

TWO MATTHEW RYANS

In researching Matthew Ryan of Ryans Vale, Figtree I came across a snag - there was the record of the burial of Matthew Ryan of Figtree in 1871 but, according to our cemetery transcripts this man was only 36 - our transcripts state he was a native of Tipperary. But the age didn't fit Matthew Ryan of Ryans Vale, native of Tipperary who had arrived as a convict in 1816.

I had researched the 1816 man, found two marriages for him, listed his children by both marriages and some deaths. "Hal," I said. "This is pretty straight forward - someone has made a mistake with the tombstone, no need to worry about the discrepancy in age.

But I was soon put to rout by Father Max Barrett whom I was attempting to help - he had been to the Land Titles Office and found details of a sale between a Matthew and his son Matthew, mother shown as Jane. These records also showed that Matthew (1) had died in 1853.

Back to the drawing board!

Well, looking at our burial records again I saw that I hadn't looked far enough; the full record of burials in this grave are:

RC - S - 27 - 10	Matthew d. 4/3/1871, 36 years, native of Tipperary
RC - S - 27 - 10A	Elizabeth d. 6/11/78, 21, daughter of the above
RC - S - 27 - 10B	Sarah d. 6/9/1881, 60, wife of the above, native of Tipperary

Cutting a long story short, I then searched the shipping records and found the family's arrival:

The shipping records show Matthew as 34 years old in 1851 or 2, son of Matthew and Betty Ryan of Boherland, Co. Tipperary, an agricultural labourer, illiterate, good health, no complaints and he didn't know what was paid. Father living at the Five Islands, mother dead.

Sarah, his wife, 30, was daughter of Edmund and Catherine Effernan of the same place, (both dead), could read and was a dairywoman. James, their son, was 1 year and 8 months.

On the same ship were a John Ryan & his wife Margaret of Kilnencoy (?), Tipperary. I don't know if they were related to Matthew and Betty.

Matthew and Sarah had arrived on the *David McIver* on 9 April 1852 having left Plymouth 31 December 1851.

As Matthew Snr was tried at the October Quarter Sessions in 1815 I suggest that he was a few years out in the age he gave on the shipping records. I think that he was probably born 1816 or a little earlier and was more like 35 on arrival and 55 on death.

It appears that Matthew Snr was not shriven as I can't find a burial record for a Matthew Ryan in 1853.

Both our transcripts and his death certificate show an incorrect age for young Matthew - 36 and 47 respectively. Very trying!

The mother shown as Jane in the LTO records would have been young Matthew's second step-mother, Jane McCormack; his first was Catherine Purcell whom Matthew Snr. had married in 1839.

Peter Doyle