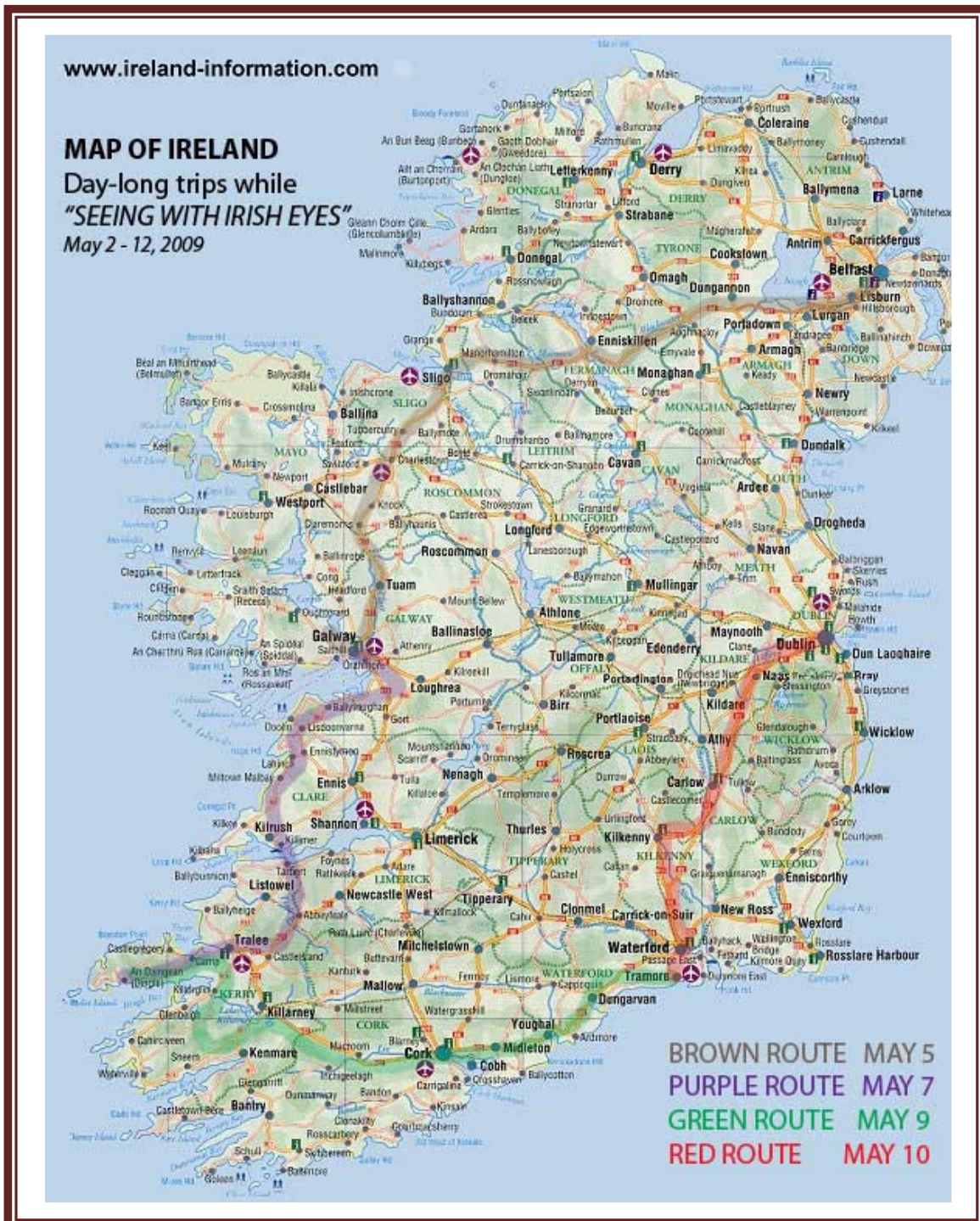


Rev. Chris Levan is a minister of Wilmot United Church in Fredericton and also owns a tour company called Rivendell Communications. In 2009 the only tour he offered was called "Seeing with Irish Eyes". Apart from the leaders, Chris and Darrell Mesheau, there were only ten other people on the tour.



Fellow travellers were: Chris Levan, Lola Crawford, Barbara Cross, George Cross, Elsbeth Gibson, Nancy Gilbert, Darrell Mesheau, Betty Shore, Maynard Shore, Owen Washburn, Sheila Washburn, Jessica Robinson, all from the Fredericton area of New Brunswick.

We flew to Ireland on the following flights:

Saturday, May 2, 2009

- AC7671 departed Fredericton: 17:35, arrived Montreal: 18:17
- AC864 departed Montreal 19:40

Sunday, May 3, 2009

- AC864 arrived Heathrow, Terminal 3: 07:50 (*On May 3, 2004, Owen and I had been in the same airport at same hour in a desperate hurry to get to Saudi Arabia where our son had been shot. In 2009 we had over five hours to wait for our next flight and spent the time chatting with our fellow tour members and browsing in the various shops. None of us bought the £5000 bottle of scotch, but it was a good topic for discussion. We saw only two persons wearing face masks against the H1N1 virus or swine flu.*)
- BD086 departed Heathrow, Terminal 1: 13:23, arrived Belfast Municipal Airport: 14:50 (British Midlands Inc.)

Our travel agent, Holly Bird, in Fredericton had reserved rental vehicles for us at the **Belfast International Airport**. Chris and Darrell were able to change their 10-day reservations for rental vans to the **Belfast Municipal Airport** where we landed. We all loaded ourselves and belonging into the vans and went to the Jurys Inn, Belfast, Fishwick Place, Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AP, UK 44 28 9053 3500.



After registering Elsbeth treated us to a meal in a Chinese Restaurant, the pub selected not serving meals after 7 p.m. It was cold, rainy and windy, a foretaste of weather to come.



Sheila had dressed too lightly to walk afterwards to Queen's University with the others but anyway we wanted to call genealogist and non-relative John Caughey (pronounced with an "a" as in "cat"). He was unable to meet with us as his house was undergoing renovations. We were able to check our email and tell family of our safe arrival using the computer in the lobby. We also looked up Sheila's possible relatives in County Down. See Appendix 1-A.

Monday, May 4, 2009

We all had a bounteous buffet breakfast at the Jury's Inn. The rest of the gang journeyed to the Giant's Causeway and the nearby Bushmill Distillery in County Antrim, leaving us Washburns en route at the Belfast International Airport to pick up our rental car, whose reservation could not be switched to the Municipal Airport.

Sheila had an international drivers licence and Owen navigated. We drove the Dodge Caliber with automatic transmission from Sixt Rent A Car back through Belfast and east towards Bangor before turning south. Near Newtownards we turned left into a wrong lane of oncoming traffic but someone honked and everyone stopped waited patiently while we extricated ourselves. We went to the Tourist Bureau at Newtownards. The staff knew of no Caugheys. Among other things, we bought a very useful book of the streets in all the communities in Counties Down and Armagh. We were told of a good restaurant called "Hoops Coffee Shop" alias "Pebbles" in Greyabbey and we headed there.



"Pebbles" (or "Hoops") is on the main thoroughfare in the heart of Grey Abbey. We had to park partly on the sidewalk so that the cars on the road could pass each other. This Monday was a holiday and the restaurant was crowded. Sheila's quiche was the best she had ever eaten and she only resisted the desserts by force of will.

Next we went to the abbey for which the town was named. In the graveyard we found the gravestone for Jane and Samuel

Caughey Sr. among others. It said:

*"Erected by David Caughey of Ballybrian in memory of his mother **Jane Caughey** who departed this life 19th January 1832 aged 62 years. Also his father **Samuel Caughey** who departed this life 19th January 1858 aged 93 years. Also his wife **Jane Caughey** who departed this life 11th March 1869 aged 42 years. Also his son **Samuel** who died young. Also his sister **Isobella Caughey** who departed this life 9th February 1871 aged 79 years. Also the above-named **David Caughey** who departed this life 7th December 1875 aged 70 years."*



The houses of four of the Caugheys living in Grey Abbey were located close together just north of the restaurant. As you can see to the left, J. Caughey's duplex at 15 Cuan Gardens had a lovely enclosed garden. One neighbour said she had only lived there for a year and had yet to meet any Caugheys but knew of one, now dead, who was a "little man". Not having contacted any of them in advance we did not feel it fair to ring their door bells and introduce ourselves.

We then drove back towards Newtownards, stopping at every lay-by to look for birds feeding on the exposed mudflats or in the shallow waters of Strangford Lough. A number of sailboarders were racing in the strong breeze despite the occasional rainstorm and the chilly temperature. Our next destination was Castle Espie, which due west across the Lough from Greyabbey.

As we approached Newtownards we



could see Scrabo tower in the distance beyond the mud flats at the upper end of Strangford Lough. We did not stop at the tower on our way to Comber, but during the tour we saw many towers, most much older, none of which we visited. At Comber we overshot the turn off and had to back track on some very narrow roads before we reached the Castle Epsie Wetland Centre. A variety of waterfowl were in the enclosed pools behind the visitors centre, but we were more interested in those birds which remained wild

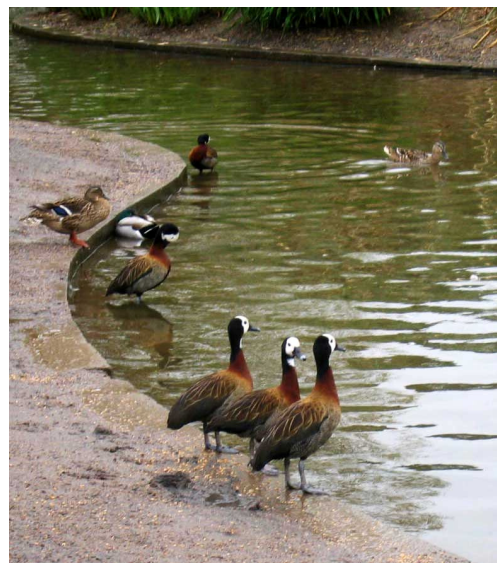




The Scrabo Tower, Newtownards, Northern Ireland  
 "SCRABO TOWER stands on a granite outcrop, forming a landmark in the surrounding country. It was erected in 1851 in memory of the 3rd Marquis of Londonderry."

such as the family of Grey Lag geese near a shelter which protected us from strong cold winds and the periodic driving rain.

The Wetland Centre closed at 5 p.m. and we headed back north, passing through Newtownards a third time on our way to Bangor. In the Bangor pub district a local lady saw our indecision and directed us to a very good pub where the excellent waiter strongly resembled my cousin's stepson. Owen finally had his Guinness!



Assorted captive water fowl at Castle Espie

It was still light when we passed through Belfast to return the car to the rental agency at the International Airport 15 km outside the city. There was a very good bus service that took us back to the bus terminal



Family of Grey Lag Geese at Castle Espie Wetlands Centre.

located only two or three blocks from the Jurys Inn. Darrell Mesheau was still up reading a paper in the lobby. We learned that their trip was equally wet, cold and windy but also enjoyable. Messages had been left for us to join the gang for dinner, but it was long past and time for bed.

## Appendix 1-A

In 1830, two of Sheila's ancestors, Samuel Caughey Senior and Junior, left Greyabbey to emigrate to the then British Colony, New Brunswick. The Senior Samuel returned to Ireland and was buried at Greyabbey. See page 3.)

Sam Jr., 28, a shoemaker, bought lot 66 in Lower Perth, married Elizabeth MacConnell and had nine children. His fourth child, James McConnell Caughey married Elizabeth Amanda Craig. They had five children, the middle being Thomas James Caughey, Sheila's grandfather.

We discovered 70 Caugheys in the phone book for North Ireland. The ones to whom were most likely to be related were the 10 in Newtownards and the five in Greyabbey. For the record, and in case we or our relatives ever come to Ireland and want to try to locate them, they were:

- A. Caughey 20 Island View Road, **Greyabbey** (028) 4378 8322
- D.H. Caughey 14 Victoria Park, Newtownards (028) 9181 2436
- H. Caughey 38 East Newtownards (028) 9181 8141
- H. Caughey 8 Island View Gardens, **Greyabbey** (028) 4278 8458
- J. Caughey 15 Cuan Gardens, **Greyabbey** (028) 4278 8461
- J. Caughey 6 Donaghadee Road, Newtownards (028) 9182 3616
- J. Caughey 40 the Chandlerie, **Greyabbey** (028) 4278 8706
- M.R. Caughey 9 Glenrama Drive, Newtownards (029) 9084 2848
- Mr N Caughey 27 Oldwood, Newtownards (028) 9022 6308
- Robert Caughey 36 Island View Garden, **Greyabbey** (028) 4278 8352
- Mr R Caughey 17 Kings Crescent, Newtownards (028) 9050 6046
- R. Caughey 18 Kings Dr. Newtownards (028) 9096 7515
- T. Caughey 9 Moss Road, Newtownards (028) 9083 3599
- Wm Caughey 20 Edith Helen Rd, Newtownards (028) 9181 7913
- W.H. Caughey 8 Dunkirk Wy, Newtownards (028) 9181 257?