

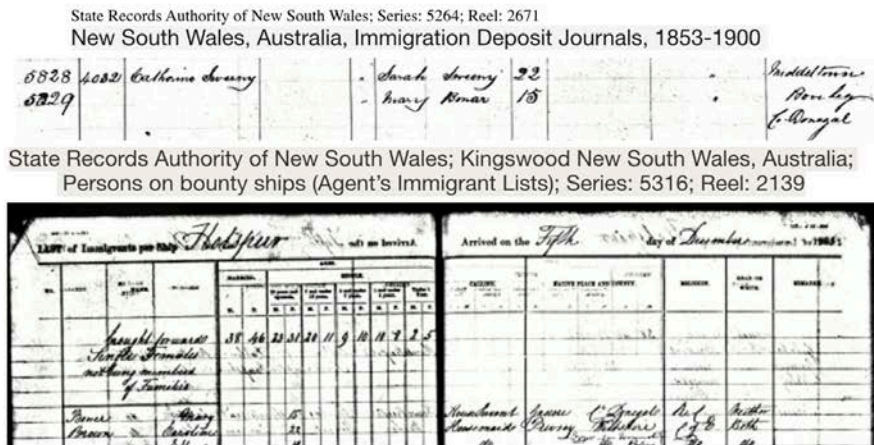
Finding ancestors with your AncestryDNA matches

Mary Bonner is my 2nd great-grandmother. She married Peter Benson Lutge on 19 October 1864 at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, NSW. She died in Mosman, NSW on 25 June 1889. Her marriage and death registrations show that she was born about 1849 in County Donegal, Ireland to Patrick Bonner (or Bonner) and Mary Sweeny and come to Australia about 1865.

I'd found an immigration deposit paid by Catherine Sweeny on 18 September 1863 for Mary Bonar, aged 15, and Sarah Sweeny, aged 22, to travel to NSW from County Donegal.

An advertisement in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 07 December 1863 showed that Catherine Sweeny had paid the immigration deposits for Mary Boner.

Mary Boner, aged 15, and Sarah Sweeny, aged 22, arrived in Sydney on 05 December 1863 on board the *Hotspur*. It seemed highly likely that all these Mary's were the same person. Was Catherine her aunt and Sarah her cousin? More evidence was needed!



IMMIGRANTS per HOTSPUR.—NOTICE is hereby given, that the undersigned persons, for whom passages have been provided to this colony, in pursuance of regulations made in this office, under the Associated Immigration Regulations, have arrived in the ship **HOTSPUR**, and that they will be prepared to join their friends—the **SINGLE FEMALES** from the Depot, Hyde Park, and the **MARRIED PEOPLE and SINGLE MEN**, from on board the vessel—as soon as released from quarantine, of which due notice will be given.

Name of Immigrant.	Name of Depositor.
Anderson, John	John Anderson
Janet	Ditto
Alexander	Ditto
Janet	Ditto
Robert	Ditto
Thomas	Ditto
David	Ditto
Baker, James	George Baker
Caroline	Ditto
Duke	Ditto
Emily	Ditto
James	Ditto
John	Ditto
Elizabeth	Ditto
Curry	Ditto
Barton, Robert	William Plumb
Berthold, Henry	Francis J. Berthold
Harriet	Ditto
Mary	Ditto
Henry	Ditto
Constance	Ditto
Black, Allan	James M'Ghee
Bonar, Mary	Catherine Sweeny
Boyle, Peter	Peter Gibbons
Pat	Ditto


Early in 2017, I started my search for the connection between Mary and Sarah and evidence to connect Mary, Sarah and Catherine. The first stop was searching the NSW Registry of Birth Death and Marriages for all “iikley” Catherine and Sarah Sweenys. The most likely candidate for Sarah showed a marriage to Henry Smith in 1868 in Sydney and the 1919 death of Sarah Smith at Randwick with parents Dominic and Ellen.

So, I built out my tree on ancestry.com.au (Ancestry) to show Sarah's “possible” marriage and death with Mary Bonner (my 2nd great-grandmother) as her cousin and Catherine Sweeny as her aunt to see if there were any leads. Bingo, Sarah Sweeney with the same marriage and death details was in another tree!

If the person you're researching is in other Ancestry trees, it's a good tip to check the tree's owner. Ancestry shows if you have a DNA match with the tree's owner or other kits they administer.

It paid off in my search for Sarah Sweeny. While I didn't have a DNA match with the owner of the tree, she was managing K.S.'s kit and I matched him. K.S. is the great-grandson of Sarah and Henry Smith. We share 15.9 Centimorgans of DNA across 1 DNA segment. With such a distant relationship between K.S. and me, this is not evidence of the genetic relationship. For a relationship beyond 3rd cousins, we need at least 3 people to “triangulate” which means that they all match each other at the same segment on the same Chromosome.

MOSSIE9952 FAMILY TREE



Sarah SWEENEY

BIRTH abt 1840 - County Donegal, Ireland
DEATH 25 MAY 1919 - Randwick, New South Wales, Austr
1st cousin 4x removed

LIFESTORY FACTS GALLERY HINTS


NEW
UNDECIDED
IGNORED
ACCEPTED

Ancestry Member Trees

This hint compiles information from 1 other Public Ancestry Member Trees.

Name	Sarah SWEENEY	REVIEW
Birth	abt 1840 - County Donegal, Ireland	IGNORE
Death	25 May 1919 - Randwick, New South Wales, Australia	

SELECT DNA TEST




is not on your DNA match list

This person is either not a DNA match or has not yet taken a DNA test.

You

You match the following 1 test administered by



K.S












Relationship: 5th - 8th cousins
Confidence: Moderate

[VIEW MATCH](#)

K.S. was a useful contact as he immediately provided me with copies of Sarah's marriage and death certificates. These showed Sarah's parents as Dominic Sweeny and Ellen Duggan or Duigan. I was able to provide him with details of his great-grandmother's arrival in Australia with my 2nd great-grandmother.

Two years passed before I came back to the Mary, Sarah and Catherine. While I continued to have AncestryDNA matches that seemed to connect on the Sweeny line, they led nowhere. Each time I looked at my ethnicity estimates, Donegal shows as a community. Planning a trip there in 2020 has refocused my research.

Ethnicity Estimate UPDATED

 Ireland & Scotland	56%	>
 Donegal, Ireland		>
 West Donegal		
 North West Donegal		
 West & South Donegal		
 England, Wales & Northwestern Europe	34%	>
 Devon & Cornwall, England		>
 Kerrier, Cornwall		
 Sweden	5%	>
 Germanic Europe	3%	>
 Norway	2%	>

Additional Communities

 Australia, New South Wales British Settlers	>
<small>From your regions: England, Wales & Northwestern Europe; Ireland...</small>	

My hypothesis was that Mary's mother, Mary Sweeny, Sarah's father Dominic Sweeny, and Catherine Sweeny were siblings. Having drawn a blank with genetic genealogy, I returned to traditional research.

Catherine Sweeny had married Robert Strong in 1869 in Sydney. They lived in the same house and adjoining houses in The Rocks, Sydney as Mary Bonner, her husband, Peter Lutge and their 10 children before their move to Mosman in the 1880s. Catherine's marriage certificate shows her parents are Dominic Sweeny and Ellen Doogan. It's now looking like Catherine and Sarah were sisters and Mary Bonner was their niece. In which case, Dominic and Ellen are my 4th great-grandparents and K.S., the useful DNA match, is my 3rd cousin 2x removed.

My next goal is to verify these relationships back in County Donegal and visit Mary's homeland in 2020. Sadly, a photo of Mary has not survived. However, here's a photo of her oldest son, John Henry Lutge, my great-grandfather.

You can read more of Mary's story at-

<http://lutgeaustralia.blogspot.com/2017/05/the-voyage-continues-with-mary-lutge.html>

This story shows that genetic genealogy complements traditional genealogical research for the family historian. This is based on an article that appeared in Descent in March 2019. Another article about other Lutge DNA discoveries will appear in December 2019.

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