

Mapother Family (Tom Cruise Roots)

The Mapother family's deep roots were in Dorset in south-west England. The first reference to the family in Ireland, is in 1588 to Richard Mapother Sheriff of Roscommon.[1] By the early 1600s the Mapothers received a grant of lands in county Roscommon, and established their main residence in Kiltreevan, where they remained down to the early 20th Century.

Although the Mapothers arrived in Ireland as settlers and officials during the Tudor Conquest of Ireland, unusually they remained a catholic gentry family. Their catholic faith and landed wealth placed limits on who they could partner with, and they intermarried other recusant families including the Croftons, Ormsbys, Nugents, Kellys and the Taylors of Swords.[2]



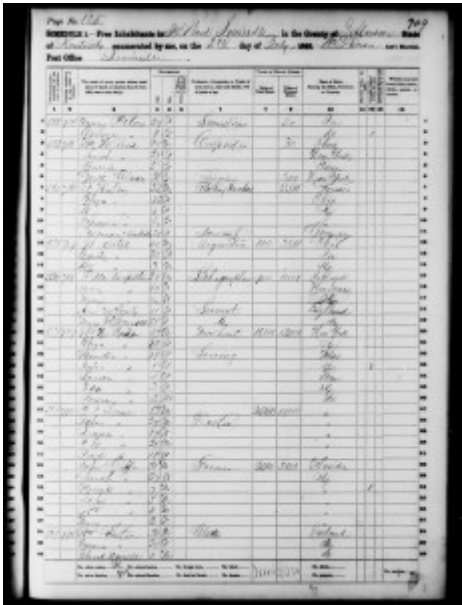
Left: Crofton Miniature early 18th century, related to Mapother of Kiltreevan.

Taken from Henry Thomas Crofton, *The Crofton Memoirs* (1911)



Dillon Henry Mapother (Mary Pauline Russell Cruise's first husband) was born in 1832 the second son of Henry Mapother a bank official in the Bank of Ireland, and Mary Lyons of Clontarf.[3] Henry Mapother was descended from a cadet branch (i.e. from a younger son) of the main Mapother family in Roscommon, and therefore did not expect to inherit anything. In landed families like these the eldest male heir usually inherited the estate and all principal assets.

In late 1849 the eighteen-year-old Dillon Henry Mapother set sail aboard the *Wisconsin S.S.*, arriving in New York in January 1850. He was not a typical 'Famine Immigrant' of the time – he came from a professional middle-class family, and was well educated – he held a qualification in civil engineering – and probably brought '*seed capital*' with him. By 1860 within ten years of his arrival in the United States, Dillon H. Mapother had established a successful business and had property and a personal estate valued at over \$5,000 in Louisville Kentucky.



Right: Dillon Henry Mapother on the 1860 US census. Courtesy of

findmypast.ie

Back in Ireland, Dillon Henry's Mapother cousins did not marry or establish their own families. Most of them were Dillon's near contemporaries, born in the 1830s, and by the mid-1870s it grew increasingly evident that his male cousins would probably never marry, but also that even if any of his female cousins should marry they were probably past child-bearing. Consequently, there was a high probability that Dillon Henry Mapother's Kentucky family would inherit the Roscommon estate.

In fact Dillon Henry Mapother died almost sixty years before the last of his Irish cousins – in late 1933 Miss Mary J. Mapother of Kiltewan House died aged 96 years.[4] The Kiltewan Estate was broken up and the lands sold by the Land Commission.[5]

[1] ♦ *Calendar of State Papers Ireland*, 1588-92, p. 242.

[2] National Library of Ireland, Genealogical Office Manuscript 813(15).

[3] The Baptismal register records this child as Dillon Edward, but he consistently gives his name as Dillon Henry on the ship's manifest by which he first travels to America in 1850, and on the U.S. Census in 1860 and 1870.

[4] Civil death of Mary J. Mapother, 4th Quarter 1933, Roscommon, online findmypast.ie website, 20/03/2013.

[5] Irish Land Commission, Correspondence file regarding management by the public trustee of the estate of Mary J. Mapother, otherwise referred to as the Kiltewan estate. In

FURTHER READING SOURCES:

Roscommon Life 2010 (incorporating the Roscommon Association Yearbook)

Page 25 Let's get Tom to Kiltewan! By Paul Healey