CLANN: IRELAND'S UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN: GATHERING THE DATA

Statement of Witness 3

Reference Code:	CLANN/WIT3
Status:	Adopted person
Institution(s)/Agencies:	Sean Ross Abbey Mother and Baby Home, Tipperary; Catholic Charities; Health Service Executive; The Catholic Society
Date:	Not available at this time
Transcript:	7 pages
Records/Papers included:	Yes
Access Conditions:	Anonymised statements are freely available to the public.
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WITNESS STATEMENT OF [redacted]

I, [redacted] WILL SAY:

1. I make this statement for the purpose of providing evidence to the Mother & Baby Homes Commission of Investigation established by the Irish Government pursuant to Section 3 of the Commissions of Investigations Act 2004.

2. I make this statement as a person who was born in Sean Ross Abbey, Roscrea, County Tipperary and who was subsequently sent to America for adoption.

3. Attached to this statement is a bundle of documents relating to my experience marked [redacted]1". I refer to a selection of those documents in this statement. References to page numbers in this statement are to the pages in [redacted] .

Circumstances of my Birth and Early Life

4. I was born on [redacted] 1953 and am 63 years old.

5. My mother came from [redacted] and was a single mother. When she fell pregnant with me, her family decided to remove her from [redacted] and sent her to Sean Ross Abbey in Roscrea. I don't know why her family chose Sean Ross Abbey but it was about [redacted] miles away. I have researched her family through genealogy searches and also talked with locals who knew the family. In those days, the extended [redacted]

6. After my mother gave birth to me, we both remained in Sean Ross Abbey for about 3½ years. My mother left Sean Ross Abbey when I was sent away for adoption and she then went to [redacted] for [redacted] years before being called back to Ireland to look after her elderly parents.

7. I don't have any real recollection of my time at Sean Ross Abbey but I do remember someparts of the flight from Ireland over to America. I was one of aboutfourchildren who flew over at the same time and we were accompanied by a single elderly woman. Each of us had tags (presumably saying who we were) and we were met at the airport by our adoptive parents to-be. Adoptive family recollections of the day were that the flight arrived much earlier than expected at Chicago O'Hare. My adoptive father often said "you had a tail wind pushing that old propeller plane." The adoptive family also spoke of a priest named Father [redacted] who had been on the flight by himself, but got involved with helping the elderly lady in charge of the children because he saw that she was "confused and having trouble navigating all of the details in English." My adoptive parents always said that she didn't speak much English, and the priest explained that she was primarily a

[redacted] speaker. Apparently, he was at the airport, waiting to assist with sorting out the right children to the right families upon arrival! This priest also kept in touch with some of the adoptive families and even visited my home in Chicago while I was growing up. I do remember him coming by when I was about 6 or 7 years old and asking "how are you getting along?" I didn't remember him, but he stayed and we talked for some time about what he knew about Ireland.

8. These family recollections are supported by my own genealogical research and documents my adoptive parents saved for me. Included in [redacted] 1 (pages 1 to 4) are the Pan American ticket, the passenger ID that was attached to my jacket lapel and the Passenger Manifest I recently found doing online research. The Flight Manifest confirms that there were four adoptee children on the flight and three adults with either B-1 or B-2 immigration status. Two of these adults are a Father [redacted] from [redacted] and a [redacted] from [redacted]

9. I have also included a [redacted] news clipping from [redacted] 1957 (page 5). The article is headlined "Irish Waifs Flying into New Life." Two boys are pictured and identified and of the other two children mentioned in the article one is myself and the other a girl called [redacted] Catholic Charities is identified as the agency that arranged our adoptions and transport. I actually was in contact with [redacted] back in 1996 (page 6). We wrote letters back and forth and she made the trip to Sean Ross Abbey in that same year. She was still living in [redacted] area at the time. Also, [redacted] and [redacted] are mentioned in the press release. All of these names correspond with the Flight Manifest.Further, both of these adults provided my adoptive parents with their contact information, written in long hand on the back of envelope that is marked Baby [redacted] (page 7) going to the address of my adoptive family.

10. By all accounts, I didn't assimilate well when I arrived at my new home. I recall refusing to go into the house when we arrived from the airport. Family members walked me up and down the street and finally coaxed me to come into the home after giving me some ice cream. I was wearing diapers, which caused a lot of excitement and embarrassment for me. I had to assure them I was indeed toilet trained! I refused to sleep in a bed, instead crying myself to sleep under the bed. I continued to sleep like this for over a year. I cried a lot and consistently told people I was only visiting and would be going back to Ireland soon. My adoptive parents confronted me often about stopping such talk and also about my rejection of their other adoptive child who was younger than me. My broad Irish brogue was noticed by everyone, and people made me uncomfortable with their comments and demands that I "sing a song" for them. I had a good voice and my adoptive father would put me front and centre to sing at any gatherings. Eventually, this attention led to suppressing the Irish brogue and also developing a stuttering habit that

affected my social interactions and school work performance in grade school. I was given speech therapy classes for several years, and eventually learned to correct my speech patterns and minimize the stresses I was feeling.

11. As regards my childhood and upbringing, I didn't suffer any physical abuse but I do recall no real bonding experience between me and my adoptive parents and always feeling like a lodger in my adoptive home. My adoptive family employed corporal punishment and I often had to experience having a leather belt used on my bare back side. I was told this was because they loved me. I cannot say that my life would have been better had I stayed in Ireland but sending me away for adoption at the age of 3½ was certainly not a good thing. I was too old to be sent away and had clearly been shaped by many levels of early child development as a native Irish person. This strong sense of an Irish identity has always been at the core of my experience in the world. While I don't have any first hand memories of my birth mother, it is clear that I did not bond with the adoptive family. I easily walked away from them on many occasions later as an adult, without any sense of attachment or emotional connection.

Information about my Family

12. My adoptive family preserved all of the information they had on my adoption and I grew up with an awareness of my original birth name [redacted] There was never an attempt to hide the facts from me or to discourage me if I wanted to pursue my roots. In fact, searching seemed pointless in my adolescence and early adulthood. There was not the flow of information that is available.

13. Then, in 1997, a television show aired in the United States called 20/20 with Barbara Walters. This was the first information I had that there was more to my adoption story, that there was now an awareness of the circumstances of my adoption in the context of a larger scandal that was emerging from Ireland, involving the Irish Government and the Catholic Church. Following this show, I contacted a tracing group with a view to finding my mother. Through that group, I was informed that my mother was alive, where she was living and that she was destitute. This prompted me to try to get in touch with her. I wrote an initial letter and she did respond to this letter. When I wrote back to her, suggesting I come to Ireland to meet her, she did not respond. I realized that there might be very strong reasons why she discouraged further contact. The story that emerged from media coverage of the adoption scandal in Ireland was of shame and scorn placed on birth mothers and the illegitimate children they bore. Like everyone else watching the stories emerge at the time, I was shocked by the revelations of Magdalene Laundries and Mother &Baby homes like Sean Ross Abbey. So, after considering all of these factors, I decided not to pursue contact any further at that time.

14. In [redacted] my adoptive mother passed away. I attended her bedside when she was alive and also her memorial service after she passed away. My adoptive mother had spent her final months in hospice at the Sister of Mercy residence home in [redacted] One of my adoptive mother's sisters was a Sister of Mercy, and she had arranged this situation for her. I discovered (during the memorial service) that my adoptive brother had changed my adoptive mother's Will in the months before her death. It was signed and witnessed by several of the Sisters of Mercy with whom she stayed in her final time in hospice care. This event led me to feel angry towards my adoptive brother and betrayed by my adoptive family and enabled me to feel strong enough to start the search process again. I also felt detached from the adoptive family entirely at this point and proceeded to legally change my surname back to my birth surname and to apply for a current Irish passport. Unfortunately, trying to please my adoptive family had led me to wait too long to contact my birth mother. The last letter I wrote to her was returned to me unopened and stamped "deceased." That dashed any more hope that I could create a connection with my birth mother.

15. I have felt guilt for not pursuing it further when I first discovered her in 1997, while also knowing that it might have been an unwelcome contact for her in a small Irish community. I have insight into this sadness because my Irish Catholic adoptive family successfully indoctrinated and reinforced this same shame and guilt in my own upbringing. I appreciate the disapproval of illegitimate birth in such communities. I think that is one of most bitter parts of the legacy left by the Irish State and Catholic Church; the fear and guilt they cultivated in we, the Irish, that echoes down the generations and twists our view of human nature and the after-life. I am well read in Irish literature, and I do wonder if this tragic tale of cover-up and deceit was the "terrible beauty" that Yeats alludes to with such foreboding in his poem *Easter, 1916*.

16. A key goal of my 2015 trip to Ireland was to find my birth mother's grave. We found her grave in a family plot with her mother and father (my grandparents). There is a faded headstone that identifies the grandparents but my mother's plot is not marked. It is a raised mound of uncompacted earth, and we surmise that must be her grave. It is located in [redacted] The grave marker commemorates [redacted] (died [redacted] and her husband [redacted] (died [redacted] My mother [redacted] likely died in [redacted] The death was not registered, so I am still working with local people in that area who knew them to ascertain her exact date of passing. Once that is accomplished, I plan to propose to the [redacted] family the idea of placing a more permanent head stone marker to properly respect and honour these three important people.

17. I wrote to several agencies for information on my background. Correspondence from these agencies is in [redacted] at pages _ to _.

18. I made a Freedom of Information request and in 2012 got a limited amount of information from the HSE. Among these documents is the "relinquishment of parental rights" that my birth mother was forced to sign (page 24). Another document is an agreement by my adoptive mother to quit her job and spend all her time raising her adoptive children (page 29). This directive is reinforced in a letter dated 8 May 1957 from Sean Ross Abbey Sister [redacted] (page 31) emphasizing that the Department of External Affairs needed confirmation that my adoptive mother was in fact quitting her job before I could be released for adoption! What makes this especially bitter for me to the present day is that she mentioned this to me many times from an early age; words to the effect of "don't forget I quit a career to raise you." She always seemed to be annoyed by this, and as time went on and I grew further detached from the adoptive parents, those words became sharper and more angry.

19. I wrote to the Sean Ross Abbey to ask for any information relating to me or my mother but all I obtained was a letter from Sister [redacted] who had been at Sean Ross and was then with the Sacred Heart Adoption Society). The letter (page 32) simply confirmed the fact that I had been born at the Abbey and providing identifying information about [redacted] my birth mother.

20. I wrote to Barnardos, the adoption agency. They summarized their response after reviewing documents in the archives (page 33 and 34).

21. I also wrote to the INS and received a response with copies of various documents surrounding the adoption proceedings. Since the information from the HSE request contained most of the documents, I am not including them in this statement.

Circumstances of my Adoption

22. I understand from papers that I have seen and from discussions with my adoptive parents that I was taken over to the US in 1957 under an Irish passport. I was then naturalised as a US citizen in [redacted] and following that my adoption was finalised and my name was changed.

23. My adoptive parents didn't travel to Ireland to find me but instead arranged everything through the Catholic charities in [redacted] The Catholic Society undertook a home study and confirmed to the nuns at Sean Ross Abbey that I would be brought up in a good Catholic home. This home study report is in the HSE packet provided to me.

24. I have seen financial statements showing that my adoptive parents paid monies to Sean Ross Abbey but my recollection is that these were mainly for itemised expenses such as the cost of the flight (page 1).

25. My adoptive parents were clearly not told the whole truth about my circumstances as they were told that my mother had died giving birth. They had absolutely no idea that my mother had participated in raising me for the first three and a half years of my life. It was only when they found this out that they understood why I had been so traumatised on my arrival and why I was constantly saying I was going back to Ireland tomorrow. My adoptive parents were blue-blooded Catholics and would never have adopted me had they known the true story.

26. My adoptive parents were particularly upset when revelations started being made in the US in the 1980s about the behaviour of Catholic priests in Ireland and I clearly remember my mother stating that "Bishop McQuaid should burn in hell".

Impact on my Life

27. The fact and circumstances of my removal from my mother and my adoption have undoubtedly impacted on my life. I am married but have no children and have suffered both depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. I have suffered from sleep disorders and in the worst times also had some exposure to substance abuse.

28. I originally kept my faith but, with all the revelations about the Magdalene Laundries, the Mother and Baby Homes and most recently the terrible discovery of the remains of hundreds of babies at Tuam, I have lost my faith in the Catholic Church altogether.

29. My treatment, and that of my mother, is always bubbling away just below the surface. I am angry and at times just want to lash out at the injustice of our treatment.

What should the Commission recommend?

30. I understand that the State and the Catholic Church are at the heart of everything in Ireland and that it would be impossible to rip the two apart. That said, I still feel that the church has way too much involvement in matters such as adoption and that it puts its values above the rights and welfare of those involved. I therefore think that the Commission should recommend the creation of independent oversight bodies to ensure that the Church cannot exert undue influence and that the individuals involved in the adoption process do not suffer as a result of Church involvement.

31. I am not sure if there is a need for a formal redress scheme for those affected by the Mother and Baby Homes but I do feel strongly that help should be given to those mothers

who gave birth in Mother and Baby Homes and who, due to pressure from society, church and state, had to give up their children. Thought and investigation should be given to determining how best those mothers can be assisted be it in terms of financial assistance, counselling or anything else they need. In addition, assistance to the children (now adults) may be advised for those who are in need of Mental Health Services and other assistance to finally achieve peace with the events surrounding their adoptions.

I believe that the contents of this statement are true.

Signed ……..

[redacted]

Dated ……..

EXHIBIT TO WITNESS STATEMENT OF

[redacted]

"[redacted]"

PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS SYSTEM

DISTRICT OFFICE, 30 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE, CHICAGO 3, ILLINOIS

May 28, 1957

[redacted]

Dear Mr. and Mrs. [redacted]

This letter will hereby acknowledge receipt of your check in the amount of $273.40 in payment for the transportation of [redacted]

Enclosed is the order on which payment was forwarded to our Dublin, Ireland office. Should there be any change in flight schedule, we will advise you immediately.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]

Prepaid Desk

bw/s
Enc.

World's Most Experienced Airline

1

0253-1586 D
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS SYSTEM

PREPAID TICKET TRANSMITTAL FORM

Date May 28, 1952

To PAA
Delivery Office
DUBLIN
City and Country

From PAA
Selling Office
[redacted]
City and Country

We enclose the following: (If conex Issue Wire insert Issue Wire No. 22510 (Month) May)

- ☐ Ticket Form and No. _____ Value _____ Cy.
- ☒ Exchange Order No. 0269/744708 Value $273.40 Cy.
- ☐ Exchange Order No. _____ Value _____ Cy.
- ☐ _____ Value _____ Cy.

Total _____ Cy.

☐ Other Documents (describe) _____

Issued in favor of: [redacted]
(Names and Addresses of Persons to Receive Transportation, Etc.)

Payment covers transportation From SHANNON To [redacted] Via _____

Reservations held as follows PAA [redacted] JUN TO ARRIVE [redacted] - 7:50 AM

Name of Purchaser:
[redacted]
Name
[redacted]
Address
[redacted]
City

Telephone No. [redacted]

Remarks Section _____

Please communicate with passenger and render all possible assistance.

Travel Agent Handling Transaction Is:

_____
Name of Agent

_____
Address

_____
City

Business Tel. No. _____

Home Tel. No. _____

[redacted]
By Traffic/Sales Representative

STATUS ADVICE SECTION

_____
Date

To _____
Selling Office

From _____
Delivering Office

Ref: Issue Wire _____ (No. and Month) or Ticket No. _____ Pax. _____

☐ Passenger holds reservation for flight _____ date _____ and is routed via _____ to arrive at _____ on _____ date.

☐ Unable to make definite reservation presently since all formalities not yet completed. Will advise when in order and expected departure date.

☐ Unable contact passenger for reasons given below:

Remarks: _____

_____
By Traffic/Sales Representative

Copies: Original, Duplicate & Triplicate - To Delivery Office
Quadruplicate — To Purchaser or his Agent
Quintuplicate — Issuing Office File



g reservation.
n the chart in

onfirm Prior To Number of Hours Before Flight Shown Below
24
72
24
24
24
24
24
72
24
24

r travelers by

PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS SYSTEM
Issued By PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS, INC.
SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT ON PAGE 2

PASSENGER TICKET AND BAGGAGE CHECK
PASSENGER COUPON

NUMBER [redacted]

FOR CARRIER'S USE ONLY

COMPLETE ROUTING THIS TICKET AND CONJUNCTION TICKET(S)

ORIGIN SHANNON

DESTINATION [redacted]

ISSUED IN EXCHANGE FOR

Form [redacted] Serial(s) [redacted]

DATE AND PLACE OF ORIGINAL ISSUE

DATE AND PLACE OF ISSUE OF THIS TICKET

Acct'g. use Only

AGENT [redacted]

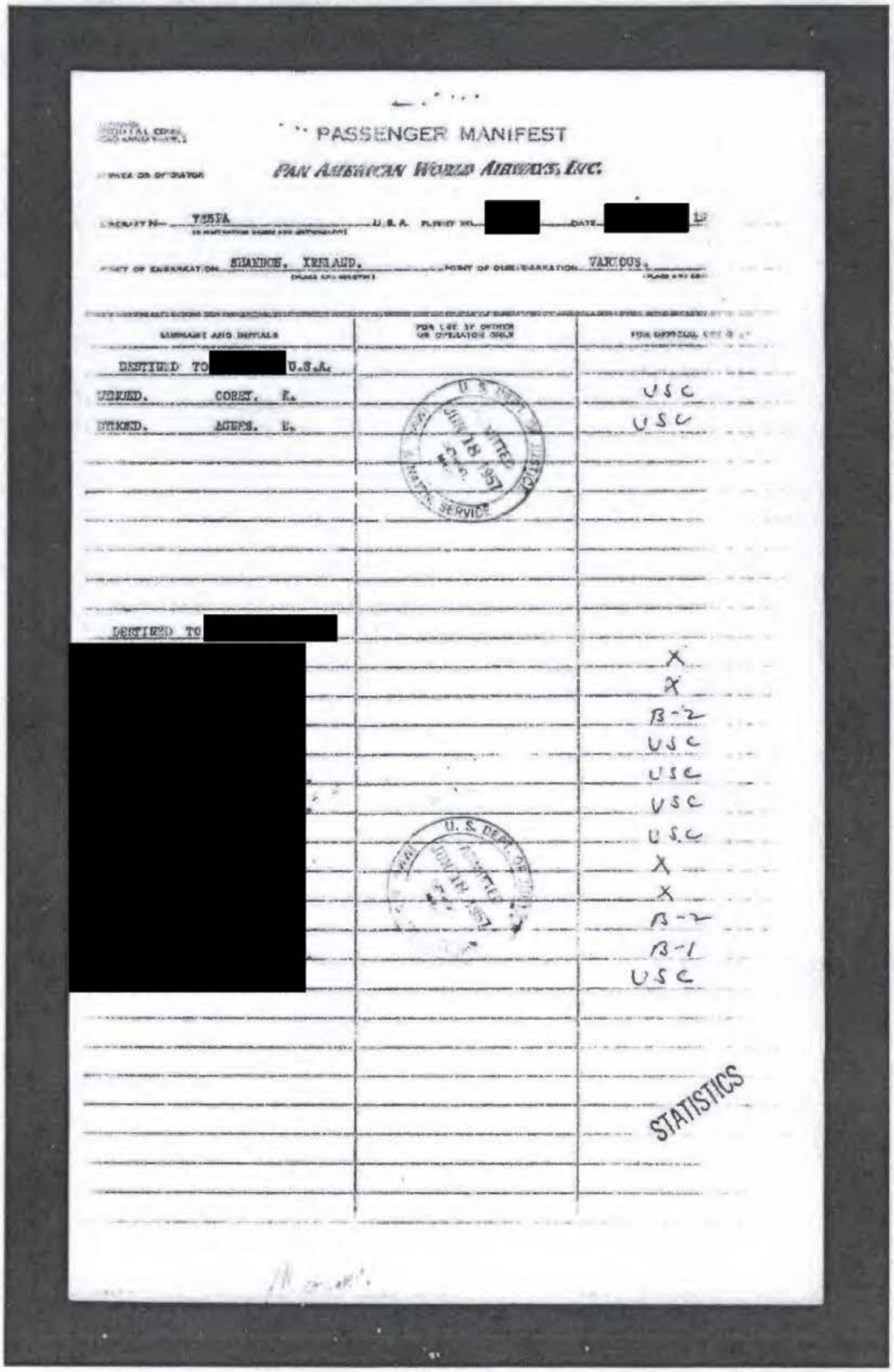
TO	CARRIER	FARE CONSTRUCTION	FARE CLASS/BASIS	VALID UNTIL	BAGGAGE FREE ALLOW	BAGGAGE Checked Pcs	BAGGAGE Checked Wt.	BAGGAGE Unck'd Wt.	NOT GOOD FOR PASSAGE FROM	VIA CARRIER	Flight Number	DATE	TIME	Res Status
SNN	PA	94.80	EM	June 30	66	X6			SHANNON	PA	59	June 17	10	C
				1967	66				TO				PM	

FARE 94.80 Cy
EQUIV. AMT. PAID Cy
TAX Exempt Cy
TOTAL 94.80 Cy
FORM OF PAYMENT

NAME OF PASSENGER [redacted] MASTER

NOT TRANSFERABLE

Carriage hereunder is subject to the rules relating to liability established by the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules relating to International Carriage by Air signed at Warsaw, October 12th, 1929, unless such carriage is not "international carriage" as defined by said Convention.



PASSENGER MANIFEST

PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS, INC.

[redacted] U.S.A. FLIGHT NO. [redacted] DATE [redacted]

PORT OF EMBARKATION SHANNON, IRELAND. PORT OF DISEMBARKATION VARIOUS.

SURNAME AND INITIALS	FOR USE BY OWNER OR OPERATOR ONLY	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
DESTINED TO [redacted] U.S.A.		
JOINED. CORST. E.		USC
DISMED. AGEPS. E.		USC
DESTINED TO [redacted]		
[redacted]		X
		X
		B-2
		USC
		USC
		USC
		USC
		X
		X
		B-2
		B-1
		USC
		STATISTICS

[redacted] 7/4/2016

4

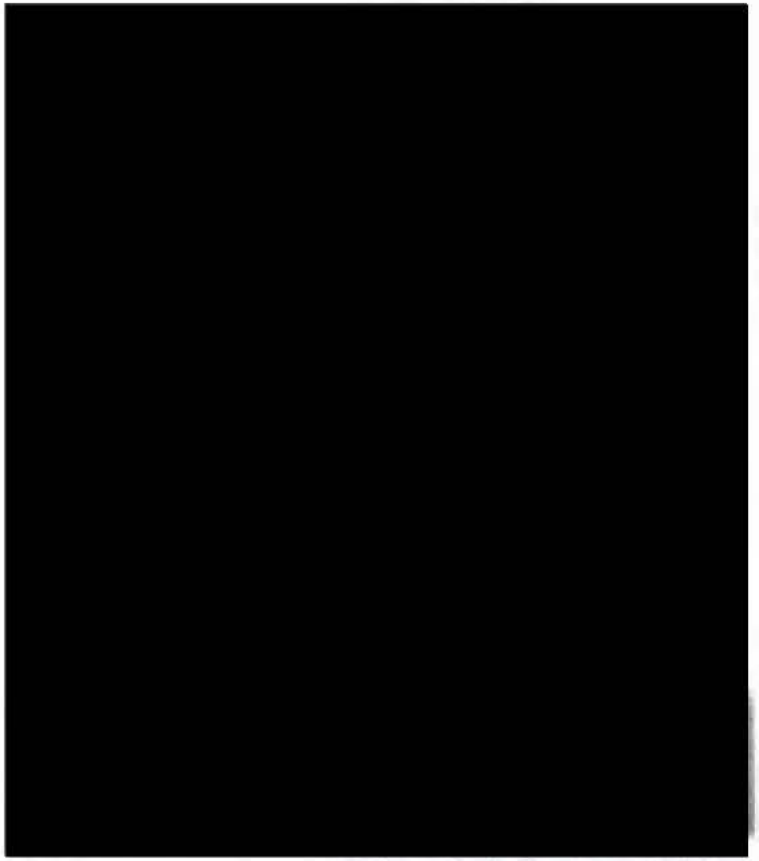
4 [redacted] 1957 ★★★ [redacted]



[redacted] photo.)

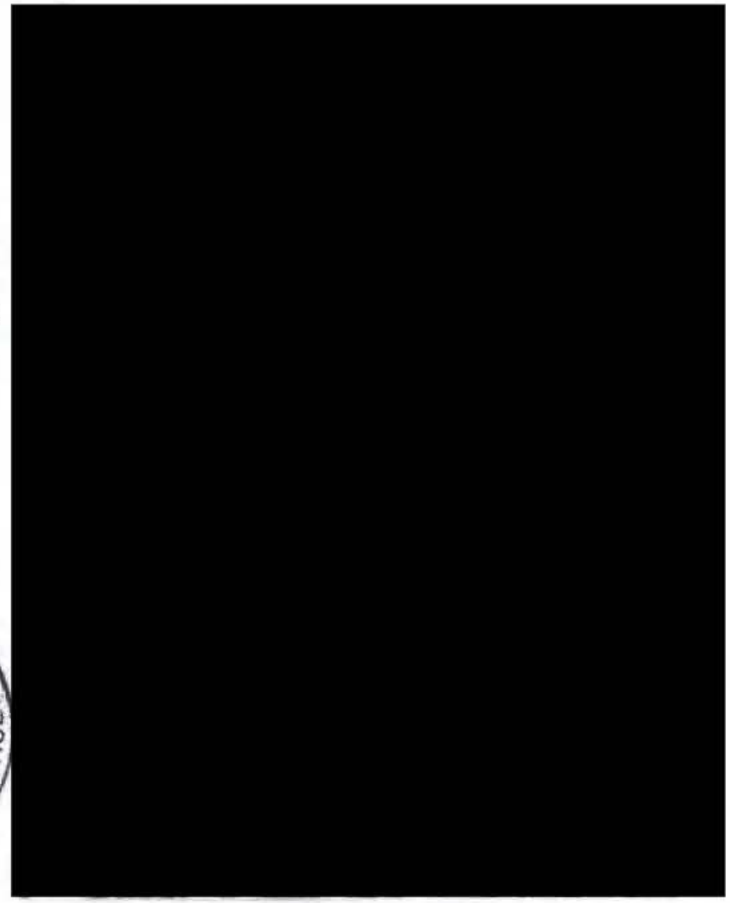
Irish Waifs Fly Into New Life

BRAND NEW Irish Americans are [redacted] 3, and [redacted] 2, Irish waifs who have found new homes and new lives in [redacted] They've just arrived at [redacted] via Pan American Airlines. They were escorted on long flight by the Rev. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted] of Dublin. Father [redacted] also delivered adoption papers approved by Dublin courts. The two boys were half of a quartet whose adoptions were arranged by Catholic Charities in Chicago. The other two were [redacted] and [redacted] both 3 years old.







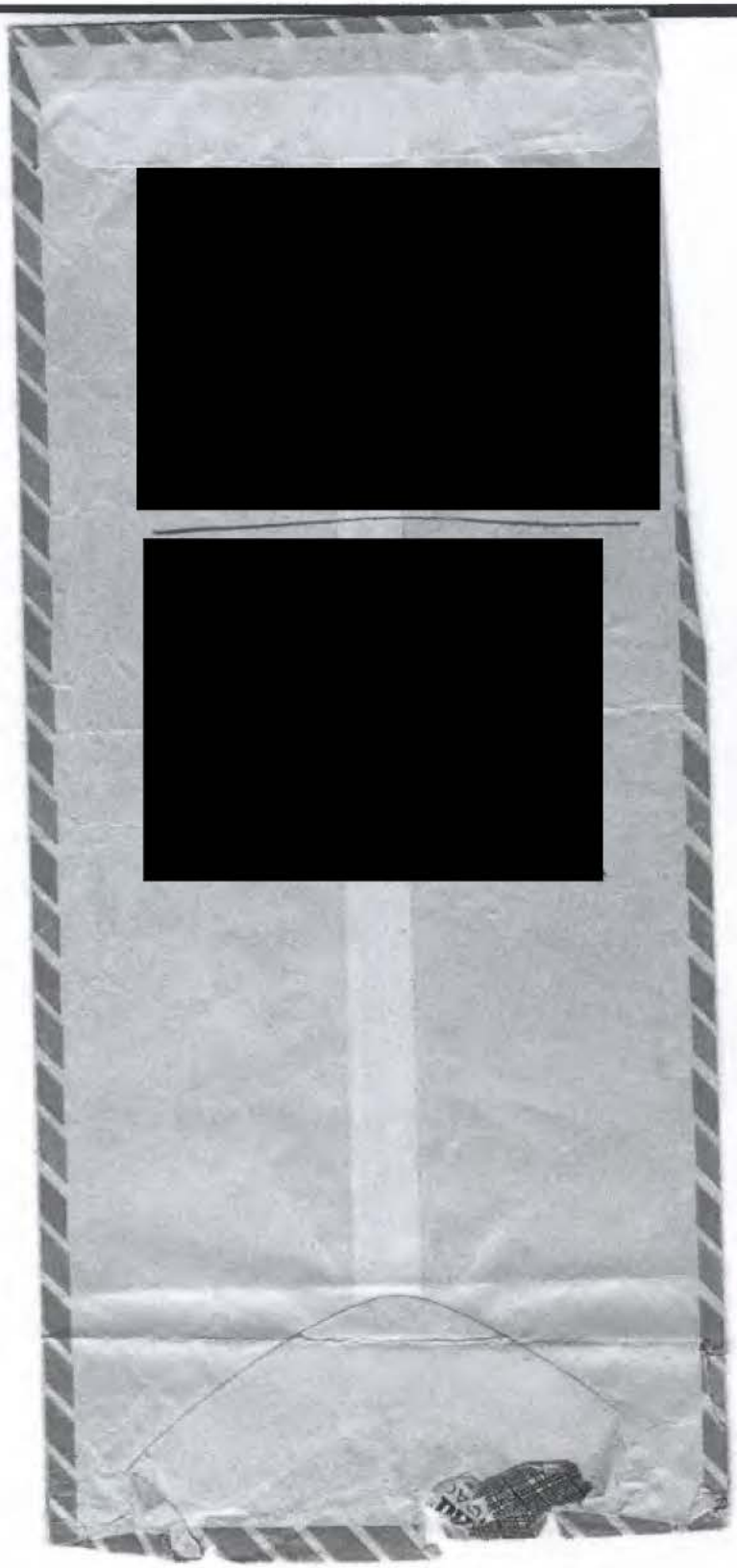


"I'm glad I was sitting down when you told me."

"I had a feeling that we knew each other."

IMMIGRATION DATE INTO the USA - [redacted] 1957

[redacted] and [redacted] received quite a surprise from IMMIGRANT CHILDREN when we informed them that they were childhood companions and travelled together from Sean Ross Abbey on [redacted] 1957. Together they arrived at 7:50 a.m. on Pan American World Airways Flight [redacted] at [redacted] in [redacted] America. Flight fee per child from Shannon, Ireland to [redacted] was $273.40. They & two boys, [redacted] and [redacted] were escorted by Father [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted] both age 3 at the time of their arrival will be in con[redacted] with one another again through the continuing work of IMMIGRANT CHILDREN.



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Department of Consumer Affairs
Health Service Executive South
Wilton Road
Cork
Telephone : [redacted]
Facsimile:
Email: [redacted]

15th March 2012.

Our Reference Number: [redacted]

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

I acknowledge receipt of your request under the Data Protection Acts 1988 & 2003, for records held by the Health Service Executive South, that we received on the 14th March 2012.

A decision on your request will be made by the 23rd April 2012.

The Decision maker responsible for your request is:

[redacted] **A/Principal Social Worker, Regional Adoption Service, Health Service Executive South, Páirc na gCrann, St. Stephen's Hospital, Glanmire, Co. Cork.** [redacted]

If you are dissatisfied with the response issued you may write to the Data Protection Commissioner, Canal House, Station Road, Portarlington, Co. Laois, who will look into your complaint. Should our decision not reach you on time, or you have a query or a concern about your request, please feel free to call the undersigned to discuss any problems that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Area Officer Consumer Affairs

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

24th of April 2012

Private & Confidential

[redacted]

RE: Data Protection Request Ref [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter received the 20th March 2012 making a subject access request for a copy of any information on you held on computer or in manual form. Based on an examination of records taken over by the HSE on the 30th of August 2011, I now enclose all information that we have been able to identify that is relevant to your request.

There are 34 pages on file and the attached schedule lists all of these records and also details the level of access granted. Photocopies of all documents for release are enclosed. However, you will notice that there are gaps in parts of the documents that is because I am unable to supply you with all of it as part is exempt under Section 4 of the Data Protection Act which states a right of access does not include a right to see personal data of another individual without that persons consent.

Under the Terms of the Data Protection Act 1988 and 2003, there is a right of complaint to the Data Protection Commissioner, Canal House, Station Road, Portarlington, Co. Laois, if you are dissatisfied with the decision made in relation to your request.

Should you wish to contact the Adoption Dept. Tel [redacted] please feel free to do so.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

DECISION MAKER

Child Care Manager's Office - HSE Southern Area
134 Bank Place, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Tel. [redacted] **Fax** [redacted]

SCHEDULE OF RECORDS

File Ref. No. [redacted]

Volume 1

Page No.	Description	Release Yes/No	Exempt Section of Act
1	File Note	Yes	
2	Certified Copy of Entry of Birth	Partial	Section 4
3	Certificate of Baptism	Partial	Section 4
4	Consent to Adoption	Partial	Section 4
5	Photographs	Yes	
6	Death Certificate	Yes	
7	Telephone Messages	Yes	
8	Letter	Yes	
9	File Record	Yes	
10	E-mail	No	Section 4
11	E-mail	No	Section 4
12-13	Letter	Partial	Section 4
14	Letter	No	Section 4
15	Letter	Yes	
16-17	File Note	Partial	Section 4
18	File Note	Yes	
19	Letter	Yes	
20	Letter	Yes	
21	Supervision Notes	Yes	

(1)

FILE NO. T3

[redacted]

(2)

Sean Ross Abbey (Roscrea)

From: [redacted] Date of Birth: [redacted] 1953

Book 10 Page 29

No: [redacted]

Name: [redacted]

Address: [redacted]

Age:

Date of Reception: [redacted] 1953

Condition on Reception: Discharge of L.S. Leuc

Medical Attendant

Name: Doctor [redacted]

Address: Roscrea

Date & Hour: [redacted] 1953 1.30 p.m.

Delivery: Normal

Sex: Male

Weight: 7lbs 14ozs

Term: Full Alive

Discharge of Mother

Date of discharge: [redacted] 1954

State of Health: Good

Removal of Child from home

Date & Hour of Removal: [redacted] 1954

Removal of Child: Mother and Baby discharged to St. Joseph's Nursery

Admissions Book 1942 to 1969

Page: 269

Date of Admission: [redacted] 1953

No: 3

Name: [redacted]

Address: [redacted]

House Name: [redacted]

Age:

Date of discharge/death: [redacted] 1957

Name: [redacted]

Date of Birth: 1953

Date of Baptism: 1953

Adopted U.S.A.

Date of discharge/death: [redacted] 1957

County: [redacted]

(4)

FOSTER HOME

C. H. S. - ~~Adoption~~ Investigation

Home of [redacted] Date [redacted]-56

Address [redacted] Worker [redacted]

RESIDENCE: Since July of 1954, [redacted] have occupied a one story, brick ranch house at the above address. They have five rooms, a large living room, kitchen and three bedrooms. They also have a basement and a yard. The home is heated by oil heat and is valued at $22,000 and have an outstanding mortgage of $9500. It is a very large, sunny and attractive home and it is located in a nice residential area of mixed nationalities. [redacted] are the only occupants. [redacted] mother, visits about three months out of the year.

FOSTER F

[redacted] was baptized and raised Catholic and has been in general good health all of his life. His entire family are in general good health and they are practicing Catholics.

[redacted] is 6 feet 1 inch tall and weighs 190 pounds. He has light blue eyes and dark hair, which is turning grey and which is wavy and a medium complexion. He is quite a nice looking man and very, very pleasant and friendly to visit with. He impressed as a refine, intelligent man, who is very much interested in his home and family. He informed the worker that he enjoys all types of sports.

FOSTER MOTHER: [redacted] was born [redacted]-1918 in Chicago and she is of Irish and French descent. She was baptized and raised Catholic and has been in general good health all of her life. Her entire family are Catholic and in good health. She attended [redacted] for four years

[redacted] is 5'3½" tall and weighs 135 pounds. She has hazel eyes and salt and pepper, black and grey wavy hair and a fair complexion and a round face. She is a very attractive woman and friendly and outgoing, like her husband and they impressed as having a very happy marriage and a congenial, pleasant home. She enjoys cooking in her spare time.

FINANCIAL:

S

MEDICAL: The [redacted] family physician is [redacted] and both Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] have been in good health, all of their lives. As stated before, Mr. [redacted] receives $70 a month from the Government for a [redacted] suffered while in service.

RELIGION: [redacted] were married at [redacted] by the Reverend [redacted] 1946. Their present parish is [redacted] where the Reverend [redacted] is their pastor. [redacted] has a school and a school bus for the children, and it is located about two miles from the [redacted] home. Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] are faithful in their attendance at Mass on all Sundays and holy days of obligation and they receive the sacraments weekly. Mrs. [redacted] is a member of the Altar and Rosary Society. Mr. [redacted] is quite active in [redacted] their old [redacted] parish. They impressed as a very active and stable, Catholic family.

REQUEST: Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] are requesting to board a boy under one year of age and as young as possible. They will consider a minor health problem. They were originally interested in adopting a child, and they are hopeful of getting a youngster through one of the agency's older children programs or if possible, to adopting the foster child. They do understand the distinction between the two programs and feel that they would be capable of boarding a child and giving the child up, if that was necessary. Mrs. [redacted] also stated that since she has been at the [redacted] for such a long time, and holds a job that requires some training, she would appreciate, if possible, a two weeks notice, however, she understands that this is not always possible.

RECOMMENDATION: Worker feels that she can definitely recommend Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] for the placement of a foster child and an adoptive one, if possible. The [redacted] meet to a superior degree, the requirements of the agency and appear to be a stable, congenial couple with a sincere desire for children.

[redacted]-56)

Additional Dictation [redacted]-57

Since the time of this Foster Home study, the [redacted] obtained [redacted] 1956 to board. [redacted] has since become adoptable, and the [redacted] legally adopted him and are now anxiously awaiting their little boy from Ireland.

[redacted] is a bright and attractive child who has adjusted beautifully in the h The [redacted] have proven themselves very capable parents.

The [redacted] were hoping to receive a boy up to 4 yrs. of age from Ireland, and when they were approached about [redacted], born [redacted]53, they were ver happy to take him.

Worker feels that Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] can be highly recommended for the placement of [redacted].

The Catholic Home Bureau, a child welfare agency, licensed as such by the Stat of [redacted], fully approves the placement of an Irish child fo purposes of adoption in the home of Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] We will accept responsibility for supervision after the placement of the child in this home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

ELIGION: Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] were married at [redacted] by the Reverend [redacted], 1946. Their present parish is [redacted] where the Reverend [redacted] is their pastor. [redacted] has a school and a school bus for the children, and it is located about two miles from the [redacted] home. Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] are faithful in their attendance at Mass on all Sundays and holy days of obligation and they receive the sacraments weekly. Mrs. [redacted] is a member of the Altar and Rosary Society. [redacted] is quite active in [redacted] their old [redacted] parish. They impressed as a very active and stable, Catholic family.

EQUEST: [redacted] are requesting to board a boy under one year of age and as young as possible. They will consider a minor health problem. They were originally interested in adopting a child, and they are hopeful of getting a youngster through one of the agency's older children programs or if possible, to adopting the foster child. They do understand the distinction between the two programs and feel that they would be capable of boarding a child and giving the child up, if that was necessary. [redacted] also stated that since she has been at the [redacted] for such a long time, and holds a job that requires some training, she would appreciate, if possible, a two weeks notice, however, she understands that this is not always possible.

ECOMMEN-
ATION: Worker feels that she can definitely recommend [redacted] for the placement of a foster child and an adoptive one, if possible. The [redacted] meet to a superior degree, the requirements of the agency and appear to be a stable, congenial couple with a sincere desire for children.

[redacted]-56)

dditional
Dictation
[redacted]-57

Since the time of this Foster Home study, the [redacted] obtained [redacted] 1956 to board. [redacted] has since become adoptable, and the [redacted] legally adopted him and are now anxiously awaiting their little boy from Ireland.

[redacted] is a bright and attractive child who has adjusted beautifully in the home The [redacted] have proven themselves very capable parents.

The [redacted] were hoping to receive a boy up to 4 yrs. of age from Ireland, and when they were approached about [redacted], born [redacted]53, they were very happy to take him.

Worker feels that [redacted] can be highly recommended for the placement of [redacted]

The Catholic Home Bureau, a child welfare agency, licensed as such by the State of [redacted], fully approves the placement of an Irish child for purposes of adoption in the home of [redacted] We will accept responsibility for supervision after the placement of the child in this home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this [redacted] 1957.

[redacted]

CATHOLIC HOME BUREAU

by [redacted]
Director

(5)

Certificate of Baptism

[redacted]

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

[redacted]

Child of [redacted]

and [redacted]

Born on the [redacted] day of [redacted], 1 9 4 [redacted]

was BAPTIZED on

the [redacted] day of [redacted], 1 9 4 [redacted]

According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church

by the Rev. [redacted]

the Sponsors being [redacted]

as appears on the Baptismal Register of this Church.

[redacted] day of [redacted] 19 5 7

Rev. [redacted]

(B)

Married [redacted]

1846 at [redacted]

(9)



[redacted]

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

[redacted]

Child of [redacted]

and [redacted]

born in [redacted]

on the [redacted] day of [redacted] 1918

was BAPTIZED on

the [redacted] day of [redacted] 1918

According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church

by the Rev. [redacted]

the sponsors being M[redacted]

and M[redacted]

as appears from the Baptismal Register of this Church.

Dated [redacted] 19[redacted]

Rev. [redacted]

[redacted]

(11)

Certificate of Marriage

[redacted]

This is to Certify

That [redacted]

and

were lawfully Married

on the [redacted] day of [redacted] 19 46

According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church

and in conformity with the laws of

the State of Chicago

Rev. [redacted] officiating,

in the presence of [redacted]

and [redacted] Witnesses,

as appears from the Marriage Register of this Church.

Dated [redacted] 1957

[redacted] Pastor

[redacted]

STATE OF [redacted]

COUNTY OF [redacted]

(13)

AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT

We, [redacted] petition that the following described person be granted a visa to enter the United States for permanent residence:

[redacted]

Who at present is residing at [redacted]

We promise to hold harmless the United States and each State, Territory, County and Municipality against the above named party becoming a public charge and agree to send him to school daily until he is at least 16 years of age; that said child will be given proper care and that he will not be put to work unsuited to his years.

We further state that [redacted]

We reside at [redacted]

The following are the only dependents of [redacted]

We further state that [redacted] present occupation is that of [redacted]. He is employed by [redacted].

We further state that our assets are as follows:

This affidavit is made for the purpose of assisting the American Consul and the Immigration and Naturalization Service in determining that the above named person is not a person who will become a public charge in the event he is admitted to the United States.

[redacted]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this [redacted] day of [redacted] A.D. 1957

(15)

STATE OF [redacted])
) SS
COUNTY OF [redacted])

We, the undersigned,

[redacted] and [redacted] having applied to adopt a child, namely, [redacted] born [redacted] 1953, agree and hereto make a sworn affidavit to raise such child in a Catholic school, and to send the child to a Catholic University in the event the said child reaches such an age and enters a University.

We are both Catholics and were baptized and married in the Catholic Church as shown by our application.

We further agree to adopt legally the said child and will not give the child to any other party. We will undertake to treat the child in every way as our very own and to faithfully provide for his well-being, physical, mental and moral.

[redacted]

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, this [redacted] day of [redacted], 1957.

[redacted]
Notary Public

My Commission expires 5-14-57.

(16)

A F F I D A V I T

We, the undersigned, [redacted] and [redacted] do hereby solemnly testify that our application for an adoptable child is based on the fact that we cannot have more children of our own.

We solemnly swear that we are in no way shirking the responsibilities of natural parenthood.

[redacted]

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, this [redacted] day of [redacted], 1957.

[redacted]
Notary Public

My Commission expires 5-14-57.

(17)

I, [redacted] of [redacted]

make oath and say :-

That I am the mother of [redacted] and was born to me out of wedlock at Good Hope Abbey, Roscrea, County Tipperary, Ireland, on the [redacted] 1955.

That I hereby relinquish full claim forever to my said child [redacted] and surrender the said child to Sister Barbara, Superioress of Good Hope Abbey, Roscrea, County Tipperary, Ireland.

The purpose of this relinquishment is to enable Sister Barbara to make my child available for adoption to any person she considers fit and proper inside or outside the State.

That I further undertake never to attempt to see, interfere with or make any claim to the said child at any future time.

[redacted]

Subscribed and sworn to by the said [redacted] on her free act and deed this [redacted] day of 1957.

[redacted]
Notary Public,
Cork,
Co. Cork.

Notary Public during the pleasure of the Chief Justice for Ireland.

, Tuscarora County, Ohio, do Allgier as Pilot Tribune, [redacted] County

[redacted] born out of

wedlock on May [redacted] Dermott has been surrendered in no

to Theodore of Van Zandt, Tuscarora, County

Dermott, Ireland, as evidenced by her affidavit which is

hereto attached relinquishing full claim forever to the

said child.

The said Agnes [redacted] hereby relinquish all claim

to Patrick Dermott and surrender him to Mr. and Mrs.

Adam Madrill of RFD, Cedar Grove Street, Tuscarora, Illinois

to [redacted] from legal obligation.

[redacted]

Subscribed and sworn to by the said Agnes Mooney

(known in Allgier as Pilot Tribune) before me this

[redacted] day of [redacted] 1957.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Notary Public during the
pleasure of the Mayor Supreme
Ruler Ireland.

(19)

[redacted]

Dear Sister [redacted] March 23, 1957

We were so pleased to receive your letter telling us of [redacted] Am so glad you wrote to us instead of Father [redacted]

I can't tell you how happy we are about [redacted] and I assure you everything will be done to make him happy. His brother, [redacted] shows everyone who comes into our home the picture of his brother, [redacted] and we are all anxiously awaiting his arrival. We pray for his safe arrival every night. [redacted] will have three other cousins who came from Ireland

(20)

who live in [redacted]
father and mother next to Ireland
to get them.

Per your instructions, I am
enclosing the letter about the Port
of Arrival and a check for
$142.00. Mr. Lawson has already
sent a copy of [redacted] adoption
papers to Epo by air mail so you
should have that by now.

We can never thank you
for all the [redacted] you've given
our little [redacted] but we shall
remember you always in our
prayers. Please write to us
& let us know how he is
& when you see him in Chicago and
I shall write to you too.

Sincerely

[redacted]

(21)

[redacted]

May 14, 1957

Dear Sister [redacted]

I am sorry to cause this delay, but had expected that the lawyer handling our affairs would have arranged long before now to have us send you all necessary information. Hope the enclosed letter will be satisfactory.

We are anxiously awaiting [redacted] arrival and thank you sincerely for everything. Very truly yours

[redacted]

(29)

To whom this may concern.

This is to state that I, [redacted] resigned by position one year ago in [redacted] 1956 upon the adoption of our first child, [redacted] and have not been employed since that time. I expect to remain at home and care for my children.

[redacted]

16th. March 1957.

My dear Friends,

This is just to say I am glad you are getting our [redacted] and I am sure you will be delighted with him.

I have just been throught your application and find it will be necessary for you to send me aletter saying you will meet Pat in the Port of arrival.

I also notice that you have not sent a copy of the adoption of your first boy, this is most important. Will you please see to this without delay for I cannot place the application for the passport without the adoption paper and cannot place the application for Visa without the letter saying you will be at the Port of arrival.

You are getting a very nice little boy and I trust you will like him. I dont think you will have any trouble with him but there is just one thing I would like to mention and it is this - speak slowly to him for a while, you see you speak do strangely when compared with our way of speaking, with you it is all rush, with us it is " any old time will do" so remember that, it will help a lot. [redacted] does not have a lot of un-necessary talk like a number of children, even our own but he thinks a lot and can remember when many would forget.

We will get him out in company with some of his companions, in this way they will be company for each other and the one guardian will do for all and you will have only part guardian fare to pay, a half ticket for [redacted] and our expenses will be $142.00. and this when you can conveniently send it.

Now dont forget to let me have the papers. I am sure I should have written Fr. [redacted] for them but he has so much to do even for us, that I hate to write him.

Pray for us and we will remember you.

Sincerely in the Sacred Hearts.

Sr. [redacted]

SEAN ROSS ABBEY
ROSCREA
CO. TIP.

8th May 1957

Dear [redacted]

This is a hurried note to say that the Department of External Affairs has asked me to get a letter from you stating that you have arranged to resign from your employment to devote your time to the care of your home & baby. Please send this report immediately in order that the Baby's passport may be issued without delay.

God bless you

Yours Sincerely in S. Hrt.

Sister [redacted]

Sacred Heart Adoption Society

Tel. [redacted]
Fax

BLACKROCK
CORK

Please quote Ref: [redacted]

18th September 1996

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Further to your letter requesting details about your birth mother, we have searched our files and can give you the following information.

Your birth mother was admitted to Roscrea in [redacted] 1953 Her name is given as [redacted] she was in her early twenties, and came from [redacted] was discharged in [redacted] 1957.

You were born on [redacted] 1953 at 1.30 pm, normal delivery, a full term baby, weight 7 lbs 14 oz. You were discharged from Roscrea for USA adoption on [redacted] 1957.

The Irish Agency involved in your adoption was Roscrea, and as we now hold the Roscrea records we would be happy to assist you in tracing [redacted]

Please let me know if you wish to trace your birth mother [redacted]

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Sr. [redacted]
Sr.

[redacted]

Barnardos

Private & Confidential

ADOPTION ADVICE SERVICE
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.
Telephone: (01) 454 6388
Tuesdays 2pm to 5pm
Thursdays 10am to 2pm
Head Office:
Telephone: [redacted]
Fax:

30 April 1996

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

I received your letter seeking advice about tracing your Irish birthmother. We have had many letters since the news coverage of the discovery of the American adoption files in our National Archives. We are glad that people now feel they have somewhere in Ireland that they can contact which can act as a focus for their search. However I must clarify that we are not a search or tracing agency but we can offer some advice, information and support.

To date, the Government here have not made a decision as to what should happen the American files. They are the responsibility of the Department of Foreign Affairs which is based at St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Our current Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tanaiste is Mr Dick Spring. It would help if you wrote to him to keep up the pressure asking what is happening the files.

I enclose newspaper clippings on what sort of information the files contain and also enclose a newsletter from an Irish/American Adoptee Search Group based in Ohio. In this you will read about your rights to information under the Privacy Act.

This contains information about various registers and support groups in the U.S.A. and I am enclosing a further list of search and support groups as I believe counselling and support are integral parts of the 'search'.

I note you were born in Sean Ross Abbey. This is no longer a Mother and Baby home but the records are now held by [redacted] Sacred Heart Adoption Society, Blackrock, Cork and you should write to her.

Finally, the Court or Children's Department in the State where you were legally adopted may have information. I understand the law regarding access to records varies from State to State so this will dictate what you can receive.

Patron: Mary Robinson, President of Ireland.
Chairman: Dr. Joseph Robins. Secretary: Owen Keenan.
A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered at Christchurch Square, Dublin 8. No. 141526 CHY No. 6015

We are hoping that the Government will shortly establish a Contact Register which will be open to Irish born American adoptees, as well as to those adopted, fostered or raised in residential care in Ireland. No doubt publicity will reach the U.S.A. once it does materialise.

I do hope you have the opportunity to find out more about your Irish background, and that this information will assist you.

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]

AN ROINN GNÓTHAI EACHTRACHA
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

10 October, 1996

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

With apologies for the delay, I am writing in reply to your letter of 30 August about your birth in Ireland and subsequent adoption in the United States.

I confirm that a file, number [redacted] concerning the adoption of [redacted] with information consistent with the details in your letter is now in the National Archives, Bishop Street, Dublin 8. The file was created in this Department in connection with the issuing of a passport for you.

Papers relating to the passport itself were kept separate from this file in our Passport Office until they were destroyed in 1979 along with all such similar old records. However, the essential details about each passport - name, address, date of birth, passport number and date issued - were recorded and retained on micro-fiche.

The file in the National Archives consists of
(1) a two-page "foster home study" on your adoptive parents by the Catholic Home Bureau, [redacted] dated 9 May, 1956 which is accompanied by
- [redacted] "application to adopt a child" of 14 March, 1956 to the Catholic Home Bureau in Wheaton;
- a "medical certificate for adoptive parents" dated March, 1956 from a doctor in [redacted] on a form of the Catholic Home Bureau, [redacted]
- completed questionnaires dated April, 1956 from three other couples who knew [redacted] and
- their baptismal and marriage certificates;
(2) letters dated February, 1957 from [redacted] employer, from a bank and from a real estate company;
(3) an affidavit by [redacted] on 26 February, 1957 testifying that

their application to adopt a child was based on the fact that they could not have more children of their own;
(4) an affidavit by [redacted] on 26 February, 1957 stating that, having applied to adopt [redacted] born on [redacted] 953, they agreed to raise you in a Catholic school, to send you to a Catholic university in the event that you entered a university, legally to adopt you and not to give you to any other party and undertaking to treat you in every way as their own and faithfully to provide for your well-being;
(5) an affidavit on 22 March, 1957 by your birth mother stating that she was from [redacted] 23 years of age and the mother of [redacted] born in Sean Ross Abbey on [redacted] 1953, that she relinquished full claim to you forever and surrendered you to the Superioress of Sean Ross Abbey, that the purpose of the relinquishment was to enable the Superioress to make you available for adoption "to any person she considers fit and proper inside or outside the State" and that she undertook never to attempt to see, interfere with or make any claim to you in the future;
(6) a note of 14 May, 1957 from [redacted] stating that she was no longer employed and expected to remain at home to care for her children; and
(7) a note dated 20 May, 1957 from a Sister at Sean Ross Abbey transmitting [redacted] note to the Passport Office.

I am sorry that at this stage I am not at liberty to reveal your birth mother's name. The National Archives Act, 1986 restricts access to information on files in the National Archives relating to individuals in order to protect information supplied in confidence or which might cause distress to living persons. I am advised that disclosure of information of a personal or private kind without the consent of the person to whom it relates could constitute an invasion of her constitutional right to privacy. Aspects of the question of access to information relative to adoptions are at present under consideration in the Supreme Court. The Department of Health, Hawkins House, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2 is also committed to establishing a Contact Register to facilitate people who were adopted and birth parents in getting information about each other.

The records of Sean Ross Abbey are now in the custody of the Sacred Heart Adoption Society, Skehard Road, Blackrock, Cork.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Consular Services