TESKEY FAMILY TREE - Explanatory notes on the January 2026 edition

FIRST

Before you start to use the family tree, I strongly recommend that you take the following steps:

1: Save the file twice, with two different names, firstly using the name with which it came and secondly with a new name of your choosing. Keep the first one as a backup in case you have a problem once you start to use your version.

2: Print this note and then open the tree. The file should open easily on a computer that has Microsoft Excel software installed.

Origin of this family tree

This family tree was produced by me, Ken McDonald of 2 Greenfields, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, CM24 8AH, England, UK. Email: teskey@btinternet.com

It is an extract from a more comprehensive family tree which I have built over many years, commencing soon after the death of my mother in 1989. She was born Doreen Teskey in 1914 and married my father, Richard McDonald, in 1942.

I used a spreadsheet from the start of my research in 1989 because it gave me structure and flexibility. The tree began on Lotus 123 and soon migrated to Excel. You will need Microsoft Excel software to be able to open the file. I never migrated to one of the genealogy programs which came along later, although I have in recent years created a small tree on Ancestry of my direct ancestors.

The family tree was built from my own research, wherever possible of primary documents. Research was generally from prime sources and their indexes, basically looking for every Teskey in the indices for birth, marriage, death and censuses around the English-speaking World. Research was sometimes prompted by contributions from other people, especially where the Teskey name was still evolving or had become corrupted, or where it had been lost through marriage. Most of the information was vigorously checked before inclusion in the tree so I accept responsibility for any errors. Details from public records have been supplemented with information provided by my contacts, especially in relation to younger generations. I have met over 600 family members and corresponded with more than 500.

None of the information in this family tree was simply downloaded from Ancestry as so many trees we see today. My mission to find all records of Teskey birth, marriage and death should have reduced the risk of making an incorrect assumption. Repeated use of common first names makes for an interesting challenge, so some of my own conclusions may one day be disproved. It is apparent from other published family trees that the researcher has grabbed the first appearance of the name they wanted without ensuring, for example, that their ‘ancestor’ had not died before they apparently married.

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Brief introduction to the tree

My master tree includes more than 11,000 rows (one for each family member) and about 30 columns of information. Around 9,000 or so rows link together 9,000 descendants of Jacob Teskey, who migrated with his wife and two sons from Germany to Ireland in 1709. The remaining rows are made up of a further 25 Teskey family groups who either do not link to the big group or whose link is uncertain.

One day, it may be possible to link some of these groups together, while other groups will remain independent because the Teskey name has arisen from an independent source or a different country.

Exclusions from this tree

I have always said to anyone who gave me information that was not in the public domain that I would not make publicly available any details about people who are still alive. I am conscious that releasing this edited edition of my tree carries a risk of breaching this undertaking, so I have sought to remove details of anyone likely to be still alive. To do this I have tried to exclude anyone born after 1930 (a somewhat arbitrary cut-off date) unless I believe they have died. By exception, I have retained a few living people where a senior member of a family group has granted me permission to include them. I have sought to remove personal information related to living people. I apologise if I have mistakenly retained details of any living person without appropriate permission.

My original tree includes some addresses, past or present, and other contact details. I have sought to exclude this information from the published tree as it could be misused. I am usually happy to put two people in contact with each other provided both parties are willing.

There are a number of instances where someone is still alive but their child or spouse has died. If I have excluded the primary person in the family group, their spouse and descendants have also been omitted from this extract.

I am conscious that my tree may contain information that could come as a surprise to some people, perhaps concerning adoption or children born out of wedlock. To the best of my knowledge, the information in this tree is factual.

Other available information

I was once very active with family research, family gatherings and regular distribution of Teskey News. More recent editions of the newsletter and other information are available on www.teskey.org, together with a substantial extract from the family tree. Around the year 2000 AD, Tom Upshaw, who manages the website, did a super job in converting some of my spreadsheet, covering about 2,000 names, into a suitable format for the website. In doing so, we sought to omit anyone who might be alive at that time. We also excluded anyone who did not fit into the main tree. Since then, I have changed my conclusions on how a few family groups are related to other groups.

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Structure of the Teskey family tree spreadsheet

The first 4 rows of the spreadsheet show what information is included in each column for individual family members within the tree that follows. I give further explanations about the columns below. Before we reach the individuals, there is a "Summary of all family groupings" on rows 7 to 34.

Summary of all family groupings

The summary (on rows 7 to 34) describes the various family groups that are included in the rows that follow. For example, row 9 gives details for family tree A, the largest group of linked names. The details for each member of this family group appear in rows 41 to 3968, one row for each family member. Within the Summary of all family groupings, I also show the comparable row numbers in my master tree – thus tree A runs from row 38 to row 9698. It has been reduced by around 60% as a result of excluding living people. The detailed family trees start at row 41.

The 26 family trees

The first column, column A, shows a letter against each member of that family group, initially many 'A's and then groups of varying size from B to Z. No details are shown for family groups V and Y because all the people are still alive.

Finding your way around the family trees - shortcuts.

Because there are many Teskeys with the same first name, I have always tried to distinguish individuals by giving them an abbreviated name or reference that combines the first four letters of their first given name and the year of their birth. I have used this naming concept (through Excel's Name Manager facility) to establish shortcuts for locating an individual within the tree.

Thus, my late mother, Doreen, is referred to as DORE1914. In a few cases, such as where more than one William was born in a given year, it has been necessary to add a suffix, for example WILL1913A and WILL1913B. These shortcut names or references appear in column C.

Within the tree, you should be able to jump to that person by using the [GoTo] function within Excel. This function can be called up in three possible ways:
1: the F5 function key, although this does not work on all computers;
2: Control-G; or
3: from the "Home" ribbon of options across the top of the screen, select "Find & Select" and then "Go To".

This GoTo approach works only for family members who were born with the surname Teskey or similar.

Another way to locate your branch is to use the [Find] function. This can be called up in two ways:
1: Control-F , or
2: from the "Home" ribbon of options across the top of the screen, select "Find & Select" and then Find.

Once in the Find box, enter the surname of a non-Teskey, or perhaps the location where they were born, married, died or appeared on a census and press "Find Next". You may discover that the word appears multiple times so that you must press "Find Next" several times before locating your target. On the other hand, GoTo will find only one occurrence.

Please remember, that you will not normally be able to find anyone who was born after 1930 and is therefore excluded from the tree.

Once you have located your ancestor, please make a note of the best way to find them again.

The columns across the spreadsheet [these notes relate to the main body of the spreadsheet, not the summary of family groupings at the top]**.**

Column A indicates the branch of the tree. A relates to the biggest family group, while Z is the latest branch to be added to the tree.

Column B gives the number of the row.

Column C shows the shortcut name or reference, as explained above.

Column D is where shortcuts are actually held – where you will be taken if you use the function [GoTo]. This column also includes a number 1 if I have met the person. My master tree shows that I have met a total of 645 members of the wider Teskey family, but many of these are still alive so do not appear on this scaled-down tree.

Column E includes a number 1 if I have corresponded with this person, either by email or post. My master tree shows a total of 573 correspondents.

The next several columns (F to AC) show names and generation numbers, starting with Jacob, JACO1659, who I have treated as generation zero. His two sons are generation 1, and so on.

Column AD also shows the generation of the individual.

Column AE gives their sex, Male or Female.

Column AF indicates whether this person is the descendant or the spouse, with 0 meaning a direct descendant and 1 meaning spouse.

Columns AG, AH and AI give dates of birth, marriage and death in the English format, DD/MM/YYYY, sometimes just an estimated YYYY

Columns AJ to AO give various details as defined in the column heading. What is visible may be only the first few words of the text. By clicking on the cell, the full text within the cell becomes visible near the top of the screen.

Columns AP to BA give some of the information recorded in various censuses. Here and in other columns I have sometimes recorded the reference number of the Document in my filing system. I hold copies of hundreds of census pages and birth, marriage and death certificates, etc.

Columns BB to BE show the source, or one of the sources, of that particular piece of information. CERT indicates that I have a copy of the certificate of birth, marriage or death. HANK refers to Hank Jones, in particular to his book "The Palatine Families of Ireland". PATRICK usually refers to Patrick O'Connor, in particular his book "People Make Places". Hank Jones is the "expert" on early Irish Palatine research and Patrick's book is the go-to place for the story of the Irish Palatines. Scattered through the document, there are references to other researchers

who have shared their work, including the late Mary Wallace who was an avid researcher of Irish Palatine history. Other names appear regularly, usually in connection with one particular branch of the family. I have been truly fortunate and honoured to call all of these good people my friends. Their assistance and influence on my research has been tremendous but, at the final reckoning, I take responsibility for all the decisions that have been taken in preparing this tree. Their involvement illustrates the international spread of the Irish Palatine story: Hank is American, Patrick is Irish and Mary was Canadian - none have Teskey ancestry.

Using this family tree

Doing anything more than just looking will require some basic knowledge of using a spreadsheet. If you are a beginner, you might like to practise your skills on a simpler spreadsheet. In any case, before making any changes, I recommend saving a copy of the file first. My usual practice is to save a file from time to time with the date or time as part of the file name (for example, Teskey20241124 and then Teskey20241125 for versions saved on November 24th 2024 and then November 25th) . In that way, you will build a collection of similar files but could go back to a clean one should something go wrong with the version you are using.

Looking – how to move around

I will use my mother as an example for moving around the spreadsheet . . .

[GoTo] DORE1914 will take us to row 296. She is a 8th generation Teskey (counting Jacob 1659 as generation 0). By clicking the right arrow key on the keyboard, we can jump to each of the elements of recorded information about Doreen. The left arrow key will take us back.

If you position the cursor on the dash before Doreen's name, you can jump up or down to the next sibling by tapping the [END] key on the keyboard (**not** the key that has a 1 and End), followed by either the up arrow or down arrow. Up will take you up through her older siblings, one at a time, to her mother, Ethel James. Immediately above Ethel James is her husband, Frank Peter Teskey, my mother's father and a 7th generation Teskey.

By positioning the cursor on the dash before Frank's name, you can [END] [UP] to find his older siblings and then his parents. In this way, you can track back through each of your own direct ancestors.

Printing

I caution against trying to print the whole of this document as it will use hundreds of sheets of paper.

If you wish to print a limited section, you will first need to define the print range – I suggest you try just pages 1 to 8.

Adding to the tree

You may wish to add information and more people to the tree. To add a single person, you will first need to insert a new row: to do this, position the cursor on the far left, in the row number, then right-click and select *Insert*.

Possible errors

If you think something is wrong with the information, or if you can add more details, please email me.

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Spreading the word

Information is powerful. Incorrect information is dangerous. The internet is littered with incorrect family trees which, once published, we are powerless to correct. Even if we were to know the source of the error, it may be impossible to recall or correct it because it may already have been proliferated. So, be very careful about what you do with this information and be wary of other information. At least up to this point you can blame it all on Ken McDonald.

Future updates

Over recent years, I have carried out very little Teskey research. What I have done has usually been in response to an enquiry or receipt of updated information, perhaps a new child or a death. When appropriate, I update my 'master' tree.

I have a deep pile of paperwork that has not yet been fully dealt with and which might add to the information which is already on the tree. Either I was engaged elsewhere when the new information turned up, or it wasn't straightforward and I ran out of time. The pile of outstanding work includes lots of correspondence and extracts from censuses that have become available online this century.

It is possible that one day I may return to serious Teskey research. If I do ever carry out a significant update of this tree, I would like to let you know. So, if you received this tree other than as an attachment to an email direct from me, please send me your email address so that I can add you to my Teskey mailing group. Also, please let me know if your email address changes.

I hope this tree will bring joy and enlightenment to current and future generations.

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