

Corcoran Family Story of Faith

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Early Workers

Revised April 25, 2026

A Story of Faith

The Year: 1897

The Place: Nenagh and Borrisokane, County Tipperary, Ireland

The People: John and Jane Ann Corcoran, and their family

A very 'different' and fundamental faith came to South Central Ireland in the year 1897. Two young homeless ministers, one of them named **William Irvine**, came to the home of John and Jane Ann Corcoran, where they lived in a large stone house called "Finnoe House", near **Nenagh, Tipperary County, Ireland**. This couple had ten living children and were quite prosperous farmers in the area. Nenagh was said to be a 'very dark place' at that time; John Corcoran was a heavy drinker.

During the meetings that were held in Nenagh, many people embraced the faith which faithfully adhered to Bible teachings only, taking the life of Christ as an example in every phase of living. Among these were Jack and May Carroll, John and Jane's oldest daughter Katie Swanton and her husband, and also one of John and Jane's sons, Jack; Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, (Ida Corcoran Robinson's mother and father-in-law); a Mrs. Bradshaw, and several others.

Later, there was a mission held at **Borrisokane in 1898**, and it was here that the mother of "Finnoe House", Jane Ann Corcoran, made a profession in this faith; some who did so with her were several of her family, the Dennison family, (whose sons Frank and Harry and their sister Mae entered the ministry); possibly John Corcoran's brother George's family; another Robinson couple, the Longs, Brays, and Falkiners.

Another mission was held a little later, near "Finnoe House" in the home of the Burgess family. John and Jane's children Lydia, Jim and probably Bill Corcoran embraced the faith at this time. Eight years later, in 1906, John Corcoran, the father of "Finnoe House" made a profession, and died two years later in 1908.

1901 Irish Census shows all the Corcoran family were members of Church of Ireland. In the early days, up until 1903, workers encouraged their converts to attend the church of their choice.

Four of John and Janes' children went into this ministry: Sally, Jack, Bill and Jim. All four eventually married.

(1) Sarah (Sallie) (1878-1954) was the 2nd child of John & Jane Corcoran

Born in Finnoe House, Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary, Ireland

Entered the work in 1905; shown on the 1905 Workers list

Preached in UK and west coast US. Pioneered work in Alaska in 1910 with her brother Bill; Elizabeth Jamieson was one of her first companions in US).

Married Raymond McCoy (no children), resided/died in California

(2) John (Jack) (1880-1927) was the 4th child of John & Jane Corcoran

Born in Finnoe House, Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary, Ireland

Entered the work in 1903; shown on the 1905 Workers list, preached in ____;

Married Ida (Florence) Lowe (4 children); lived/died in Vancouver, BC Canada;

(3) William (Bill) (1882-1970) was the 5th child of John & Jane Corcoran.

Born in Finnoe House, Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary, Ireland

Bill went to Toronto, Canada, at the age of 21, where he felt called into the ministry; went back to Ireland and England as a minister for two or three years – and later came back to the U.S. to be Jack Carroll's companion in 1907. Preached in US, pioneered Alaska with sister Sallie

Married Fern Howard (sister worker) in 1917 (5 children); lived/died in Oregon

Fern was in the work sometime between 1910 and 1916.

(4) James (Jim) (1844-1944) was the 6th child of John & Jane Corcoran.

Born in Finnoe House, Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary, Ireland

Entered the work in 1907, preached in New Zealand

Married Bessie Ramsbotham 1918 (4 children); lived/died in New Zealand

Several of the Corcoran children and grandchildren of the 10 entered the work. John and Jane's youngest daughter, Ida (Corcoran) Robinson, had two young daughters, Ruth and Jean, who went into this ministry and a son, Herbert, whose daughter, Arlene is in the work in Ireland. John and Jane's oldest daughter Katie (Corcoran) Swanton, had a daughter Mabel Lockhart, two of whose children

went into the work (Marjorie, and David). John and Jane's fifth child, Bill, had two sons, Gerald and Myron, each of whom had a child enter the work in 1978 (Dan and Muriel).

A brother of the original John Corcoran, George, had three children; one of whom, Annie, went into the work. His son Jim had two daughters, Bessie and Nellie, who either went into the work themselves or had children who did so: Bessie was in the work in Scotland for many years – and Nellie had a son, Robert Wood, who was in the work in Peru.

Dates the above entered the work:

Harry Dennison started 1905

Mae Dennison is listed as 'pre 1913'

Tom (NOT Frank) Dennison is listed as 'First Year Out pre 1913'

Jim Corcoran started 1903

Sarah Corcoran started 1905 (aka Sally)

B. Corcoran is listed on one list as 'First Year Out 1900'

Ruth Robinson First Year Out 1950

Jean Robinson First Year Out 1953

David Lockhart First Year Out 1961

Marjorie Lockhart First Year Out 1961

Robert Wood 1966-1984

Arlene Robinson 1982-

Added by TTT: Mollie Long, home Finnoe (pre 1913)

(Dates are not known for the others mentioned.)

TTT NOTES: Faith Mission's monthly publication ***Bright Words*** confirms the Nenagh Mission was held by Wm. Irvine from August 15 – September 16, 1897; and the Borrisokane Mission was held January 16 – Feb 6, 1898.

CORCORAN FAMILY TREE

John Joseph Corcoran was born in 1848 in Nenagh, Borrisokane, Co Tipperary and died in 1908.

He married **Jane Anne Atkinson**

Children of John Joseph and Jane Anne Corcoran – All children were born in Finnoe House

1. Kate Anne (Katie Corcoran) Swanton was born in Co. Tipperary, Ireland on June 28, 1876 and died on February 22, 1951, in Nenagh, Ireland. Married John Swanton in 1902.

2. Sarah Jane (Sally Corcoran) McCoy was born in Co. Tipperary, Ireland on Jan. 2, 1878 and died in 1954 in Oregon or California. Married Ray McCoy. Note: 1901 Irish census shows Sarah Jane (not "Sally"), which is probably a nickname for Sarah.

3. Thomas Corcoran was born in Co. Tipperary, Ireland in 1879 and died on March 31, 2001, in Ireland. Married Elizabeth ??

4. Jack (John) Corcoran was born in Co. Tipperary, Ireland on July 19, 1880 and died in Vancouver. Married Ida Florence Lowe.

5. William (Bill) Corcoran was born in Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary, Ireland on May 4, 1882 and died on Sep. 17, 1970 in Medford, Oregon. Married Fern Vivian Howard sometime prior to 1917 (born Dec. 29, 1891 in Barnsville, Minnesota – died 9 Dec. 9, 1976 in Medford, Oregon).

6. James (Jim) Corcoran was born in Co. Tipperary, Ireland on September 1884 and died on January 20, 1944 in Wellsford, Auckland, New Zealand. Married Betsy Muriel Hope Ramsbottom on July 29, 1918.

7. Lydia (Corcoran) Edge was born in Co. Tipperary, Ireland May 7, 1886 and died in Anacortes, Skagit Co., Washington on July 14, 1969. Married John Edge.

8. George Richard Corcoran was born in Co. Tipperary, Ireland on March 15, 1888 and died August 5, 1957 in Vancouver, B.C. Canada. Married Violet Moore.

9. Margaret May (Corcoran) Delahunt was born in Co. Tipperary, Ireland about 1892 and died in Washington. Married James Delahunt.

10. Ida (Corcoran) Robinson was born in Co. Tipperary, Ireland on May 30, 1896 and died on December 3, 1931, in Vancouver BC Canada. Married Harry Robinson.

11. Baby Girl Corcoran was born about 1898 and died about 1899 in Ireland, 1 year old.