



MAYLOR HEADSTONE'S GAELIC INSCRIPTION

Sunnyside Cemetery,
Coupeville, Whidbey Island, WA
About 60 miles north of Seattle

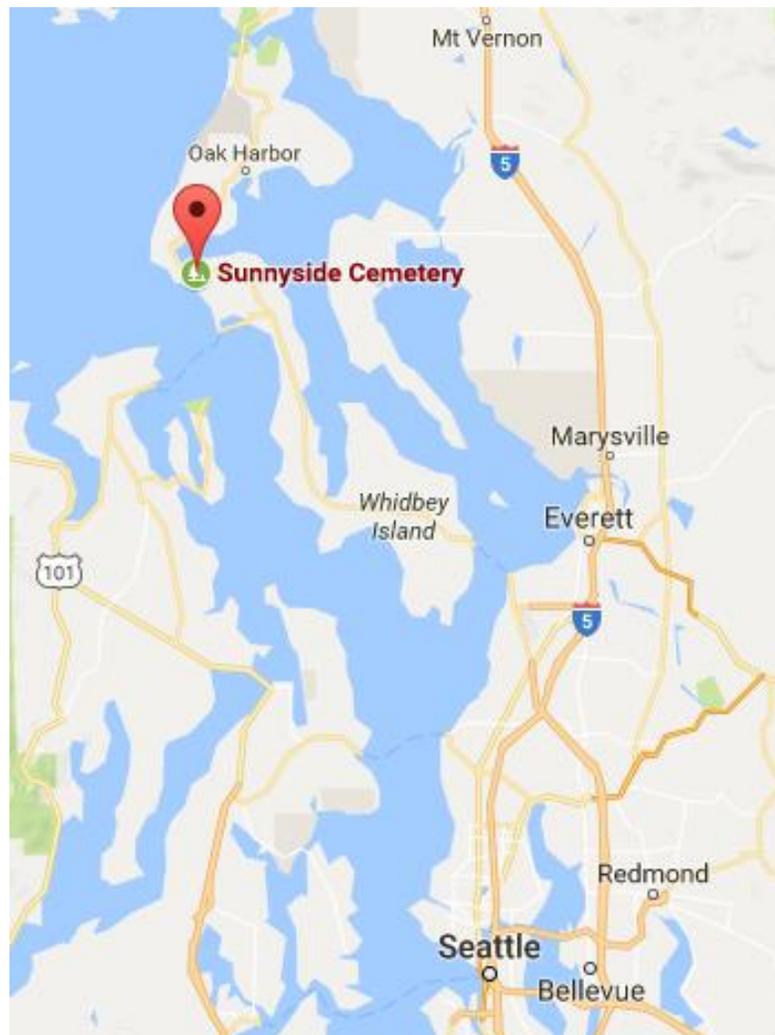
On April 9, 1861, **Mary Barrett Maylor**, a native of Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, died and was buried on Maylor's Point, near Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island, located about 60 miles north of Seattle. The following year, her heartbroken husband, **Samuel Maylor** traveled by ship around Cape Horn back to the city of his birth, Cork, Ireland, and had an Irish language headstone engraved. In 1863, after another 5 month ship journey around Cape Horn, he erected the headstone over Mary's grave on Maylor's Point. The headstone was later moved to Coupeville's Sunnyside Cemetery. The Irish language inscription on the Maylor headstone is written in **cló Gaelach**, an old Gaelic script dating from the 16th century.

Here is a transcription of the engraving written in Roman type:

Fúr / Máire Barrot / bás ann so Ap 9 AD 1861 / do bhí / aon bhlighian dheug air fhíchid / daos aici / rugadh ann Níneath Eirínn / bean meacáinte Sam'l Maylor / phóiseadh íad ann LIVERPOOL / ann sa Teampall Padair 21 d 1856 / bhí trí mic aca / Paul Tamás B agus Mairion S / Do bhí a hathair Oin Barrot / Trailighe / A mathair Clara Page / Luimneach / Rís

Our Translation: Mary Barrett died here April 9, AD 1861. She was 31 years of age. She was born in Nenagh Ireland, beloved wife of Samuel Maylor. They were married in Liverpool in St. Peter's Church 21st December 1856. They had three sons, Paul, Thomas B and Mairion S. Her father was John (Eoin) Barrett, Tralee. Her mother Clara Page, Limerick. Arise.

Samuel Maylor



Samuel Maylor was born in Cork and he appears to have been a member of a well-connected family as two different Maylors were Mayors of Cork in 1766 and 1811. Maylor is an uncommon name in Ireland and I've been unable to find any Maylors still living in Co. Cork, but there is a Maylor Street in Cork City today. The Maylors were related to the Lindsays - Samuel Maylor's middle name was Lindsay and Juanita Bonnelle's account (below) refers to Samuel Maylor's cousin John Lindsay as going to Boston with him in 1847. The Maylors were also related to the Morgans and there are plenty of both Lindsays and Morgans in Cork today.

Samuel Maylor left Ireland in 1847, the worst year of the Famine. He went to England, from there to Boston and then back to Ireland where he joined the British Army and served in Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. After six months, he resigned his commission and came to the US again, this time coming to the west coast and up to Whidbey Island north of Seattle where he and his cousin staked claims. They eventually settled on what is today called Maylor's Point, where the city of Oak Harbor is today.

In 1855, Samuel went back to Ireland and married Mary or Máire Barrett who was then 25 years old while Samuel was 34. After marriage they went to New York where Samuel had a brother. After spending six months there, they came the rest of the way to the Pacific Northwest and settled on Maylor's Point.

Máire had three sons but died in childbirth in 1861 just 4 1/2 years after she and Samuel were married. Her last son was named Marion Samuel, but called Samuel.

Samuel was heartbroken on his wife's death and after spending almost a year in Victoria waiting for a ship, he sailed back to Ireland where he had the

headstone inscribed in Gaelic. He then brought the headstone, and a new wife, back to Whidbey island where it was erected over Mary's grave on Maylor's Point.

The Air Force took over Maylor's Point in 1941 during WWII to start the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, and the headstone was removed. In 1967, it was re-erected in Sunnyside Cemetery in Coupeville, about 12 miles from Maylor's Point.

There are still some Maylor descendants living on Whidbey Island and James Nicholas Maylor, 80, a great grandson of Samuel, died on Whidbey Island on March 30, 2016.

Excerpts from
AN HISTORICAL SKETCH
of the life of SAMUEL LINDSAY MAYLOR

as written by Juanita Maylor Bonnelle, August 1947

Samuel Lindsay Naylor was born in Ballintemple, Cork, Ireland, on October 31, 1821. ... Samuel Joined the British Army and on March 10, 1848 was appointed Lieutenant in company No. 4 of the Fifth Regiment of the Royal Irish Fusileers, stationed at Mahebury, Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean.

Beyond the distant horizon, a land of virgin forests was calling to him. He retired from the service December 26, 1848. In May, Samuel and Thomas embarked from Liverpool on the sailing ship, Granada, for the United States. They arrived in Boston, June second, boarded a schooner bound for New York and took passage south which brought them through the straits of Florida, around the western tip of Cuba, and south to the shores of Panama. The long and hazardous journey across the Isthmus was made on foot.

On the Pacific side they embarked on a vessel which took them up the coast to California, landing at San Francisco in early August of 1851. With contempt for the lawlessness of a mining town, the brothers took the first ship out, arriving at Astoria on the Columbia River. They crossed the river and walked to Tumwater at the head of Puget Sound. Here a few pioneers were establishing themselves. From a small mill, they purchased lumber and built a boat to transport them down the sound. In the location at Steilacoom, they erected a cabin and spent a few weeks there. Poor soil in this area and good news of Whidbey Island caused them to move on.

They reached Alki Point and were greeted by hordes of Indians who came from their houses to ascertain whence they came. .At break of dawn they broke camp and started off across the sound. A murky sky and a strong south wind did not bid fair for travel. Before reaching the opposite shore there was real cause for worry. It was with great difficulty they were able to keep the boat from capsizing, fighting a tempestuous sea. On a cleared spot at the water's edge was a shack where they took refuge.

In the autumn of 1851 Samuel and Thomas Maylor camped and explored for a few days the area that was to become the great City of Seattle. To their knowledge there were no white people inhabiting this area at that time.

On the third day they made their departure, crossing over to the west side of the sound (Bainbridge Island). The magnificence of the scenery before them was enchanting. The placid sound waters with trees bordering its shores, and lofty mountains in the background stretching majestically to the sky, made this evergreen wonderland a spot of grandeur that held the newcomers spellbound. Though strangers in a foreign land, they were eager to have a part in the building of this great Northwest. They landed on the island, explored a portion of it and made camp for the night.

Being early, breakfast was hastily prepared and the journey resumed along the west shore of the mainland. The atmosphere was cooler and there were some indications of bad weather. .According to instructions received at Tumwater, the south end of Whidbey Island was quickly located. The distance across the Sound and weather conditions were considered favorable for travel.

The south end of Whidbey was reached and a landing made at Scatchet Head. Upon surveying their surroundings they hoped to find a more desirable camping place. The trip continued across Cultus Bay to Possession Point, landing on the inside or east shore. Soon after the brothers arrived on the point, Thomas became ill. A doctor advised him to go to sea. At Victoria he obtained passage on a ship, which took aim through the South Sea Islands and finally to Australia. After a year's absence he returned to find that another man had squatted on his land. Thomas and Samuel then abandoned their claims and in the spring of 1852 located at Mud Bay.

The following spring of 1853 they settled on the peninsula known as Maylor's Point. The land was purchased from the government for \$1.25 an acre. This ideal spot with scenes of tranquility and picturesque beauty was an answer to their prayers. With an ax, auger, and draw knife another cabin was erected in the wilderness.

Dreams of home and of a colleen fair stirred Samuel to continued unrest. In July of 1855 he left alone by way of Panama for a visit to the Emerald Isle, arriving there in the autumn. Samuel and Mary Barrett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Barrett of Cork, were married December 21, 1856 in Saint Peter's Episcopal Parish Church, Liverpool, England.

On March 11, 1857 they sailed from Liverpool on the ship London, landing at Castle Gardens, New York, on April fifteenth. Samuel worked as an ornamental painter for Mr. Charles Curran, Grand Street, and Mr. DeWilt, John Street, New York, where he was made unusual offers if he would remain there. A desire to go west and to have a business of his own prompted him to decline.

On September 21, 1857 their son Paul was born. After spending the winter and spring with brother Doctor Paul Maylor in Dunkirk, New York, the family left by way of New York and Aspinwall (Panama) for San Francisco. The rough and tedious stage coach ride across the Isthmus was one not soon to be forgotten. Arriving at San Francisco, Samuel was disappointed to find conditions in a state of decline. Thoughts of his Island home soon found them sailing up the coast and on to Puget Sound. It was with glad hearts they finally reached their donation claim on Maylor's Point. Samuel's knowledge as an engineer and his experience in the home workshop in Ireland made him efficient in reconstructing guns. He found much use for his knowledge as a gunsmith. His skill in this work enabled him to make many guns which were scarce at that time. Local white men and Indians from up and down the Sound, and as far away as Canada, came to have their guns repaired.

Two more sons, Thomas and Samuel, were born to the Maylors. On April 9, 1861 when Samuel was born, his mother died. Stricken with grief, Samuel took his three little ones to Victoria, B.C. to live until he could secure passage on a ship bound for Liverpool. He obtained a nurse to care for the children. Near the close of a year a ship arrived, and on March 25, 1862 he sailed with his three boys for London on the ship Princess Royal, arriving there the last of July.

On October 23, 1862 in Saint Paul's Episcopal Parish Church, Dublin, he married Margaret Corcoran, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Corcoran of Cork, a cousin to his deceased wife. Their son, Alfred, was born October 14, 1863. When their son was three weeks old, Samuel with his wife and four children sailed in the ship General Wyndham from London to Victoria, B.C. After a wearisome journey of nearly five months, and a few days in Victoria, they left on the schooner Growler (Captain Williams in charge), arriving at Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island. Three more sons and a daughter were born to the Maylors, John, Joseph, Cecil, and Anna.

Pioneer life was difficult, even at its best. Margaret's frail body could not endure more years of hardship. On February 10, 1891, at the age of forty-seven, she succumbed after many weeks of illness.

Samuel was in deep mourning for Margaret and for his son Samuel, whose disappearance had caused him great sorrow. Samuel, Jr. journeyed to Nanaimo, B.C., to stay for a short time on property purchased by his father. Several months passed -- Samuel failed to return. Upon investigation it was believed by members of the family that he was slain by the Kwakiutl Indians of Vancouver Island.

Years passed and Samuel's eyes grew dim. For four years he was a helpless invalid. On September 26, 1896 he closed the final chapter of life's story, that of a courageous pioneer.

From an account written by Juanita Maylor Bonnelle, August 1947

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