

The Conan Archival Project

**The Genealogy Research Papers
of
Robert J. Conan, Jr., Ph.D.**



**Binder_01-03
Bob's Letters from Irish priests (10 letters)
February 2018**

**Paul B. Conan, Jr.
paulconanjr@aol.com**

Contents

- Bob's first letter generically written to a "Pastor, Roman Catholic Parish, Upperchurch", along with reply by "W.M. English P.P." (1962).
- Baptimal certificates for James Walsh, born 1831; Larry Coonan, born 1835; and John Coonan, born 1834.
- Letter from W.M. English P.P., Upperchurch, Thurles (1964).
- Letter from James OMeara P.P., Upperchurch, Thurles (1969).
- Letter from James OMeara P.P., Upperchurch, Thurles (1970).
- Letter from L. Gleeson P.P., Templemore (1971). Includes Coonan baptismal records.
- Letter from L. Gleeson P.P., Templemore (1972). Includes Coonan baptismal records.
- Letter from _M. Conception Kennedy, Convent of Mercy, Templemore (1973), baptismal records from Clonmore Register.
- Letter from James O'Connor P.P., Drom, Thurles (1972), baptismal records from parish of Drom.
- Letter from Rev. J. Kennedy P.P., Bournea, Roscrea (1971).
- Letter from Rev. J. Kennedy P.P., Bournea, Roscrea (1971), two marriage records and sixteen baptismal records provided

(note: P.P. is the abbreviation for Parish Priest)

The only reason we have Bob's original 1962 letter is because the parish priest wrote his reply on the top of Bob's letter and mailed it back to him. Bob said that it was a good thing he didn't get discouraged easily because this Upperchurch-area priest wrote "I would not advise you to come to Ireland in quest of relatives", and "Sorry I can't be more helpful". Two years later in 1964, he wrote back to Bob, probably in response to another letter, and said "It will be a pleasure for me to help you as fully as I can".

Canon English - died
about 1965

Parish priest in Upperchurch 1966-55
(or Mr. Gleeson?)



Air Inc

Dr R. J. Conan Jr.
of Trinity College
of Trinity Heights
Queens 8. New York.
Chemistry Dept.

14th April 1962

With information you have I would not advise you to come to Ireland in quest of relatives. There are no people by name Conan living in Ireland - last of that name died some years ago. I'm enclosing a couple of Baptismal Certs. LE MOYNE COLLEGE They may not be relation of your family at all. Walsh would then today, is in our records as Welch. Welch. Welch. When we have several with Semilais Christian names. So when you come in: this could have no degree of accuracy. Except you are more detailed.

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

Pastor, Roman Catholic Parish
Upperchurch (or nearest parish)
County Tipperary
Ireland

April 9, 1962

There is no record of individuals going to U.S.A. a picture of the Island of those days is no credit to the Poles and of the people there assistance was tolerated - but never condoned

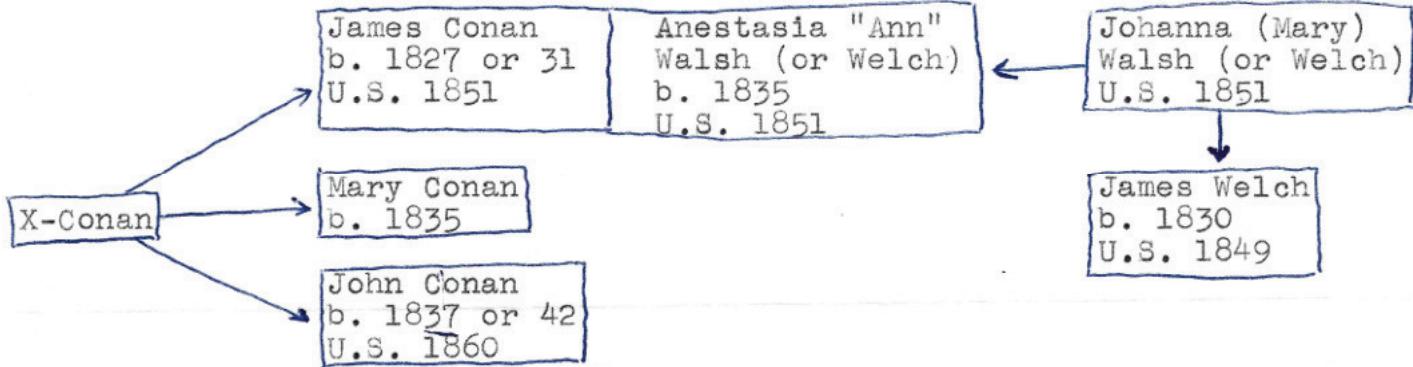
Reverend Father,

Sorry I can't be more helpful. Wm. English P.P.

I am writing in haste to ask your help in a particular matter of immediate interest to me. First to introduce myself: I am a full Professor at this Jesuit College, and am Chairman of the Department of Chemistry. In a little over a month I will be attending a meeting in Europe (France), but might be able to make a quick visit to Ireland if the circumstances warrant it (I have toured your fine country before). However that will depend on your reply to this letter.

The purpose of my letter to you is to attempt to obtain some information on our family ancestors - for family tradition states that these people and their friends came to central New York State in the U. S. from Upperchurch.

The people that I am primarily interested in are given here, with their birth dates (as well as are known to us), and their approximate dates of entering this country (marked U.S.).



Now with respect to the above I would ask: (1) Who were the parents of James, Mary and John Conan, and were there any other children?, (2) Are birth or baptismal records available on these people?, (3) Are marriage records, as for John Conan and Mary Ann Welch available?, (4) Any records of the exact time these people left Ireland still available?, (5) Are there any descendants of these people still living in Ireland?, (6) Are there any people with the name of Conan living in that district? (If so, you might ask one of them to contact me, please.)

I am also interested in any people with the name Coman who might have lived there in about 1850, or at present.

My general question is therefore - is there any information in existence there of my ancestors, or are there any remote relatives

now living there? If so, I would appreciate knowing of these things as soon as possible, for if it is of sufficient importance, I might try to arrange to visit there soon.

Any help that you could give me in this would be greatly appreciated, And in order to facilitate prompt communication, I would like you to make use of the enclosed funds as you desire- but please send a reply by airmail.

Thanking you in advance for any information that you may send me, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Conan Jr.

Dr. Robert J. Conan, Jr.

Chairman, Dept. of Chemistry

Professor of Chemistry

and to continue my basic research in the field of dissociated gases at Simon Fraser University. (Because of quite a number of publications over the last few years on the basic of dissociation a great many new terms have been introduced into the literature and it is

among these of greatest interest to me is the dissociation of a diatomic molecule which is a system consisting of two atoms which are held together by a single bond. This is the case of the atomic bond in the molecule of H₂, O₂, N₂, etc., and in

the case of the molecule of H₂ it is known that the dissociation of the molecule into two atoms is a reversible process. In this case the equilibrium between the two atoms is established by the fact that the rate of dissociation of the molecule is equal to the rate of recombination of the two atoms.



It is known that the dissociation of the molecule into two atoms is a reversible process. In this case the equilibrium between the two atoms is established by the fact that the rate of dissociation of the molecule is equal to the rate of recombination of the two atoms. The equilibrium constant for the dissociation of the molecule into two atoms is given by the equation:

The equilibrium constant for the dissociation of the molecule into two atoms is given by the equation:

Birth and Baptismal Certificate

Diocese of Cashel Parish of Upperchurch

On examination of the Register of Baptisms of above Parish I certify that according to it James Walsh was born on 12th day of May 1831, and was baptized according to the Rites of the Catholic Church on 15th day of May 1831 in the Church of St. Mary, parish of Upperchurch by the Rev.

Parents { Patti Walsh
Johnina Harrington

Sponsors { Ned Walsh
Ellen Harrington

Signed W. J. Walsh } P.P.

Given this 14th day of April 1962 at Upperchurch

Birth and Baptismal Certificate

Diocese of Cashel Parish of Upperchurch.

On examination of the Register of Baptisms of above Parish I certify that according to it Jenny Coonan was born on 1st day of June 1835, and was baptized according to the Rites of the Catholic Church on 3rd day of June 1835 in the Church of St. Mary, parish of Upperchurch by the Rev.

Parents { Jenny Coonan
Winnie Wale

Sponsors { Pet. Maher
Lora Wale

Signed W. III. English } P.P.

Given this 14th day of April 1962 at Upperchurch

Birth and Baptismal Certificate

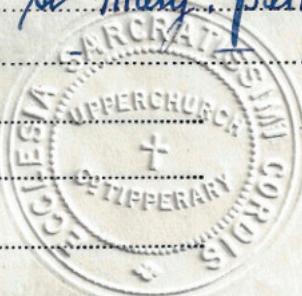
Diocese of Cashel Parish of Upperchurch.

On examination of the Register of Baptisms of above Parish I certify that according to it John Coonan was born on 3rd day of August 1837, and was baptized according to the Rites of the Catholic Church on 6th day of August 1837 in the Church of St. Mary, parish of Upperchurch by the Rev.

Parents { Henry Coonan
Wesley Walsh
Sponsors { Puice Walsh
Judy Bourke

Signed W. In English } P.P.

Given this 14th day of August 1962 at Upperchurch





Dr Robert J. Coonan Jr.
Professor of Chemistry
of Moyers College
of Moyers Heights
Syracuse
New York 13214
U.S.A.

Ms. Petermet. Shmles.

Ireland

August 15th 1964

Dear Mr. Conan,

When you are definite about the date of arrival in Ireland, and day & hour of your visit to Ms. Petermet, it should be helpful if you will make me aware of it. So I could be here to receive you. Just a card or wire will be sufficient, say one day ahead.

It will be a pleasure for me to help you as far as possible as I can.

Looking forward to meet you

Sincerely yours

W. M. English P.P.

22/12/69

TEL. 11

PAROCHIAL HOUSE,
UPPERCHURCH,
THURLES,
CO. TIPPERARY

Dear Mr. Conan,

Thanks for your letter of Dec. 10 & enclosed \$5. I will be glad to say Mass in Upperchurch for your intentions. I have not heard anything from the Conans of Tipperary - except I think on one occasion when I gave a lift to Mrs. Conan & she mentioned your visit. They usually attend Mass elsewhere. You will be very welcome to come & examine the records again next year & I hope your father will be persuaded to accompany you.

And so I wish you a happy & holy Christmas & prosperous New Year.

Yrs sincerely J. O'Leary P.P.

Upperchurch
Thurles
Co. Tipperary
6 May 1970

Dear Mr. Conam,

I was pleased to hear from you again - & I must excuse myself for delay in replying. We were preparing for the visit of the archbishop which took place yesterday.

Well, I referred your request to higher authority, as I was bound to do, & I repeat that it is not possible to grant permission to have the old records made available for micro-filming. It seems that it goes against canon law even to make them freely available for intensive examination. Family good name & legal interests have to be protected. Specific enquiries however are treated with due consideration.

For your further information & assistance it is well to know that micro-film copies already exist. They are in the files of the GENEALOGICAL OFFICE, Lower Castle Yard DUBLIN 2

These copies were made some years ago by special arrangement with the Genealogical Office & they will answer queries in the appropriate manner & observing the due formalities.

I tell you this because I shall be on retreat from 21st to 25th June which coincides with the time when you propose to visit here.

I hope all this does not sound as if I am trying to be unhelpful. Believe me there is nothing further from my mind, I have very pleasant memories of your last visit & look forward to seeing you again

Yrs sincerely
James Dineen P.P.

Telephone 51

Templemore,

Co. Tipperary.

12 Nov. 1971.

Dear Mr. Conan,

You will see from enclosed list
that I have searched our register for
information for you.

I also called to the Conans
Portmarnock to learn that you visited
there last year. From the family tree they
showed me I don't think that your family
comes from this area, rather Upperchurch.
However I have put down all its dates
for you. If ever you are enquiring please
quote these dates as it would eliminate
a lot of work for me. Search to register
takes up a lot of time due to faded writing,
crammed information etc.

Best wishes

P.W. L. Gleeson c.s.

Telephone 51

Templemore.

Co. Tipperary.

12 Nov. 1971.

James Coonan : 20/7/1840

Elijah " : 31/8/1842

" : 3/5/1843

Hannah : 19/7/1844

Catherine : 15/6/1846

Margaret & Mr. (turn) : 31/7/1849

Johanna : 25/5/1851

Margaret : 9/7/1854

Michael : 30/4/1854

The above are all the Coonans between 1836-64 (inclus.)

Catherine of Mr. Dromard : 20 Jan. 1824

Johanna of James, Ballynefadd : 16 April 1826

Ann of Mr. Dromard : 6th Sept. 1829.

These are all the Coonans between 1824-32 (inclus.)

John 4/11/1810, Mary 4/3/1812, John (?) 26/11/1814,
James 16/8/1818, all of Mr. Coonan, Dromard.

John of James Coonan, Dromard 24th March 1825

Linoty " 29th March 1820

Wgt. of Mr. Coonan, Oldtown 1/5/1821
The above covers from 1807 to 1821.

Telephone 51

Templemore,

Co. Tipperary.

16th May 1972.

The following are the details of some of the Coonans mentioned in your letter of Nov. 18th 1971. This is all the information there is about them in the Templemore register, which started in 1809.

16th August 1818: James & Michael Coonan and Mary Delaney, Dromard Hill.

Sponsors: Jeremiah Carroll & Mary Morrissey.

29th March 1820: Timothy of James Coonan and Eliza Ryan, Dromard Hill. Sp.: M. Coonan & Mary Delaney.

16th April 1826: Joanna of James Coonan & Eliza Ryan. Sp. Patrick Quinlan & Catherine Carew, Ballinefod 2-2

26th July 1840: James & John Coonan & Peggy Bourke. Sp. Catherine Bourke, Ballinefod 2-6

21st July 1844: Thomas of Thomas Coonan & Catherine Wallace. Sp. Eliza Fogarty, Templemore.

Signed: R. W. L. Gleeson, c.e.

Telephone 51

Templemore,

Co. Tipperary.

16 May 1972.

Dear Dr. Conan,

I wouldn't blame you for having given up hope of receiving a reply to your letter. It got left aside with the Christmas posting etc. and I just picked it up to day.

I am enclosing some more details as requested. I need hardly remind you that if you are enquiring again please quote any details I've given you as it would save me a lot of searching.

I offered the Mass, as you requested, for all the Coonan family on December 12th.

I'm glad you are coming over again as it is much easier to collect information that way. I apologise for the long delay - replying. Wish you success.

Best wishes,
R.W. L. Gleeson c.e.

~~tell to next~~ Convent of Mercy,
Templemore,
Co. Tipperary

23. 1. 73

Dear Dr. Robert J. Conan,
Rev. L.

Gleeson asked me to answer
your letter before he left here for
New Zealand.

I was disappointed
when I could not find the
Baptisms recorded in Templemore
Registers. I have just discovered
that they are in Clonmore
Register which is a part of
Templemore Parish about 4 miles
from here. Oldtown, Dromard
Ballynafad are in that area,
also Kilawady and Gortnagana.
Enclosed I have names of the
Conan family, on a separate
sheet. I hope I have helped
as best I could.

I shall probably be absent
during July & most of August Jr.

lesson will be here at that
time

I am

Yours sincerely

S. M. Conception Kennedy

Believeable now

all kind for this & who
responsible in between omitted
I would try best to interpret

noward as we get tell

to try a a little striped
shirt & make hand some
small mouth eat more
and tell in we have all
company by phonetic help
it go easier must be healthy
stamps & no place record
better must be eat & tell

blue & fast as
inches of rubber like to
of tongue & your & your print

Coonan Names in
Baptismal Register, Glonmore

1807 - 1821.

- 1 John of Michael & Mary Delahunt, Dromard 4.11.1810
- Mary, his sister " 4.3.1812
- 2 John his brother 26.11.1814
- 3 John, Dromard of James & Elizabeth Ryan 24.6.1815
- 4 James of Michael Coonan 16.8.1818
5. 17th May 1835, Mary of James Keys and Mary Coonan (sister of John I) Ballynafad. Sps: John Keys & Mary Delahunt
- 6 Timothy of James Coonan Dromard Hill 29 March 1820
- 7 Margaret of Michael Coonan, Oldtown 1st May 1821
8. James Coonan 20.7.1840. James of John Coonan & Peggy Bourke Sponsor: Catherine Bourke, Ballynafad
9. Margaret & Michael Coonan 31.7.1849 Twins. Sps: Martin Keys & Margaret Meehan, Dromard

29th October 1835 Thomas of
Patrick Ryan & Mary Holmes
Ballynafad. Sp's:- John Coonan
& Margaret Hanly.

20th January 1834: Catherine of
Michael Coonan & Mary
Delshunty, Dromard
Sp's: John Gleeson & Margaret
Bray.

Catherine 15. 6. 1846
Coonan?

Elizabeth 3. 5. 1843
Coonan 24. 5. 1851:

Johanna Coonan of John
Coonan & Margaret Bonke
Sp: Mary Bonke, Ballynafad

30. 4. 1857 Michael of John Coonan
& Margaret Bonke Dromard

Coonan Family from Parish of Drom

1) Toby (or Tobias) Troy and Margaret Coonan were married in Drom Parish Church by Rev. Michael Magdal P.P. in the presence of Denis Bowke and Alicia Margaret on July 19th 1879. Margaret Coonan came from Knocka townland in Drom Parish.

- 2) I find that a Margaret Coonan, Knocka, was born at Knocka, Drom, of Michael Coonan & Kate (Catherine) Spillane in the year 1851 (Baptized Dec. 22nd 1851). Sponsors, Thomas Spillane & Mary Butler.
- 3) Also that John Coonan of same parents was born in 1853 (Baptized June 2nd 1853) Sponsors, ~~John & Bridget Conlon~~ were Edmund Coonan & Maria Stonly (?)
- 4) also that Ellen Coonan of same parents was born in 1855 & Baptized June 21st 1855 with sponsors John Sheevers? and Ellen Sheevers?
- 5) also that Edward Coonan of same parents was born in 1857. Baptized December 20th 1857 Sponsors were Martin L'viston & Bridget Conlon.
- 6) also Bridget of same parents was born in 1859 & baptised Sept. 1st 1859
Sponsors Ellen Coonan & John Ryan.

over /



7) Also Michael of same parents, Michael Coonan & Catherine Spillane, born 1861 and baptised Feb. 21st 1861 with sponsors Jeremiah Ryan & Hanora Coonan.

(8) I note also a Michael Coonan son of Edward Coonan & Mary Butler, born 1856 & baptised Nov. 30th 1856, with sponsors John Cleary & Catherine Bohan. Edward Coonan, the father in this instance, may have been a brother of Michael Coonan who was married to Catherine Spillane, whose children I have named from No. 2 to No 7 above. The Mary ~~Butler~~ ^{wife} Edward's wife may be the Mary Butler who ^{was} sponsor for Margaret Coonan (No. 2), who married Tobias Troy in 1879.

(9) A Johnna ~~the~~ of Matt Ryan & Bridget Coonan is also given as born in 1881. This Bridget Coonan may be the same as No. 6 in this list.



James F. O'Connor P.P.

Drom,

Thurles.

July 5th '72

Co. Tipperary

Phone
Clonakenny 11

Bournea,
Roscrea,

Co. Tipperary.

21-10-71

Dear Mr. Conan,

Thank you very much

for your letter and enclosed offering
for Mass for the Conan family.

Dromورد is in Templemore parish.

I spoke to Fr L. Gleeson C.C. Templemore
Co. Tipperary about your interest in the
Conan family. He told me he had
already made a search of the register at

the request of Michael Coonan of this parish.

He also said he would give you all the

help he could should you require it.

I will offer the mass D.V. as soon as
convenient.

Again I thank you and I wish you
God's blessing

yours sincerely

(Rev) J Kennedy P.P.

Marriage :

John Conan + Margaret Sheedy

Witnesses; Margaret Sheedy & Edmond Coonan

Date 21st January 1846

Place : Ashbrook.

Marriage ; Thomas Coonan & Honora Twohy

Witnesses; William Mulally & Mary Tracy

Date : 15th May 1853

Celebrant. A.J.S

Bourne
Roscrea
Co Tipperary
20-IX-1971

Dear Mr. Conan,

The register of Baptisms

and marriages for this Parish commences with the year 1836. (I don't know anything about the beginning of the Parish.)

I have searched both registers very carefully for the years 1836 to 1860.

Two marriages of Coonan men are recorded. Sixteen baptisms of Coonan children are recorded.

There may possibly be one or two others but I think it is not likely. In spite of obscure entries I don't think I missed any Coonan ones.

I have given what information is contained in the entries, and I have tried to copy the entries accurately.

For instance you will see that "Tady" and "Tim" and "Timothy" are variants of the same name.

Bethagloss Cullohill Rosnacken etc are
the names of Townlands. (small districts in
the parish.)

Dromard is a townland in the adjoining
parish of Templemore.

The Parish of Bourneea lies between
Roscrea and Templemore. It is long-about
12 miles from East to West. The Templemore
Roscrea road cuts through the centre North
and South. The parish is about 2 miles
wide at that point. The southern
border is at the section of the Nore river
and the Roscrea-Templemore road.

I don't see there is anything further
I can do assist you. The information
I have given would not seem of much use.
but if I can assist you further let me know.

yours faithfully

(Rev) J. Kennedy P.P.

To Dr Robert J. Conan (Jr)
263 Robineau Rd
Syracuse

Date of Baptism	Child's Name	Parents	Sponsors	Residence
12. I. 1837	Winifred	Thomas Coonan Bridget Fitzpatrick	James Weill Margt Corrane	Cullahill
3. VI. 1837	Catherine	Jady Coonan Catherine Mara	Mary Sheedy	Cullahill
3. VI. 1837	Wimmy	Jady Coonan Catherine Mara	John Mullally Mary Snidera	Cullahill
13. I. 1838	Margt	Dan Coonan Anne Carroll	Jim Hooley Anne Gleeson	Lismackin
19. IV. 1839	Joanna	Tom Coonan Biddy Fitzpatrick	Cona Scott Mary Hennessy	Cullahill
3. XI. 1839	Jeremiah	Timothy Coonan Catherine Mara	Michael Sheedy Bridget Fitzpatrick	Cullahill
5. VII. 1841	Margaret			
12. XII. 1842	Honora	Tim Coonan Catherine Mara	John Treacy Mary Fitzpatrick	Cullahill
30. XII. 1846	Michael	John Coonan Margt Sheedy	John Sheedy Margt Sheedy	
8. VII. 1848	John	John Coonan Peggy Sheedy	Matt Farrell Peggy Luby	Behagloss

Date of Baptism	Name	Parents	Sponsors	Residence
22. VII. 58	Mary	John Coonan Margt Sheedy	John Neill Dan Sheedy Ellen Dillon Judy Luby	Behagloss.
15. X. 58	Mary	John Coonan Margt Sheedy	John Hanly Judy Davy	Behagloss
5. VII. '54	Margaret	John Coonan Margt Sheedy	Pat Moylan Ellen Dillon	Behagloss
22. XI. 54	Michael	Tom Coonan Dney Twohy	John Coonan Elija Bray	Clonakenny
17. II. 56	Daniel	John Coonan Margaret Sheedy	Con Sheedy Elija Moylan	Behagloss
18. IX. 58	Con	Tom Coonan Dney Twohy	Con Twohy Mary Connors	clonakenny
25. I. 1860	Tim	John Coonan Margt Sheedy	Martin Moylan Mary Sheedy	