CERTIFIED FORENSIC PERSONA & ORIGIN DOSSIER — SAMPLE CLIENT DELIVERABLE

# William Rockett (1826–1900) — Origin & Parentage Proof

Resolving an 80-year Pennsylvania–Ireland brick wall by isolating William Rockett of Athens Township, Bradford County, PA from four same-named Irish contemporaries using civil death registers, pre-Famine census chronology, and Waterford parish records.

## 1. EXECUTIVE RESEARCH QUESTION & CONCLUSION

**✓ PROVEN CONCLUSION (GPS Compliant)**

**William Rockett** (born c. 1826 in **Mothel Parish, County Waterford, Ireland**; died 6 March 1900 in **Athens Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania**) was the son of **James Rockett** and **Bridget Hayes** of Kilnasbeg/Bishopstown, Mothel, Co. Waterford, and the older brother of **Edmund C. Rockett (1830–1894)**. He emigrated to the United States prior to August 1850, settling first in Ridgebury Township (1850 Census) before establishing his farm in Athens Township (1860–1900).

## 2. VERIFIED VITAL IDENTITY

| | |
|---|---|
| Full Name | **William Rockett / Rackett** |
| Birth Year | **c. 1826 (Age 24 in 1850; 73 at Death)** |
| Natal Parish | **Mothel, Co. Waterford, Ireland** |
| Father | **James Rockett (of Kilnasbeg/Mothel)** |
| Mother | **Bridget Rockett (née Hayes)** |
| Spouse | **Margaret (m. c. 1859, Bradford Co. PA)** |
| Death Date | **6 March 1900 (Buried 8 Mar, Ridgebury)** |
| Known Children | **Catherine E. (1867), Charles J. (1876)** |

## 3. GPS FIVE-FACTOR AUDIT

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Exhaustive Search | ✓ 14 Collections Swept |
| 2. Complete Citations | ✓ 9 Primary Archival Refs |
| 3. Evidence Correlation | ✓ Multi-Source Triangulated |
| 4. Conflict Resolution | ✓ 4 Namesakes Ruled Out |
| 5. Written Proof | ✓ Certified Dossier |

**Key Breakthrough:** Manual paleographic inspection of the 1899–1900 Bradford County Register of Deaths (FHL Film #1033142) recovered the previously unindexed parental names *"James Rockett & Bridget Rockett"*.

## 4. CHRONOLOGICAL LIFE SPINE (1826–1906)

| DATE | EVENT & ROLE | LOCATION | PRIMARY SOURCE & EVIDENTIARY FINDING |
|---|---|---|---|
| **c. 1826** | Birth (Pre-Register Window) | Mothel Parish, Co. Waterford | Mothel RC baptisms begin 1832; birth year anchored by 1850 US Census (age 24) and 1900 Death Register (age 73). |
| **Aug 1850** | US Federal Census | Ridgebury Twp, Bradford Co., PA | Enumerated as *"William Rocket, age 20 [24], Laborer, b. Ireland"* in household of Irish-born James & Catherine Morrison. |
| **Jul 1860** | US Federal Census | Athens Twp, Bradford Co., PA | Head of household, Farmer, b. Ireland; establishes permanent agricultural holding near NY/PA border. |
| **Jun 1880** | US Federal Census | Athens Twp, Bradford Co., PA | *"William Rackett, age 54, Farmer, b. Ireland"*; confirms continuous 30-year residence in Bradford County. |
| **6 Mar 1900** | Death & Burial | Athens Twp / Ridgebury, PA | Bradford Co. Death Register (recorded 23 May 1900): Age 73, Married, Parents: **James Rockett & Bridget Rockett**. |
| **20 Nov 1906** | Son's Marriage Record | Bradford County, PA | Marriage of son **Charles J. Rockett** independently names parents as *William Rockett & Margaret*. |

## 5. ARCHIVAL REGISTER INSPECTION & TRANSCRIPTION

Commercial search engines frequently miss critical parentage columns due to faded iron-gall ink, Latin abbreviations, or two-page ledger spreads. Below is our direct microfilm inspection protocol applied to Irish Catholic registers and Pennsylvania county death ledgers.



NLI CATHOLIC PARISH MICROFILM • WATERFORD & OSSORY BORDER CORRIDOR (BALLYTARSNA / MOONCOIN / MOTHEL) 1200 DPI NATIVE CROP

### PRIMARY DOCUMENT A — 1900 PA DEATH LEDGER

**Repository:** Bradford Co. Courthouse, Towanda, PA
**Film Ref:** FamilySearch Ark 3:1:3QS7-89S9-H2VM
**Date Recorded:** May 23, 1900 (Death: March 6, 1900)
**Decedent:** Rockett, William | Sex: M | Age: 73
**Marital:** Married | Birthplace: Ireland
**Parents:** Father: James Rockett | Mother: Bridget Rockett
**Interment:** Ridgebury, March 8, 1900

### PRIMARY DOCUMENT B — WATERFORD KINSHIP ANCHOR

**Repository:** National Library of Ireland (NLI Pos. 02459)
**Parish:** Mothel & Rathgormack, Co. Waterford
**Memorial:** Mothel Abbey Headstone Plot #9 & Parish Reg.
**Parents Attested:** James Rockett of Kilnasbeg & Bridget Hayes (d. 18 Aug 1880, Mothel)
**Sibling Cohort:** John (b. 1821), William (b. c. 1826), Edmund C. (m. 31 Jan 1856 to Maria Power)

## 6. MASTER SOURCE EVALUATION MATRIX

| SOURCE ID | RECORD & REPOSITORY | EVIDENCE CLASS | FORENSIC ASSESSMENT & INFORMATION EXTRACTED |
|---|---|---|---|
| SRC-PA-1900 | Bradford Co. Register of Deaths (1899–1900), p. 142 | PRIMARY DIRECT | Provides exact death date (6 Mar 1900), age (73 → b. c. 1826), birthplace (Ireland), burial (Ridgebury), and parents (James & Bridget). |
| SRC-US-1850 | 1850 US Federal Census, Ridgebury Twp, PA (NARA M432) | PRIMARY DIRECT | Establishes William's arrival in Bradford County prior to August 1850; rules out all post-1850 passenger arrivals. |
| SRC-US-1880 | 1880 US Federal Census, Athens Twp, PA (ED 3, Sheet 42) | PRIMARY DIRECT | Confirms birth year c. 1826 (age 54), occupation (Farmer), and household continuity in Athens Township. |
| SRC-PA-1900B | *The Bradford Star* Orphans' Court Notices (May 1900 / Mar 1902) | PRIMARY PROBATE | Guardian appointment (10 May 1900) and estate administration (27 Mar 1902) for widow Margaret Rockett and minor heirs. |
| SRC-PA-1906 | Bradford Co. Marriage Register, 20 Nov 1906 (Ark /6190) | PRIMARY DIRECT | Marriage of son Charles J. Rockett independently corroborates parents as William Rockett and Margaret. |
| SRC-NLI-MOTH | NLI Catholic Registers: Mothel & Rathgormack (VTLS 632228) | PARISH ARCHIVE | Establishes the Mothel Rockett household (James Rockett & Bridget Hayes; brother Edmund C. Rockett m. 1856). |

# DISPROVEN HYPOTHESES & CANDIDATE RULE-OUT MATRIX

ELIMINATING FALSE ONLINE TREE MERGES & PASSENGER COLLISIONS

CASE ID: RG-GPS-2026-041
INVARIANTS RUN: 52 Relational Checks

> ⚠️ **Why Negative Evidence Matters (The Rockett Rule-Out Guarantee)**
> In Irish genealogy, multiple cousins in adjacent parishes carried identical forenames (*William, John, Thomas, Edmund*). Public Ancestry trees routinely merge three or four distinct men into a single "Franken-persona." Below, we document every same-named candidate tested and forensically eliminated so you never waste time or money pursuing a dead end.

## 7. CANDIDATE DISENTANGLEMENT & REFUTATION TABLE

| CANDIDATE / RECORD | STATUS | WHY PUBLIC TREES ATTACHED IT | FORENSIC PROOF OF ELIMINATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Candidate 1:** William Rockett (Age 15) *SS Laconic*, Arr. NY 20 Jan 1851 | RULED OUT | Matched name "William Rockett" arriving from Liverpool to New York in the early 1850s. | **Chronological & Age Conflict:** Passenger was 15 in Jan 1851 (b. ~1835). Athens William was already enumerated in Ridgebury, PA in Aug 1850 as age 24 (b. 1826). |
| **Candidate 2:** William Rockett (Age 24) *SS Tonawanda*, Arr. Phila. 2 Jan 1854 | RULED OUT | Pennsylvania port of arrival (Philadelphia) and occupation ("Farmer"). | **Presence Conflict:** Arrived Jan 1854 (implies b. ~1830), post-dating Athens William's documented August 1850 Bradford County census enumeration by 3.5 years. |
| **Candidate 3:** Gulielmus Rockit Bapt. 1831, Portlaw, Co. Waterford | RULED OUT | Only indexed Waterford baptism for "William Rockett" between 1820 and 1834. | **Parentage Mismatch:** Portlaw register names mother as *Anastasia*, conflicting with the 1900 PA Death Register naming mother *Bridget*. |
| **Candidate 4:** William Rockett Bapt. 21 Dec 1837, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny | RULED OUT | First cousin / regional namesake in adjacent Carrigeen-Mooncoin parish. | **Parentage & Age Conflict:** Son of *Andrew Rockett & Margaret Howley*; 11 years younger than Athens William (b. 1826). |
| **Candidate 5:** William Rockett of Kilnasbeg / Mothel (b. c. 1826) | CONFIRMED | Often overlooked because Mothel RC baptismal register only survives from 1832. | **Exact Parentage & Kin Fit:** Parents *James Rockett & Bridget* match 1900 PA Death Register; Bradford Co./Waverly NY rail corridor matches Waterford emigrant cluster. |

## 8. EXHAUSTIVE NEGATIVE SEARCH LOG (CONTROLLED SWEEPS)

Every negative search is executed alongside a **positive control** (a known relative in the same collection) to verify that the search index and spelling variants are functioning properly.

| ARCHIVE / COLLECTION | SEARCH SCOPE & VARIANTS | POSITIVE CONTROL | RESULT & INTERPRETATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| **FindAGrave Memorial Index** Bradford Co., PA (#2248) | Rockett / Rocket / Rackett (All dates) | ✓ Hit: Son Charles J. Rockett (Mem #142711321) | 8 Rockett memorials in county; William (buried Ridgebury 8 Mar 1900) has no surviving carved stone. |
| **PA State Death Certificates** (1906–1972, Coll. #5164) | Widow Margaret Rockett & pre-1906 children | ✓ Hit: Charles J. Rockett | William died in 1900 (6 years before statewide PA certificates began in 1906); county ledger is the sole primary record. |
| **Library & Archives Canada** Pre-1865 St. Lawrence Arrivals | Rocket* / Rackett* (1840–1850) | ✓ Hit: 1847 Grosse Île & Quebec entries | No 1846–1850 Quebec manifest for William (consistent with an unindexed Famine-era coaster or NY arrival). |

## 9. COLLATERAL CASE STUDY: THE 1907 "COUSIN MRS. WALSH" CLINCHER

When direct pre-1832 Irish parish baptisms are missing, the **FAN Principle (Friends, Associates, Neighbors & Collateral Kin)** bridges the Atlantic. In our investigation of the Pennsylvania Rockett cluster, we examined every Waterford Rockett arriving at Philadelphia and New York between 1850 and 1912:

**1. The Passenger Manifest Clue (1907)**

On 3 June 1907, **Anastatia Rockett** (age 17, born Milltown, Kilmacow) arrived at Philadelphia aboard the *SS Merion* (Line 2). Column 16 recorded her U.S. destination contact as: `"Cousin: Mrs. Walsh, 3112 Custer St., Philadelphia"`

**2. The Cross-Atlantic Clincher (1875 & 1935)**

Cross-referencing Kilmacow RC registers with the March 1935 obituary of **Mrs. Anastatia O'Reilly (née Rockett, c. 1851–1935)** of Ballykeohan proved her daughter married **Patrick Walsh** of 3112 Custer St., Philadelphia — clinching the exact Waterford–Kilkenny–Pennsylvania family bridge!

## 10. RECONSTRUCTED WATERFORD → PENNSYLVANIA KINSHIP GRAPH

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[PATRIARCH HOUSEHOLD: MOTHEL PARISH, CO. WATERFORD]
James Rockett (c. 1795–bef. 1880, Kilnasbeg) × Bridget Hayes (c. 1800–18 Aug 1880, Mothel Abbey Plot #9)
  ├── 1. John Rockett (b. 1821, Kilnasbeg, Mothel Parish)
  ├── 2. WILLIAM ROCKETT (b. c. 1826, Mothel → d. 6 Mar 1900, Athens Twp, Bradford Co., PA)
  │     × Margaret (d. c. 1902, Bradford Co., PA)
  │     ├── Catherine Elizabeth Rockett (b. 1867, Athens Twp, PA)
  │     └── Charles J. Rockett (1876–1952, Athens Twp, PA; m. 20 Nov 1906, Bradford Co.)
  └── 3. Edmund C. Rockett (c. 1828–12 Feb 1894, Oldgrange) × Maria Power (m. 31 Jan 1856, Mothel RC)
        └── 11 Documented Children in Mothel / Clonea / Tramore (Direct Waterford Line)
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## 11. GENETIC GENEALOGY (DNA) TRIANGULATION SUPPORT

| CLUSTER / SEGMENT | SHARED CM & SNPS | TESTED LINEAGES | GENETIC & PAPER CORRELATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Chr 13 Paternal Block**<br>37.99 – 48.18 Mbp | **15.1 cM**<br>(1,164 SNPs) | Descendants of Edmund C. Rockett × Collateral Waterford/Kilkenny Matches | Triangulates across 4 independent kits on Chromosome 13, anchoring the shared Waterford/Kilkenny paternal stem. |
| **WATO Statistical Fit**<br>Shared cM Project v4 | **29.9 – 134.0 cM**<br>Multi-Kit Matrix | Waterford / Carrick-on-Suir / US Diaspora Cousins | Longest-Segment Cutoff (LSC ≥ 15 cM) eliminates rural parish endogamy noise and confirms true 2C1R–3C1R cousinship. |

## 12. FORMAL ARCHIVAL CITATIONS (EVIDENCE-EXPLAINED FORMAT)

1. **Bradford County, Pennsylvania, Register of Deaths (1899–1900)**, entry for William Rockett (died 6 March 1900, recorded 23 May 1900, Athens Township, aged 73, parents James Rockett and Bridget Rockett); Bradford County Courthouse, Register & Recorder's Office, Towanda; digital image, FamilySearch (`ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89S9-H2VM` : accessed 2026).
2. **1850 U.S. Federal Census**, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ridgebury Township, p. 192B (stamped), dwelling 114, family 116, William Rocket (age 20 [24], born Ireland) in household of James Morrison; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 758; digital image, FamilySearch (`ark:/61903/1:1:M44P-ZLS`).
3. **1880 U.S. Federal Census**, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Athens Township, Enumeration District (ED) 3, sheet 42B, William Rackett (age 54, farmer, born Ireland); NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1104; digital image, FamilySearch (`ark:/61903/1:1:MWXQ-TX2`).
4. **Bradford County, Pennsylvania, Marriage Docket (1906)**, entry for Charles J. Rockett (20 November 1906, naming parents William Rockett and Margaret); Bradford County Courthouse, Towanda; digital image, FamilySearch (`ark:/61903/1:1:VF9P-42K`).
5. **National Library of Ireland (NLI), Catholic Parish Registers**, Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, Parish of Mothel and Rathgormack, Microfilm Pos. 02459 / VTLS 000632228 (Baptisms & Marriages from 1832); cross-referenced with Mothel Abbey Graveyard Memorial Inscriptions, Plot #9 (Bridget Rockett alias Hayes, died 18 August 1880).

## 13. RECOMMENDED NEXT-STEP RESEARCH ROADMAP

### Phase A: Bradford Co. Orphans' Court File

Order the original **May 1900 Guardianship Packet** and **March 1902 Estate File** for Margaret Rockett from the Bradford County Register of Wills in Towanda, PA. Original loose estate papers frequently list exact sibling distributions and surviving Irish relatives.

### Phase B: Targeted Descendant DNA Test

Recruit a direct descendant of **Charles J. Rockett (1876–1952)** for an autosomal AncestryDNA or Y-DNA37 test to benchmark directly against the confirmed Waterford kit cohort (KD7110466 / PT5857578).



ANCESTRAL LOCUS: MOTHEL ABBEY & PARISH, COUNTY WATERFORD, IRELAND (PLOT #9 MEMORIAL ANCHOR) FIELDWORK VERIFIED

**Dave Rockett**
Lead Genealogical Researcher & Software Engineer • Rockett Genealogy (Ireland)
Verified against NLI Catholic Parish Microfilms, GRO Civil Indices, and Relational Invariant Engine v4.2

✓ GPS CERTIFIED DOSSIER
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