

The Cobanes in Ireland

by Shirley De Renzo

Family tradition passed down among the Cobanes in Ireland indicates the family had early origins on the European continent, most likely the country of France. They were said to be French Huguenots who fled the country because of religious persecution.

Webster's Dictionary describes Huguenots as, "French Protestants, adherent of a Swiss political movement begun in 1532 by Swiss political leader Besancon Hugues and active in the 16th and 17th centuries."

The original name of the Cobanes is said to have been De Gobienne, but over the years we have seen the surname spelled many different ways: Cobane, Cobeans, Cobain, Cabane and even Cobine. They are all believed to be of the same family.

The Cobane family arrived on the eastern shores of Northern Ireland around the year 1640. They traveled up the Blackwater River and settled in the area of Aughnacloy, Ballygawley and Skey in the Parish of Carnteel. Records have been discovered which document the presence of Cobanes in Carnteel Parish in the mid-1700's. There are two leases filed with the Registry of Deeds, the first of which is dated 13 January 1748 and the second 14 January 1748.

The first document states that one Acheson Moore, Esq. who was then owner of all of Skey Townland, agreed to lease to Thomas, Joseph, and Samuel Cobane (Cobeans) sixty acres plantation measure for and during their natural lives for the yearly rent of twelve pounds six shillings sterling.

The second lease was identical in text except that the grantees were John and James Cobane (Cobeans) for another sixty acre plot and was for the duration of the lives of the above two and for and during the natural life of John's son, also named James, who was approximately two years of age at the time. The yearly rent for this land was also twelve pounds six shillings sterling.

Because the given names of Thomas, Samuel, Joseph, John, James and William have been used over and over again in the Cobane / Cobain family, from the mid-1700's to the present day, it is believed that these Cobanes were direct ancestors.

The 1766 Religious Census of Aghalow and Carnteel Parishes, County Tyrone, Armagh Diocese includes William and John Cobane (Cabane). No townland of residence is given for them.

The earliest known record of the Cobane family in the Innishatieve / Dunmisk area is from the record of Termonquirk Parish, Church of Ireland, Carrickmore, Tithe Applotment Book of 1825. Thomas Cobane was listed as living in Dunmisk on a farm of approximately 13 acres. His wife's name is unknown, but evidence strongly indicates that he had two sons, Samuel and William, although there may have been other sons and daughters. Thomas Cobane may have been born in Skey Townland (circa 1765/1770). He was probably the son or grandson of one of the Cobanes who were grantees in the two leases mentioned earlier. In 1825 he would have been between 55 and 60 years old.

An article written by The Rev. Peter Kerr entitled “Families and Holdings in the Townland of Innishatieves, Carrickmore” includes the following information about the Cobane Family. “The Cobanes came into the area from Skey, Ballygawley, circa 1800 on a midnight flit.” The local people knew nothing of their coming until early one morning they saw the smoke from their fire on the mountain that straddled the Innishatieve/ Dunmisk border. They settled in a sod house before moving north to a more low lying and sheltered place where they built a house of bricks which they shaped and burned themselves. This house is standing until the present day.”

When Thomas Cobane and his family came into the Innishative, Carrickmore area in 1800 it is known that other family members remained in Carnteel Parish. Indexes to the Registration of Deaths were searched for Cobane /Cobain ancestors / relation for the years 1864 – 1902 and the following were found.

Year	Name	Age	Reg. Dist.	Townland	Date
1864	Sarah Cobane	41	Omagh	Innishatieve	5/23/1864
	<i>married, wife of Wm. Cobane, disease of the heart, informant Ellen Cobane, present at death.</i>				
1865	Letitia Cobane	75	Clogher	Ballynany	7/18/1865
	<i>married, farmer's wife, bronchitis, informant Elizabeth McArthurs of Ballynany in attendance.</i>				
1866	Eliza Cobane	01	Omagh	Innishatieves	4/23/1866
	<i>Child, 23months, farmer's daughter, phthisis, informant Ellen Cobane, present at death.</i>				
1867	Samuel Cobane	75	Omagh	Dunmisk	8/6/1867
	<i>married, farmer, chronic dyspepsis, informant Samuel Cobane, Innishatieve, present at death</i>				
1870	Jane Cobane	80	Dungannon	Lisnamonaghan	4/15/1870
	<i>spinster, beggar, old age, informant Margaret Cobane (res.Lisnamonaghan, present at death)</i>				
1873	John Cobain	72	Cologher		
1873	William Coban	63	Monaghan		
1874	Charlotte Cobane	02	Cookstown		
1875	William Cobin	36	Monaghan		
1876	Ellen Cobane	87	Omagh		
1876	William Cobane	83	Omagh		
1878	Sarah Cobaine	00	Cookstown		
1879	William Cobaine	35	Clogher		
1880	Cobain/Cobane female	00	Cookstown		
1880	Cobans, James	41	Omagh		
1884	Cobain, Margaret	70	Dungannon		
1886	Cobine, Catherine Jane	14	Monaghan		
1886	Cobine, Dorothea	12	Monaghan		
1887	Cobain, Mary Jane	52	Clogher		
1889	Cobain, Ellen	80	Clogher		
1890	Cobain, Samuel	35	Cookstown		
1892	Cobain, John	23	Omagh		
1897	Cobaine, Catherine	24	Cookstown		
1898	Cobain, John	45	Bawnboy		
1898	Cobane, Samuel	00	Omagh		
1898	Cobaine, Sarah Jane	54	Cookstown		
1901	Cobane, Samuel	68	Omagh		
1901	Cobane, James	40	Omagh		

1796 Spinning Wheel Survey

This survey of individuals receiving spinning wheels from the government is now indexed for all of Ireland. However, the index (by All Ireland heritage) indicated only one person bearing a surname similar to Cobane: Elenor Cobine (Tullycorbit parish, County Monaghan).

Calendars of Wills and Administrations

Previously, the index to calendars dating 1858-1877 was examined. The yearly calendars dating 1878-1887 and 1901-1904 were also examined in research, with the following wills and administrations indicated.

Year	Name	Type	Description
1881	Cobain, Thomas	Adm.	Late of 104 Old Lodge Road, Belfast, provision dealer
1885	Cobain, Thomas	Will	Late of Kilwaughter, Co. Antrim, shopkeeper
1903	Cobine, James	Will	Late of Derryallery, Co. Monaghan, farmer

Civil Registration of Protestant Marriages

Civil Registration of Protestant Marriages commenced in 1845. Prior to that time almost all records were kept by the churches, that is, births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and the tithe applotment records. Civil registration of Catholic marriages did not commence until 1864.

The following records of marriages were performed in the Parish Church of Termonmaquirk, Carrickmore, except for the 1865 marriage of Deane Cobane which was performed in the district church of Cooley in the parish of Termonmaquirk.

Date	Groom	Bride
26 Oct 1884	Charles Crawford (res. Tullyheran)	Mary Anne Cobane daughter of William (age 17, res. Dunmisk) Document 19).5
15 Sept 1853	Thomas Cobane (son of Wm.) (res. Dunmisk)	Mary Anne Hunter (res. Carrickmore) Document 20).6
18 Apr 1854	Samuel Cobane (Son of Samuel) (res. Innishatieve)	Letitta Cobane (Daughter of Wm) (age 19, res. Dunmisk)
09 Aug 1860	Robert Turner (res. Farrenbaggart)	Catherine Cobane (Daughter of Wm) (res. Dunmisk) Document 21).7
18 Nov 1862	Richard Morrison (res. Carnaamaddy Pomeroy)	Margaret Cobane (Daughter of Wm) (res. Dunmisk) (Document 22).8
17 Nov 1863	John Cobane (son of Samuel) (res Dunmisk)	Anne Lyons (age 20, res Carrickmore) (Doc 23).9
02 Mar 1865	Deane Cobane (Son of Samuel) (res Dunmisk)	Anne Smiton (age 20, res. Dunmoyle) (Doc 24).10

The above marriages include all those Cobanes listed in the indexes as married in the Omagh registration district (which encompassed Termonmaguirk parish). It is worth noting that there were also quite a few references in the Irish civil registration to persons with the surname Cobain (or similar) in the registration districts of Antrim and Belfast. In addition, it was noted that Margaret Cobane (full age, spinster, res. Dansinare, daughter of William Cobane, farmer)

married James Rusk (res. Stranoodan, Kilmore parish) on 30 September 1862 at the parish church in the parish of Monaghan, County Monaghan.

It appears that the Cobanes / Cobains living today in the Dunmisk / Innishatieve, Carrickmore are all descendants of Thomas Cobane of Skey and his two sons: Samuel and William. Griffith's Primary Valuation of Termonmaquirk civil Parish (County Tyrone) was printed in 1860. At this time the following Cobane households were listed in the parish:

Townland	Occupier	Description	Acres
Inishatieve	William Cobane	House, Land Outbuildings	11
Inishatieve	Patrick Cobane (with Donnelly (2) Hughes, Kerr)	Land	87
Dunmisk	Samuel Cobane	House, Land Outbuildings	28
Dunmisk	William Cobane	House, Land Outbuildings	28

Each of the Cobane households leased or rented their property from John M. Stewart, Bart, the landowner.

THE TITHE APLOTMENT OF IRELAND was a tax levied in the 1820's and 1830's on residents for support of the Established Church of Ireland. The index to the Tithe Applotment Books for the six Northern Ireland

Name	County	Townland	Parish	Year	Refer.
Cobane, Samuel	Tyrone	Dunmisk	Termonmaguirk	1825	164/29
Cobane, Thomas	Tyrone	Dunmisk	Termonmagguirk	1825	164/29
Cobbain, James	Tyrone	Skey	Carnteel	1827	68/P26
Cobbain, William	Tyrone	Mullaghbane	Carnteel	1827	68/P50
Cobean, James	Tyrone	Duraney	Carnteel	1827	68/P14
Cobaine, James	Antrim	Loonburn	Kilbride	1833	162/P2
Cobene, James	Antrim	Carncoagh	Skerry	1825	155/4

Protestant Marriage, Birth and Christening Records from 1827 to 1874 indicate a great number of Cobains and also some Cobanes living in Antrim County in the towns of Larne, Ballynure, Ballymena, Ballylinny and Belfast.

This information was researched and documented by Shirley De Renzo as of June 1, 2005.