

1206
* *to David*

Box 66, Ingersoll Ont.
June 19, 1920

Dear Sister Virginia Dewar:

The "Professor De Wan" to whom you wrote on May 17th last is actually Father Wilfred Andrewan, usually referred to as Father Bill. He is a Paulist priest; he is my son. Please do not blame him for the delay in answering. The fault is mine. Knowing that he was interested in family history Father turned the letter over to me shortly after he received it.

Now as to your family tree I can only tell you what I know of my Dewar forebearers. My grand^{or father} father was Patrick Dewar born at ^{Blonmel} Tipperary Ireland May 29, 1820. (As a little fellow I often heard him remark that he was one year and five days younger than the Queen referring of course to Queen Victoria) He died in 1916 when I was in my 16th year. I know that his father was Morris Dewar and his mother's maiden name was Alice Prout. I do not know the Dewar side any further back.

to Cath. His must be 1820 Jimmy

at 86

at 1908 Mrs. M. P. P. 1908

My grand father talked of Colomel so much that I resolved if ever I got to Ireland I was going to see Colomel. Well in 1939 when I was a member of the Ontario Parliament and Minister of Agriculture I did spend one Sunday morning looking through the Registers at both the large churches in Colomel but could not find his baptismal record. I could only conclude that he had been baptized in some parish nearby. Wherever more I learned after much inquiry that there was only ^(Colomel) one person by the name of Dewar living in Colomel that she was so deaf it would be impossible to talk to her. I did learn that there were some Dewars in Gormoy not far distant but I did not get to meet them. I also know that half a century ago there were Dewars at Kiple Killar in Tipperary. I learned this from three Grogarty brothers with whom I attended college at Ottawa.

You did not say exactly where your ancestor Martin came from but my guess would be Tipperary or near by or rather the adjoining County of Cork. Accidentally I think you will learn that in Ireland they spell the name with the small w as we do though I admit that from the ^(Irish)

3

One point of pronunciation yours is a better
~~pron~~ spelling. The only trouble is that with
the De and the capital W people conclude
the name is French. The name in any form
is very scarce in Canada but the few I know
spell it as we do. There are quite a number of
Dewans at nearby London and district - all of
var spelling. Yet I must admit that these
are two or three families in Toronto who
spell the name Dwon.

At any rate I must tell you that
all these spellings yours and mine and
the Toronto one are all corruptions of
the original and correct one which is
"Douane". I have confirmed this
with the Genealogical Office, Dublin
Castle Ireland. Was some years (though
I believe they were missing last fall) & had
people have maintained a booth at
the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto. I have
talked to them and they say without hesitation
that the original was Douane. I think the
changes have come about initially but
by poorly educated people attempting to
spell from the sound.

4
Dewan is without question a Norman
Irish name coming from the Norman
invasion of about Edward III time of
England. You may well know more about
this than I do. But we think of such
names as D'Arcy & De Bourcy being
very Irish. Actually they are of
Norman descent. Well I'm afraid all this
won't help you much in tracing what you
desire to know.

You will wonder when you observe the
date on which this letter was commenced. Well
there are reasons but I shall not burden
you with details. Added was the fact that
I had mislaid some correspondence I had
with the Genealogical Office, Dublin
a few years ago. I have now found it.
I shall try to have a copy made for
you before I close this letter. It might
be of use to you.

My kindest wishes. Let me know
what success you have

Very sincerely

P. Michael Dewan