

1035-01-391 **Raymond G Flood*** (raymond.flood@conted.ox.ac.uk), Kellogg College, 62 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PN, England. *Lord Kelvin the Irish connection.*

This talk will include an account of Kelvin's father, James Thomson, whose first job was as a farm labourer near Belfast, Northern Ireland where Kelvin was born. James went on to be Head of Mathematics at Belfast Academical Institution, and then Professor of Mathematics at Glasgow University. He played an enormously influential role in the development of Kelvin's religious, scientific and political views, as well as being central to Kelvin also obtaining a Chair at Glasgow. The talk will also include an account of Kelvin's personal interaction with his elder brother, also James, who was an engineer and returned to work in Belfast in 1851, being Professor of Engineering at Queen's University, Belfast, from 1854 until he moved to join Kelvin in Glasgow in 1873. Kelvin's sisters also returned to live in Belfast, and he was himself a frequent visitor, always concerned with Belfast and Irish affairs. December 2007 marks the centenary of Kelvin's death and this is an appropriate point to review the Irish dimension of his life so frequently overlooked. (Received September 05, 2007)