



her 2nd marriage;  
 she m.1st 22.1.1888  
 John Moriarty  
 of Brogue Lane, Tralee  
 (issue 1 son, 2 dau's  
 by this earlier marriage)  
 >>> Julia Hassett  
 b.13.7.1868 (not 27.7.1868)  
 Rock Street ("The Rock"),  
 Tralee  
 bapt. 15.7.1868 St John  
 (RC) Tralee; died young

writer, author of: "The English River-Names in Lawman's Brut" ("Modern Language Notes" May 1940 pp.373-8)  
 "Gernemuo: A Place-Name Puzzle in Lawman's Brut" ("Modern Language Notes" March 1942 pp.179-181)  
 "Geoffrey of Monmouth's 'Mons Agned' and 'Castellum Puellarum'" ("Spectrum" vol.17, April 1942, pp.250-254)  
 "Lawman's London in: Mediaeval Studies 10", 1948, p.197  
 "Autobiographical Aspects of Chaucer's Franklin" ("Spectrum" vol. 28, 1953, p.791)  
 "A Nature-Name Puzzle in Lawman's Brut" ("Studia Neophilologica" vol.14 No's 1-3 pp.53-7)  
 "A Study of the Place-Names in Lawman's Brut" (Stanford University Publications,  
 "University Series, Language & Literature" vol. 9 No.1); Stanford University Press, California  
 & Oxford University Press, London; 1950. Reprinted AMS Press, New York, 1967  
 "A Brief History of Celtic Studies in North America"

Soon after entering WWII the USA sent an agent, Robert D. Patterson (former US Consul in Cork) to Ireland to report on Axis activity; He reported that Tralee was the hot spot of Nazi activity in Ireland, & following this report three agents were recruited by the American O.S.S. (Office of Strategic Services, forerunner to the CIA) to serve in Ireland, to report on Axis activity;  
 Roland Blenner-Hassett was one of these, he being sent to Tralee **late Sept.1942** to investigate, his cover being the collection of Irish folklore material;  
 The other agents were Ervin "Spike" Marlin (code name "Hurst"), attached to the US Legation in Dublin, who was in charge of the operation, and Martin S. Quigley;  
 Roland Blenner-Hassett (code name "Train") initially reported to Marlin; both were quickly uncovered by G2 (Irish Military Intelligence) but they were welcomed because the Irish Government was anxious that the Americans should learn the true nature of Irish neutrality, "...which was to help the allies in every possible way short of becoming actively involved in the war..."  
 It appears Blennerhassett's cover was not good, especially at his old home in Tralee where he was distrusted locally; Marlin later told historian Ryle Dwyer that at the time he did not get along with Blennerhassett, whom he had believed to be an English academic, and could not understand why he had been sent, as [in Ireland] he was like a fish out of water

see U.S. National Archives, Washington DC: Records of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Record Group 226, 1940-1947  
 Entry 216: Boxes 1-10. Location: 250/64/33/4. CIA Accession: 92-00373R  
 Box 2: Records relating to Roland Blenner-Hassett and his mission to Ireland, c.Oct.1941-Dec.1943, about 150 pages [WN#24907]

**from "The Irish Times" [IT Wednesday 21.10.1942] - also summarised in "Irish Times Pictorial" [IT Saturday 31.10.1942, p.2]**

*"IRISH FOLK-LORE - U.S. RESEARCH SCHEME - The first research student to arrive in Ireland on a Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies - Roland Blenner-asset - has taken up residence in Dublin. He is to study Irish folklore, but part of his unofficial duties is to prepare the way for other research students whom the Council is anxious to send here after the war. "The Council", he told an Irish Times reporter, "consists of representatives of about twenty of the chief learned societies in America". Mr Blenner-Hassett has been teaching at Harvard for the last few years, but he was born and raised in Tralee. His attention was directed to the work that is being done in Ireland on folk-lore when at Harvard. Early in 1939 he met Mr Seamus Delargy, of the Irish Folk-lore Institute, then on an official lecture-tour in America. "An increasing interest is being taken in America in folk-lore", he told our reporter. "Americans are anxious to find how much of their own folk-lore has come from European sources, and how much is indigenous. We know definitely that in Kentucky and Tennessee, which were largely populated by Scots-Irish, who came in the 17th and 18th centuries, much of the folk-lore is of Irish origin. So by going through the rich collection of material in the Irish Institute I should be able to trace the connection between the lore of the two countries. But first I have to learn modern Irish, as much of the material is in Irish". While in Ireland Mr Blenner-Hassett is to make unofficially a general survey of sources of research in all academic subjects in the Irish universities and libraries. He will report on these to the American Council of Learned Societies, which, in turn will place this information at the disposal of students thinking of visiting Ireland to do research work and of university men who may wish to make enquiries in Ireland".*

**from "The Irish Times" [IT Saturday 23.1.1943]:**

*"A CALL-UP order from the United States Government has cut short the research studies of Mr. Roland Blennerhasset, a young member of the staff of Harvard University, who arrived in Ireland by Clipper about five months ago [i.e. August 1942] to do post-graduate study of folklore. He has been spending a short holiday in Tralee, from which his parents had emigrated to America, and on his return to Dublin found that he had been called for service. He immediately began to get his papers in order, and left yesterday morning [i.e. Friday 22.1.1943]. Before he left he stated that he had obtained useful information about how the work of folklore collecting was organised in Ireland, and he had done a good deal of study in the Irish language. This would be very valuable when he resumed his study of American folklore, much of which is of Irish origin. Of equal importance was the investigation he had been able to carry out of the research facilities available at Irish universities and libraries. He would make a report on these facilities to the American Council of Learned Societies, which had granted him a Fellowship to come to Ireland, and he hoped that this report would prepare the way for the sending of a steady stream of research students to Ireland in the post-war period."*

**"A US Spy in Ireland"**

Martin S. Quigley wrote "A US Spy in Ireland" (Marino Books, Dublin 1999), with forward (pp.16-19) by Irish historian T. Ryle Dwyer;  
 Ryle Dwyer writes a weekly column for the "Irish Examiner" newspaper, and, having had the opportunity to interview some of the participants, wrote three pieces on Roland Blenner-Hassett: "The frightful snob who went looking for Nazis in Kerry" 9.8.1999; "Jews' saviour wasn't secretly working for the Nazis" 12.7.2000; and "How one American spy's scheming fed the myth of Irish neutrality" 21.2.2004

In his forward to Quigley's book, Ryle Dwyer reports that:

*"...Marlin, who thought Blenner-Hassett was a British academic because of his cultivated [New England] accent, described him to me as 'a frightful snob'. Blenner-Hassett was actually from quite humble origins. His real name was Roland Hassett: he had added the 'Blenner-' prefix to his surname in the United States. Many of the local people considered him a social climber who was ashamed of his origins..."; They thought he was trying to pass himself off as a member of the Blennerhassett family, which owned Ballyseedy castle and formed part of the old Protestant gentry in the Tralee area. The fact that he also tended to be outspokenly critical of the Catholic Church, of which he had once been a member, did little to endear him to the stridently Catholic community..."*

The combined effect of these descriptions is a little unfair to a well-meaning and scholarly man, an academic who volunteered to help his adopted country in time of war

of Old Lyme, New London, Connecticut 1960-86; d.16.7.1986 Old Lyme, Connecticut

m. Hannah Lyman; b.7.1.1910 (or 7.12.1910?) New York State, USA (a 1957 ship passenger list has her b.7.12.1910);  
 of Massachusetts; of Old Lyme, New London, Connecticut 1960-1989; d.16.10.1989  
 she is reputed to have been wealthy, and to be distantly related to Catherine Robbins Lyman (b.1825 d.1896),  
 grandmother of Franklin Delano Roosevelt "FDR" (b.1882 d.1945), 32nd President of the USA





LL 05

**ROLAND (ROWLAND) BLENNERHASSETT**

**NOTES:**

there is a family tradition that this Roland (or his Blennerhassett ancestor) was a "sheriff" in Co. Wexford, Ireland; that is doubtful (*but is possible an ancestor may have been a Land Steward or Land Agent for an Irish estate*)

one oral family tradition has this Liverpool family descending from a "Colonel" John Joseph Blennerhassett who is said to be of Ballyseedy (nr Tralee) branch of the Co.Kerry Blennerhassett family (p.B 01);

however, frequent use of the name Rowland (Roland) in this family would suggest a more likely descent from the Blennerville (nr Tralee) branch (p.F 01)

Oral tradition in this Liverpool BH family tells that in Ireland "their" Rowland BH shot a servant and, to avoid police action, was sent by his family to England; some of the family in Liverpool believe this to be Rowland Jr. but that is doubtful, more likely to be Rowland Sr...

whover this story refers to was born in Ireland; Rowland BH Sr is from Tralee, Co.Kerry, Ireland, but the England census returns of 1891, 1901 & 1911 show his son Rowland Jr to be born at London

this is supported by an 1895 ship passenger list (when Rowland Hassett travelled to USA) that shows him as English, not Irish, thus making it difficult for him to be "Rowland Hassett from Tralee"

this passenger list also shows Rowland Hassett Jr's last place of residence as Manchester, not Liverpool, suggesting that the Roland B. Hassett, Cooper, at Manchester in 1881 is same man

some present-day descendants of Roland Jr believe he was born in Ireland, not England, but as father & son both Rowland the story could become confused...; Roland Jr did tell his daughter Mary that he was "the black sheep of the family", an outcast who had lost touch with family in Ireland (with exception of one brother, said to be "a Judge in America") but no explanation; was he speaking of his father?

>>> Rowland (Roland) "Roly" >>>> >>>> Joseph Blennerhassett b.c30.1.1851 Tralee;

Blennerhassett Sr bapt.30.1.1851 St John (RC) Tralee  
(alias B. Hassett, Hassett) *sponsor: Mary Hassett*

pronounced, and sometimes

spelt "Roland";

b.c1829/1835

Tralee, Co.Kerry

/

of Rock Street ("The Rock"),

Tralee 1850

/

moved to England c1850-55

journeyman cooper

(barrel maker) 1855-1895

NOTE: apart from the brewing industry, Liverpool had a large fish-packing industry also using barrels

/

of 14 Hurst Street, Liverpool 1855

(son Rowland born there)

/

of 1 Essex Street, Mile End

Old Town, London 1860-61

(name spelt "Rory Hassett")

/

of 103 "back of Cropper St.",

Manchester 1881;

in the 1881 census, the

Hassett name is easily

misread as Roland B. Hassell

/

lodger in a boarding house

at 53/55 Hunter St. Liverpool

1891 (1891 census

indicates he was b.c1823)

/

of 6h/1c (house 6, court 1)

Islington, Liverpool prior to

his entering the workhouse

hospital (his son Roland Jr at

that same address 7.2.1895)

/

d.21.3.1895 aged 60 at

Liverpool Workhouse U.S.D.

Hospital; bur.27.3.1895

Ford Cemetery, Liverpool

(section BZ plot 1446; public

section, with no headstone?)

/

m.1.4.1850

St.John's (RC) Tralee;

Honora Sheehy

(a.k.a. Sheahy/Shea)

d.bef.1881

witness *John Sheehy*

>>> <son> Blennerhassett;

"...a judge in the USA..." (perhaps at Philadelphia)

>>> <son> Blennerhassett; stayed in Ireland

>>> <son> Blennerhassett; stayed in Ireland

>>> <son> Blennerhassett; stayed in Ireland

>>> Honora Hassett

b.17.12.1860 1 Essex Street, Stepney/Mile End Old Town, London;

d.Jul-Sep.1861 Stepney/Mile End Old Town

>>> Rowland Hassett; b.15.7.1855 at 14 Hurst Street, Liverpool;

of 14 Hurst Street. Liverpool 1855;

d.?.7.1855 Liverpool, aged 1 month;

bur.14.8.1855 St Martin-in-the-Fields Free Parochial Cem., Liverpool

<--< NOTE: Four brothers (or perhaps uncles?) of Rowland Joseph Blennerhassett Jr b.c1861/2 (LL 06) are said to have stayed in Ireland, while another brother is said to have become a judge in the USA, as shown here; but no evidence yet found for either

LL 05













