

to

Father Frank Hargadon
Georgetown University,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Father Frank:

I t was certainly a delight to receive your letter with the valuable religious objects enclosed.

There are quite a few Hargadons in the United States. I remember about eight years ago a chap named Hargadon from somewhere near New York telephoned me from the Queen's Hotel. I went to see him, and found a very fine young fellow, a lawyer by profession.

As we get older we get more interested in our ancestors. As you know, there are not many Hargadons in Ireland. It would not surprise me if the entire clan sprang from one man.

Recently, when reading the life of Queen Elizabeth, I found that in 1588, after the defeat of the Spanish Armada, the "Flewer of the Spanish Army" was wrecked on the coast of Sligo.

Repeatedly I have been told by Brian Hargadon of Clougher, Sligh, who died in 1924 at the age of 80 years that the original Hargadon came from Spain. Moreover, Brian told me that he had a silver hand. This is tradition. I can well imagine him having a hand shot off in battle, and probably there might have been some silver device manufactured to serve as a hand.

I never knew of the Hargadons to have a family crest, but if they have one it should be "The Silver Hand". As all the Hargadons come from Sligo I suppose I should find a lot of information over there.

If you have any information regarding your ancestors I would be very pleased to have it. At present there is a very prosperous storekeeper in Sligo by the name of Michael Hargadon. I am sending him a copy of this letter, and asking him if he is in possession of any information on the subject. I have three boys who are rather inclined toward learning, and would like to hand them down the story.

In any event there is the tradition that the name came from Spain, and that the original Hargadon had a silver hand. When Brian Hargadon told me this he was perfectly positive about it, and he was as fine a man as ever walked in shoe leather."

Did you ever read Tom Moore's poem:

"They came from a land beyond the sea,
and now o'er the western main,
Set sail in their good ships gallantly
From the sunny lands of Spain."

With best wishes,

M. A. Hargadon