The Mary Grue Puzzle



My current puzzle

- My grandfather, John McCormick, was born in Motherwell in 1900.
- His parents were John McCormick and Mary Grew (Grue). They were married in Loughgall, August 19th 1895.
- My current search is to find Mary's birth place and who her parents were.

1900 MCCORMICK, JOHN (Statutory registers Births 639/232) ©Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 13 May 2020 04:26

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- Mary Grue died in 1956.
- Her two deceased husbands are listed. John McCormick (my grandfather's father) and Hugh McGinty (who she married after John died).
- Her parents are listed as John Grue and Mary Docherty.

1956 MCGINTY, MARY (Statutory registers Deaths 639/ 113) ©Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 13 May 2020 06:43

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- Mary Grue married her second husband, Hugh McGinty in 1915.
- Her parents are listed as John Grue and Mary Docherty.

1916 MCGINTY, HUGH (Statutory registers Marriages 639/ 36) ©Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 24 July 2020 00:56

No.	When, Where, and How Married.	Signatures of Parties. Rank or Profession, Whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship (If any).	Age.	Usual Residence.	Name, Surname, and Hank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	If a regular Marriage, Signatures of officiating Minister and Witnesses. If irregular, Date of Conviction, Decree of Declarator, or Sheriff's Warrant.	When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
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- Mary Grue was living with her husband John McCormick and their children in Motherwell in 1911.
- Mary's place of birth is listed as Ireland. Her husband's is also listed as Ireland.

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1911 MCCORMICK, JOHN (Census 639/19/14) Page 14 of 36 ©Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 06 May 2020 04:50

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- Mary Grue was living with her husband John McCormick and their children in Motherwell in 1901.
- Mary's place of birth is listed as Ireland. Her husband's is also listed as Ireland.

1901 MCCORMICK, JOHN (Census 639/19/21) Page 21 of 47 ©Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 06 May 2020 05:39

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- A marriage record exists for August 19th, 1895 between John McCormick and Mary Grew - this is the same day listed above
- In this document Mary's father is listed as Peter and not John.
- It appears to be the wrong record especially as it is possible to find the Mary Grew mentioned in this record, with a father Peter and mother Catherine McGrane in Armagh (where Loughgall is located).

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More about my puzzle

- Initially I did not have the record for my great grandmother's second marriage, nor her death certificates.
- As a result I researched Peter Grew and Catherine McGrane as I thought they were her parents. This made sense as it matched the marriage record from the 19th August 1895 in Loughgall.
- It seems an incredible coincidence for two couples, both named John McCormick and Mary Grew, to have married in Loughgall on August 19th, 1895. However, this seems to be the simplest explanation to the existence of a record with the wrong name for Mary's father as I have found records for a Mary Grew, born to Peter Grew and Catherine McGrane, around 1870.