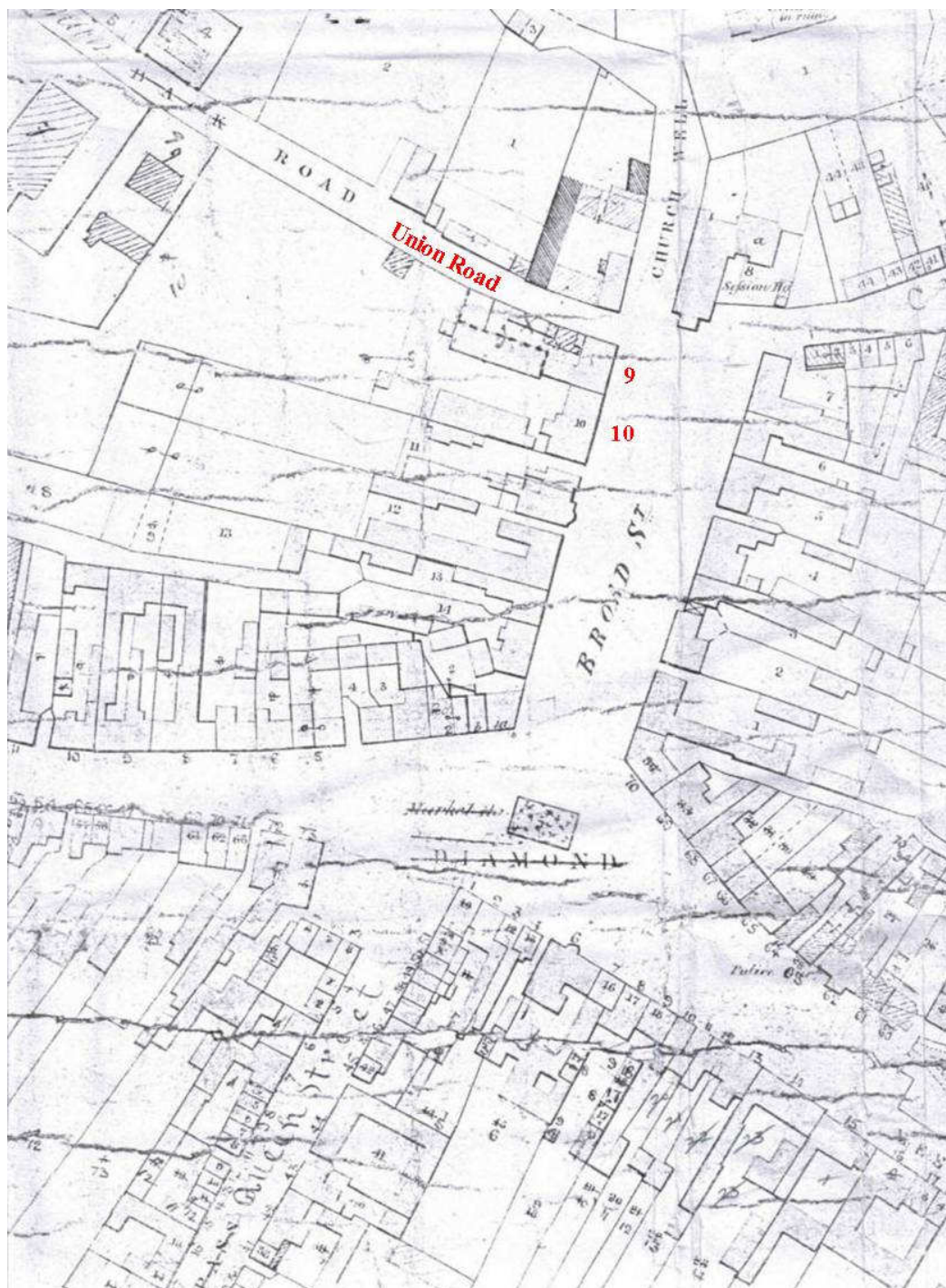
Civil Birth Record			
Name:	Mary Walsh	Date of Baptism / Birth:	08/06/1877
Address:	Broad Street	Parish / District:	MAGHERAFELT (RG)
Gender:	Female	County:	Co. Derry
		Denomination:	Registrar District
Father:	John Walsh	Mother:	Jenny Harbison
Occupation:	Hotel Keeper		
Sponsor 1 / Informant 1:	Mary Connor	Sponsor 2 / Informant 2:	
Notes:			

To obtain a photocopy of each birth entry from GROI, Dublin or Roscommon would require looking up the birth indexes for the volume and page number of the birth register containing the information. A search of the *Ireland, Civil Registration Indexes* produced these results. Note that the first two births do not include the quarter of the year. This practice was not introduced until 1878. Note also that James Alphonsus's was born in May but his birth was not registered in the Apr-Jun quarter – see also Louis and William Patrick. All of the births were registered in the Magherafelt Registration District.

John Joseph 1875, Vol. 16, p.707	Mary 1877, Vol. 11, p.760.	Jane Francis Ellen Jan-Mar 1879, Vol. I, p. 774.	James Alphonsus Jul – Sep 1880, Vol. 1, p.707.
Elizabeth Jul-Sep 1882, Vol. 1, p. 699.	Louis Apr-Jun 1886, Vol. 1, p.746.	William Patrick Jan-Mar 1888, Vol.1, p.701.	

Not only was tracing of the family of John and Jane Walsh relatively simple, establishing the location of their house was even easier. The Griffith's [Tenement] Valuation Book shows that in 1859 a Mary Walsh was occupying No. 9 but it does not say that it is a hotel. No. 10 at that time was occupied by a John Laurence and has a valuation twice that of No. 9. The location of 9 and 10 are shown on the 1859 Griffith's Valuation Map on the next page.

BROAD-STREET.								
1	Mary Anne M'Fall.	Worshipful Company of Salters.	Hotel, off., yd., & gar.	0 2 13	2 0 0	46 0 0	48 0 0	
2	Simpson Sheppard,	Wilson Mawhinny,	Ho., off., yard, & garden.	0 1 10	1 0 0	15 0 0	16 0 0	
	Jane Wilkinson,	Same,	House (part of),	—	—	3 10 0	3 10 0	
3	James Pollock,	Worshipful Company of Salters,	House, off., yard, & gar.	0 0 35	1 0 0	13 0 0	14 0 0	
	Elizabeth Hughes,	Same,	House, off., yard, & gar.	0 1 17	1 0 0	19 0 0	20 0 0	
4	Unoccupied,	Elizabeth Hughes,	Shop,	—	—	5 10 0	5 10 0	
	Jane Duncan,	Worshipful Company of Salters,	House, off., yard, & gar.	0 2 0	1 10 0	16 10 0	18 0 0	
5	Ellen Hastings,	Jane Duncan,	Shop,	—	—	5 10 0	5 10 0	
6	Joshua Adams,	Worshipful Company of Salters,	House, off., yard, & gar.	0 0 29	0 10 0	13 0 0	13 10 0	
7	John Daley,	Same,	House, off., yard, & gar.	0 1 5	1 0 0	17 0 0	18 0 0	
8	Sessions-house, bride-well, and yard,	(See Exemptions)						
9	Mary Walsh,	Worshipful Company of Salters,	House, offices, and yard.	—	—	16 0 0	16 0 0	
10	John Laurence,	Same,	House, off., yard, & gar.	2 0 30	4 0 0	34 0 0	38 0 0	
11	Worshipful Company of Salters (Andreia Spotswood, Agent).	In fee,	Rent off., off., yd., & gar.	0 0 32	1 0 0	31 0 0	32 0 0	
12	Jas. Duncan (Manager)	Worshipful Company of Salters,	Northern Bank, offices, yard, and garden,	0 0 35	1 0 0	41 0 0	42 0 0	
13	William Shannon,	Same,	Ho., off., yard, and gar. (detached),	0 1 18	0 15 0	27 5 0	28 0 0	
14	Samuel Derby,	Same,	Ho., off., yard, and gar. (detached),	0 1 13	0 15 0	25 5 0	26 0 0	



PRONI: VAL/2/D/5/3

By 1901 the hotel comprised the two buildings Nos. 9 and 10. The Griffith's Revision Books for Magherafelt [PRONI: VAL/12/B/34/18A-E] show the changes that took place in these two properties between 1859 and 1901. The changes are summarised in the table below. Essentially, the table shows the expansion of the Walsh family into the building next door.

No. in Griffiths 1859	Occupier 1859	Description of Property 1859	Valuation of Buildings 1859	Changes 1859 - c.1900
9	Mary Walsh	House, office & yard	£16.00	1876 John Walsh.
10	John Laurence	House, offices, yard & garden 2.0.30	£34.00	John Laurence. 1863 David Barclay. 1878 Matthew Anderson. 1881 John Walsh.

Although, as yet, I have no marriage or birth evidence to show that Mary Walsh was the mother of the John Walsh in the 1901 Census, given the evidence outlined below, it is very probable that she was.

The marriage certificate of John Walsh of 1901 indicates that his father was dead at the time of his marriage in 1874.

Slater's Directory of 1846 lists a John Walsh, spirit and porter dealer in Broad Street.

The 1856 Slater's Directory lists Mary Walsh, spirit and porter dealer in Broad Street.

Her name remains in both the 1870 Slater's Directory and in the Belfast and Ulster Directories [now available on PRONI online database] up until 1880. From 1870 Directory Mary Walsh's premises in Broad Street were described as spiritdealer and posting establishment.

Unfortunately, here are no directories available for 1881-1883 but by the 1884 directory it was now John Walsh, hotel, spiritdealer and posting establishment. Incidentally from 1870 in the Belfast and Ulster.

Whilst not as strong as birth and marriage evidence it would be reasonable to conclude that John Walsh of 1901 took over his mother's public house and posting establishment probably around the time of the date, 1876, indicated in the Griffith's Revision Books. The fact that her name continued in the directories up to 1880 was probably due to the printers not changing it. Certainly the 1884 entry for John Walsh which also included hotel in the description of the premises, reflected the fact that he had taken over the adjoining building, No. 10, c.1881 from David Barclay who, incidentally, was listed in the 1870 Slater's Directory as having a hotel and posting house in Magherafelt. It does not mention the street where this establishment was located, but given the fact that he took over No. 10 from John Laurence, it may very well have been situated next door to Walsh's public house and posting establishment.

## **Conclusion**

This case study illustrates the assertion made in the paper *Researching Derry & Londonderry Ancestors* in the booklet – "The period most likely to produce a positive result is c.1860 to c.1920". Because of compulsory registration from 1864, births and marriages are easy to find and the availability of online databases has made the task of searching so much easier.

However, as you can see from this example – "It is much more difficult to find evidence of a family before 1860".

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