

Using Clusters, Paintings, and Trees to Find Your Common Ancestor - Part 3

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In Part 1 we looked at MyHeritage cluster and matches that my second cousin, Trish¹ and I shared with a match I'm calling Joe Smith. Trish and my most recent common ancestors are our great grandparents, Thomas Byrnes and Bridget Fenton. Looking at the cluster in detail in part 1, we determined that the matches were on Joe's paternal Smith side, which is different than Joe and I had assumed. Matches Sue, Sarah, and Frank who are in the cluster all have surname Smith in their immediate family.

In Part 2 we examined the marriage record of John Fenton and Johanna O'Brien, and the baptismal record for their daughter Bridget all of which occurred in County Limerick. One of Bridget's godparents had surname Coffee, which was familiar from a DNA match's tree. Searching for Coffee surname at the same Catholic parish we found that Catherine Coffee married Michael Brien a few years earlier. We used Cluster Auto Painter at DNA Painter to determine that Joe, Sue and Sarah triangulated with Trish and me on chromosome 7, and that Sue, Frank and Sarah triangulated with Trish and me on chromosome 8. Using AutoKinship we found that Sue is likely Joe's first cousin, and Sarah likely his second cousin.

Building a tree for Joe - Joe's tree gives his father's birth 1930 and the location. Civil birth registration for Ireland ends in 1920, but using the location we found his grandfather, Michael Smith's 1911 census record. The 1911 census lists how long he's been married, the ages of everyone in the family, how many children have been born and how many are still living. All of this information allows for searching for civil birth records, and the parent's civil marriage record. Civil birth records list the child's name, birthdate, and gender. It lists the father's full name and his occupation, where the family lives and also lists the mother's maiden name. The civil marriage record lists the bride and groom, their occupations, where they are living, both of the father's names, if the fathers are alive or had died, and the occupation of the fathers.

Civil records: <https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/>

1901 and 1911 census: <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

Catholic baptismal records: <https://registers.nli.ie/> with indices at FindMyPast and RootsIreland.

Griffiths Valuation: <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/> and FindMyPast

Looking at Joe's great grandfather, Patrick Smith, civil marriage record in 1870 we find that he married Johanna O'Brien and her father was named Michael. They were married at Bulgaden Catholic church. Since the bride would typically be married in the same parish as where she was baptized we can search for her baptismal record. There was only one Johanna O'Brien with father Michael, and her mother was Catherine Coffee. This is the same family we found looking at the FAN club in part 2. Can we go back any farther? Michael O'Brien is found in Griffith's Valuation in 1852. But now we've run out of records.

My hypothesis is that Joe's 2nd great grandfather, Michael O'Brien, and my 2nd great grandmother, Johanna O'Brien, were siblings.

¹ Trish has allowed me to use her real name and her shared DNA matches. All other names are psuedo-names for living people.