

The McGrath Family from Moyaliff Parish, County Tipperary

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Introduction

There is more than one way to tell a story. This is especially true in the field of family history research or genealogy. The final story can be organized according to the family connections with the narrative proceeding chronologically down through time beginning with those first ancestors. However, a more interesting tale is sometimes the story of the search for those ancestors.

While assembling the records of an ancestors' life we occasionally ponder the larger questions. Why did they leave the old country? Why did they pick the destination that they did? Why did they keep moving? Some of those questions will never be answered because our ancestors' decisions were driven as much by a plan as they were by luck and circumstance. Not unlike the search for information about those same ancestors.

Genealogy is a search for one's ancestors. Following the trail of a single individual back in time can be very frustrating if that one person is the only object of the search. Positively verifying the linking of a particular ancestor to an individual record can be a very difficult assignment. Census records link families and neighbors together and it is these linkages that make it easier to identify individuals in the census records. It is the connections and the use of those connections to find still more connections that allows the bridging of gaps in the individual records. Church records, with their sponsors and witnesses, also establish connections between family and friends. Knowing who is buried next to whom in the cemetery is also a valuable aid in establishing additional family connections. The names are important but the connections are essential if you want to make any substantial progress in your research. The use of these connections to further one's research is what I am calling Cluster Analysis. That subject will be covered in more detail in a separate paper.

Why did that first ancestor settle where he did? Land agents would be hired in Ireland to pitch various opportunities to the Irish. Owning their own land (again) was a deep-seated desire within the Irish people. It was the basis of economic success. Where they landed would sometimes be determined by the cost of the voyage. If it were cheaper traveling to Canada, than to the United States, some immigrants would sail first to Canada, due to the lower rates, and then immediately cross over from Canada to the U.S. Once they would find a place to live most would write home to tell family and friends they had arrived safely. Then would begin the phenomena of Chain Migration. The later immigrants would follow earlier family or friends to the new country. They

wouldn't always follow the same exact path but they would eventually wind up in the same place where the earlier friends or relatives had settled.

In the Central New York area, where my ancestors had settled, there were a large number of Irish families that originated from around the Upperchurch area of Co. Tipperary. This Upperchurch connection wasn't a tradition handed down in my family, and it took some time before it was discovered, that Upperchurch was our place of origin. Early on in our family research it was known that my gg-grandmother, Mary Ryan, had two sisters who had settled in Central NY near her. In 2000 several more Upperchurch families were discovered and then in 2002 the floodgates opened. The numbers climbed to 30 over the next couple years. In 2007 there was a second unexpected spurt and today the number of Upperchurch individuals that settled in Central New York stands at over 61, representing 27 families.

Additional Upperchurch settlement areas have also been discovered. Around 1850 the large Pierce Phelan family from the townland of Shevry, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary settled in Grey Co., Ontario, Canada. Later, several of these Phelans came from Canada, to Pompey and Fabius in Onondaga Co. in Central NY, to marry and raise families. A couple Phelans married former Upperchurchers, like themselves, and one went back to Canada, a couple settled in the area and one went to the Midwest. Honora Phelan Lee, a sister of Pierce Phelan, and four of her children, and their families, also settled in Onondaga County in the 1860s

A second Upperchurch settlement area was located in Maple Ridge, town of Martinsburg in Lewis Co. Here were Gleasons, Ryans and McGraths all from the civil parish of Moyaliff that borders the civil parish of Upperchurch on the south. The migration path of some of these individuals was just recently determined to have included an extended stay in Central New York (Pompey) before proceeding to Maple Ridge. Therefore, it has been determined that both settlement areas had links to Central New York.

- Four Long families from the Upperchurch area were disentangled and reintegrated into the U.S. Upperchurch community. Thomas and James Long were neighbors to my gg-grandparents in Fabius and Truxton, straddling the border between the two towns. Richard Long and his brother Daniel from Raheen near Moyaliff settled in Pompey. Richard married Margaret McGrath, my gg-grandfather's sister.
- Identified ggg-grandfather and three more of his children and their families in addition to my gg-grandfather who had already been well researched.

Michael Gleason Connection¹

Why was Central New York a major settlement area for families from the Upperchurch area of Co. Tipperary? One reason was probably the hilly terrain south of Syracuse that is remarkably similar to that found in Co. Tipperary, around Upperchurch. Another reason might be due to an Irish gentleman named Michael Gleason who emigrated from Thurles, Co. Tipperary to Onondaga Co., in the early 1830s. The possible influence of Michael Gleason, on the immigration decisions of Upperchurch area residents, was suggested by Tom Buckley².

Michael Gleason was born in Ireland, in the town of Thurles, Co. Tipperary in 1799. The main facts of Michael Gleason's life can be summarized as follows:

- Storekeeper in Thurles for many years.
- Married Mary Neal.
- Daughter Catharine born 1826 (only child).
- Wife died, left daughter in Ireland, emigrated to U.S.
- Michael came to the U.S. and initially went to Split Rock, Onondaga Co., NY.
- Michael came to Syracuse 1835-6 - was appointed an inspector of salt.
- A few years after his arrival in the U.S. he returned to Ireland to bring over his daughter.
- According to this daughter, named Catharine, she came to the U.S at 16. This places the journey back to Ireland in 1842.

Patrick Hall (b. ~1817, Tipperary town, Co. Tipperary) was the son of William and Bridget Franklin Hall and youngest of 5 children. He married Michael Gleason's daughter Catharine. In describing Patrick Hall and Michael Gleason, author Bannon has this to say:

"These two men stood for all that was best for their race in this County (Onondaga). They gave the hand of fellowship to all who strove for the right. They encourage the young. They kept the latch-string out for those less fortunate than themselves. They were the centre of the little social life possible in those days."³

Prominence in Ireland

Michael Gleason was a storekeeper for many years in Thurles. This was the market town for the people living in townlands of the civil parishes of Moyaliff and Upperchurch. Michael would have been well known by the people of the surrounding area for his occupation alone, but he also appears to have been a person who was well respected by his fellow citizens and had definite leadership qualities.

Connection to Ireland

Michael's wife, Mary Neal, had died, leaving him with their only child, a daughter, Catharine, born in 1826. When Michael Gleason emigrated to the U.S. in the early 1830's he left his young daughter Catharine behind, probably with other members of the family. This link to the old country would have established

a channel of communication between the Thurles area and Onondaga Co., NY, where Michael had settled. All of his friends and acquaintances back in Ireland would want to know how he was doing in America. Much of what people in Moyaliff knew about the Central New York area might very well be due in large part to Michael Gleason.

The Return of the Favorite Son

When someone went to America from Ireland, it was traditional to hold a wake - an American wake. It was assumed that this would be the last time that any one would see the person again in this world. Therefore, when someone returned from America it was a REALLY BIG event. If the person had made a success of themselves, then so much the better. When Michael Gleason returned to Ireland in 1842, to take his daughter to America, everyone in the area around Thurles would have known about it. His stories of America would be seeds sown in the pre-famine minds of the people in the Thurles area. During the Famine years those seeds would grow, when not a potato in Ireland would grow, and they would pull the people of Moyaliff and Upperchurch to the Central New York area.

Back in Syracuse

The second growth spurt in the discovery of Upperchurch area immigrants who settled in Central New York began with a footnote. It concerned an entry in the 1865 census for Maple Ridge, a tiny hamlet in the town of Martinsburg, in Lewis County, NY. This information had been discovered by Father Tom Buckley, during his research for his paper, *The Ryan Family in Ireland and America* (revised 2005). What Tom had found in the 1865 NYS census was that James McGrath and Bridget Ryan's first child had been born in Onondaga Co., NY and not in Lewis Co., NY, as I had assumed. This started a full-scale search of the Onondaga County records to find James and Bridget and any other family members that might be living nearby.

James and Bridget McGrath had initially come to my attention in 2000 during my research of the Gleason, Ryan and McGrath families of Maple Ridge, NY. Their connections to Moyaliff, in Co. Tipperary and the interconnections among the various Maple Ridge families had been an ongoing subject of my research since 1999. Evidence that James and Bridget had spent time in Central New York accelerated that research effort once again.

Tom Buckley had also discovered a connection with Michael Gleason in the naturalization papers on Thomas Ryan (Bridget Ryan's brother from Moyaliff) and his brother-in-law James McGrath (origin unknown). The witnesses for the naturalizations of both Thomas and James in October 1858 in Onondaga Co., were Michael Gleason and fellow Thurles native Perry (Pierce) Fogarty.

The youngest child of Thomas Ryan and Margaret Gleason (Bridget's and Thomas' parents) was Edmond Ryan. This was the youngest sibling of Thomas

and Bridget Ryan. He was born on June 29, 1848 in Clareen, Moyaliff parish. The baptismal sponsors were John Neil and Bridget Ryan. Michael Gleason's wife was Mary Neal and this raises the possibility of a family connection here. At the present time there just isn't enough evidence to determine the exact nature of the relationship.

The Search for James McGrath and Thomas Ryan

The naturalization connection of James McGrath and Thomas Ryan to Michael Gleason suggested an initial search to find where Michael was living in Syracuse during the early 1850s. The stories of Michael Gleason working in the salt industry in Syracuse suggested a search of Wards 1 and 2 for James and Thomas. These wards were located on the north side of Syracuse where the salt works were primarily located. Tom Buckley's family tradition had been that Bridget Ryan's brother Thomas had worked as a timekeeper on the Erie Canal that went through the center of downtown Syracuse. This also pointed to the northern wards of the city because that was where the majority of the Irish lived at that time. The 1855 NYS census failed to offer up any reasonable candidates for Thomas Ryan and Bridget Ryan or James McGrath. Eventually, all eight Syracuse wards in the 1855 census (not indexed) were searched with the same negative results. The records of two north side Catholic churches and the main Catholic Church in the city were searched and there were no records of a marriage or baptism for James and Bridget Ryan McGrath.

While contemplating which of the many other Onondaga Co. towns in would be the target of the next search I was looking over some church records from St. James Catholic Church (Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY). I decided to check the Ryan section of those records and to my surprise there were both the marriage and baptismal records for James and Bridget Ryan McGrath. I had found them on the southern edge of the county – where the Upperchurch folks were –and not in the northern part of the county.

From the St. James Catholic Church Records, Cazenovia, NY

67. **McGRATH, James** married **Bridget RYAN** 21 October 1855. Priest: James P. Cahill. Witnesses: **Thomas Ryan** and **Catharine Ryan**

341. **McGRATH, Mary**, daughter of **James McGRATH** and **Bridget RYAN**, born 17 August, baptized 2 November 1856, at Pompey. Sponsors: **Thomas Ryan** and **Mary Ryan**. Priest: M. W. Rooney.

The marriage took place at St. James Church, Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY and the baptism took place in the village of Pompey, Onondaga Co., NY, - a mission church to St. James. The Thomas Ryan who was both a witness and sponsor was most likely Bridget's older brother who is thought to have come to the US in 1847. Mary Ryan, a baptismal sponsor, might have been Bridget's younger sister. Although Mary Ryan eventually wound up in Maple Ridge, where

she lived with James and Bridget McGrath, she has not been positively placed in Onondaga Co., during the 1850s.

Another candidate for this baptismal sponsor might be my gg-grandmother. Mary Ryan McGrath came to the U.S. to rejoin her husband Edmond, with her two young sons, on November 7, 1850. On November 2, 1856, the day of Mary McGrath's baptism, Mary Ryan McGrath was living just a few miles southeast of the village of Pompey, with her family, on Morgan Hill in the town of Truxton (became the town of Cuyler in 1858) in adjacent Cortland County.

The presence of Bridget, Thomas and possibly their sister Mary Ryan in the Pompey area means that the rest of Bridget's family could have also been in the area and might have been captured in the 1855 census. Margaret Gleason Ryan (Thomas, Bridget and Mary's mother) and her three younger sons: Patrick, James and Edmund would have been found together with their mother due to their young age. After an extensive search of ship records and census records, Margaret Gleason Ryan and her three young sons didn't show up in the records until their appearance at Maple Ridge in the 1860 census. It is the opinion of the author that they did not leave Ireland until after James and Bridget McGrath settled at Maple Ridge in the winter of 1858-59. Then they went directly to Maple Ridge after arriving in the U.S.

Catherine Ryan, marriage witness, might have been the daughter of Barney Ryan and Ellen Maloney also former Moyaliff residents. Catherine might have been an acquaintance from the old country. Barney and Ellen Ryan arrived in NYC with their family on board the *DeWitt Clinton* in May of 1850. Moving quickly, they were in the town of Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY in time to be recorded in the Federal Census for that year. Arriving with them were their children. Their eldest child, Catherine, born in 1834 she was approximately the same age as Bridget Ryan. Barney (b.~1799) was from Drumbane in Moyaliff parish and his wife Ellen (b.~1811) was from nearby Ballycahill in the parish of the same name. In 1855 the Barney Ryan family was living in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

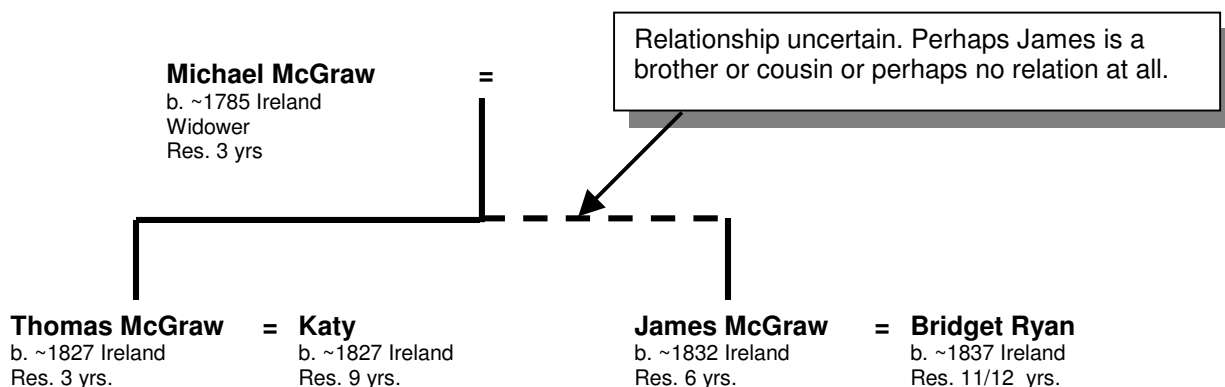
St. James was the main Catholic church serving the area of the southeastern corner of Onondaga County. The priest at St. James was responsible for services at the nearby mission churches at Pompey and Truxton (Cortland County). James and Bridget had been married at St. James church in Cazenovia but the baptism of their daughter Mary had taken place at Pompey. Therefore, I assumed they were residing in the Pompey area and began looking for records that would indicate exactly where James and Bridget were living. They weren't around for the 1850 census and they were at Maple Ridge by the time of the 1860 census. The 1855 NYS census should have caught them but that census has not been indexed and was not available on line. The Family

History Center of the LDS church had the census on microfilm, but I wasn't ready for that plunge yet, so I continued to search my collection of census records.

Why I went back to this particular record I don't know, but it had everything I was looking for on one page. About six years ago I had been researching the connections between some of the Carroll, Long and McGrath families in the southern part of Onondaga County, mainly in Pompey and Fabius. A fellow researcher had sent me a copy of a page from the 1855 Pompey census because it had a Michael McGraw on it and one of her husband's ancestors had a father of the same name. The ages were about right, and the possibility of a connection was tempting. However, at the time I had first received the information, there was no other evidence upon which to base the connection, so we just had to let it lie there. This time when I looked at that copy of the 1855 census the names just about jumped off the page. Living with Michael McGraw was his son Thomas and Thomas' wife Katy plus a boarder named James McGrath. On the very next farm was a young Irish girl named Bridget Ryan. An additional connection came from the fact that Bridget Ryan had an aunt named Catherine (Katy) Gleason who was married to a Thomas McGrath. I had found James McGrath and Bridget Ryan living next door to each other at a time just prior to their October 21, 1855 marriage. This was yet another case of someone marrying the girl next door.

Four of these people would show up in Maple Ridge by August 1860. The fate of Thomas' father Michael has yet to be determined. He hasn't shown up in the records of Maple Ridge, Pompey or Fabius since his 1855 census appearance.

Analysis of the 1855 Pompey Census information



Thomas and James McGrath in Pompey, Onondaga Co., NY

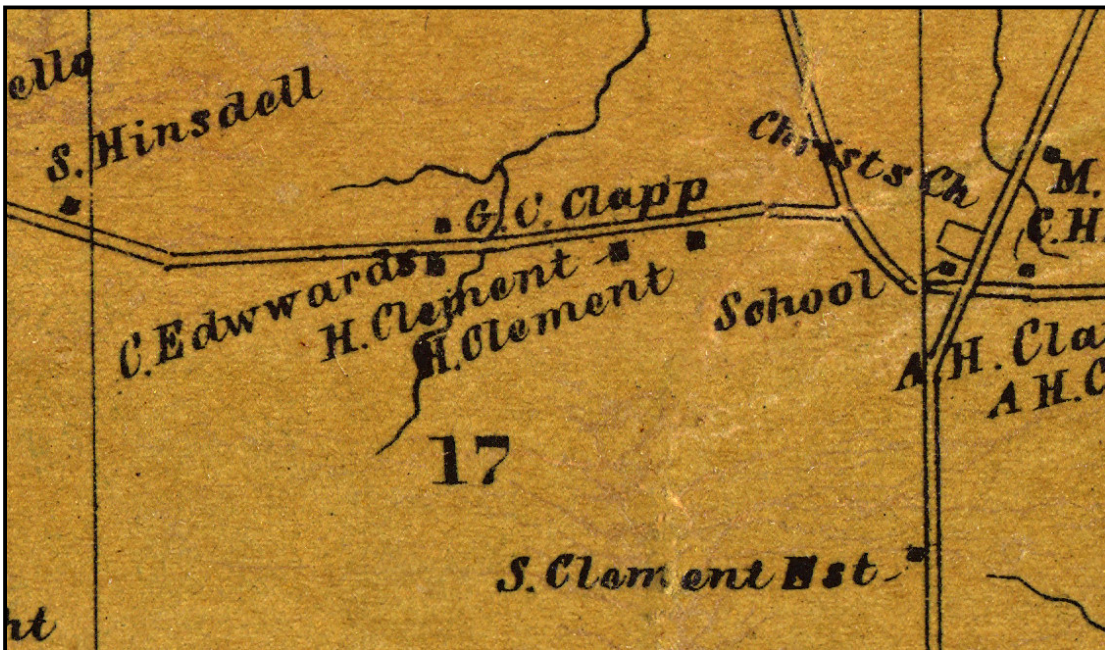
In the 1855 NYS Census, taken on June 9th, there was a Thomas McGraw and a James McGraw living on Lot 17 just north of the village of Pompey and west of the hamlet of Watervale. The name of that road today is Frank Long Road. Thomas was married and was living with his wife Katy. James was listed

as a boarder. Also at the same residence was Thomas' father, Michael McGraw. The last person residing at this location was Cyrus Edwards who had been in the town of Pompey for 32 years and owned land but was listed as a "border" like James. On the adjacent Clement farm was a young "servant girl" named Bridget Ryan.

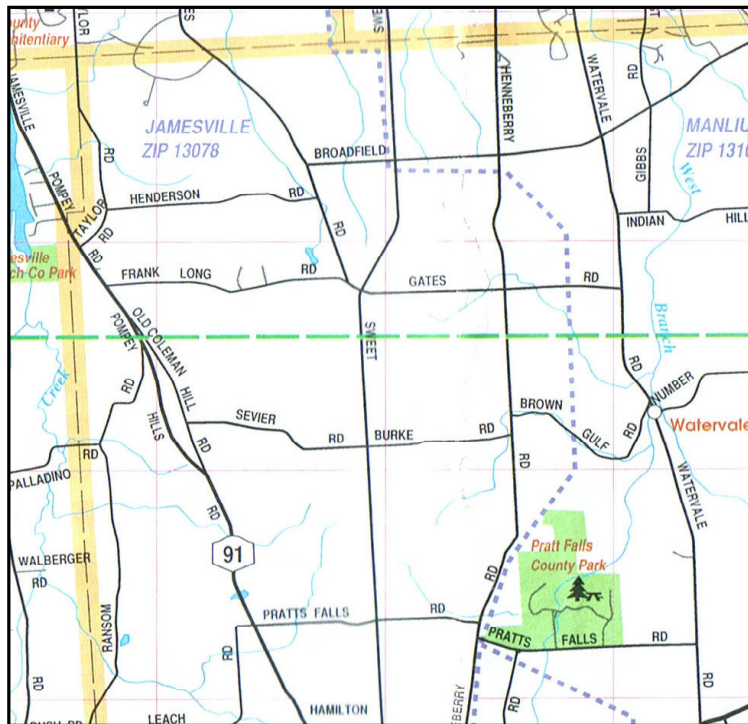
In the following these entries in the 1855 census are analyzed to determine if any of the information is inconsistent with the identification of these persons in Pompey in 1855 with the same named persons found in Maple Ridge in 1860.

The Surname

In Ireland the name is spelled McGrath. When pronounced by the Irish it comes out sounding like McGraw – as it does in Ireland even today. The difference in the spelling of the surname is not a problem with this identification.



1860 Map. Northwest of the hamlet of Watervale, in the town of Pompey, The Clapp, Edwards, and Clement grouping is the same as the sequence of their names on the 1855 NYS Census of the town of Pompey, Onondaga Co., NY



This is a modern day map showing the same area of the town of Pompey as shown of the previous 1860 map but on a much larger scale. This is where Michael and Thomas McGraw were living at the time of the 1855 census. They were on the south side of Frank Long Road near the short vertical line on the right.

Who is the owner here?

The listing of Cyrus Edwards as a boarder is curious. He had been in the town of Pompey the longest (32 years) – much longer than any of the others at this residence. He was the only one of the group listed as “owning land.” Cyrus was the person most likely to be the owner of the residence and all the other recent arrivals from Ireland would most likely be “boarders” with him. The residence was of brick construction while most others in the area were of wooden frame construction. This would have been a rather substantial residence to be owned by a poor Irish family fleeing the potato famine and being in the country only a few years. Evidence from the 1850 and 1860 census records show Cyrus Edwards as the owner. In the portion of the 1855 census that listed farm information Cyrus Edwards was listed but not Thomas or Michael McGrath.

The Relationship of James McGrath

It will take more than a single census record to sort out this situation. Even if Thomas and James are determined not to be blood relatives we still have this 1855 census record of their cohabitation. The two McGraths were living at the same residence prior to James’ marriage to Thomas’ niece Bridget Ryan, who

was living next door. This might be how Bridget and James met for the first time. However, without the blood relationship to Thomas we are left not knowing where James came from originally or who were his relatives.

James was listed as a “boarder” as was Cyrus Edwards. It has been shown that this designation, in the case of Edwards, was an error because he was the actual owner of the property. That suggests the possibility that the status assigned to James might also be incorrect. However, the others listed at this residence were related and those relationships were correctly indicated in the record. It could therefore be argued that James McGraw was not related to Thomas and Michael or otherwise his relationship would have also been captured in the record instead of just labeling him a “boarder.”

Ages

The census records are notorious for their wide variations in ages and birth years. There is no one person to blame for this. Numbers were usually recorded correctly but census takers did make mistakes. Memories faded and sometimes the Irish weren’t always sure of their own ages in the first place. The consistency of birth years over several decades of census records can be more useful than any single census record.

Thomas McGrath		James McGrath		Bridget Ryan	
Census Year	Birth Year	Census Year	Birth Year	Census Year	Birth Year
1855	1827	1855	1832	1855	1837
1860	1820	1860	1830	1860	1836
1870	1822	1870	1835	1870	1836
1880	1813	1880	1828	1880	1836
1900	Died 1883	1900	Died 1892	1900	1835
				1910	Died 1909
Cem	1816	Cem	1829	Cem	1831

The 1813 birth year for Thomas resulted from the recording of his age as 67 in the 1880 census. This might have been a mistake since he was closer to 57, (based on previous census information) which would have resulted in a birth year of 1823. That would have been consistent with the other birth years. Thomas’ wife Katy (Catherine Gleason) died on April 18, 1859 at the age of 36. This would give her a birth year of 1823, which is pretty close to the census number of 1827. These are the only two pieces of information we have on the age of Catherine Gleason McGrath. All the birth years for James and Bridget are fairly consistent.

Times of Residence:

The 1855 NYS census recorded a number called the Residence Time. This was not necessarily the amount of time that an individual had been in the US. It was the time that they had lived in the town where the census was conducted. Michael and Thomas McGrath had identical residence times of three years, which might be expected for a father and son. James had been in the town of Pompey for six years. These are all consistent with what little we know

about Thomas' and James' arrivals in the US. Bridget gave her year of immigration as 1855 (1900 census) and the Bridget in the 1855 census above came to the town of Pompey in July 1854. This is very close by census standards, especially when recalled 45 years later.

Katy's residence time is more problematic. Her residence time was 9 years. Upon close examination it can be seen that this was clearly written as a 9 but it does cause some problems with the story. This would imply that Katy had married Thomas less than three years earlier because that was the amount of time that Thomas had been in the town of Pompey. If they had been married earlier then they would have been living in different towns after they were married. This was not the traditional behavior of newly married couples. A line by line search of the 1850 town of Pompey census failed to turn up any evidence of Catherine (Katy), even though she had been a resident of Pompey for 4 years by the time of that census. This might indicate that Katy had come to the US earlier than Thomas McGrath. If her arrival time was the same as her residence time then Katy arrived in the US in 1846 or 1847. Perhaps she came over with her nephew Thomas Ryan, who we believe arrived in the U.S. in 1847.

The problem here is that there is no marriage record for Thomas and Katy in the St. James church records. At its earliest, their marriage would have taken place in 1852. The St. James marriage records start on November 4, 1853. There were also no baptismal records for any children of Thomas and Catherine McGrath in the St. James records. The old St. Mary's church records have been searched and the only Thomas McGrath found married a Della Huff on October 3, 1892. The marriage records of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist were also searched and there were no records of a marriage of Thomas McGrath and Catherine Gleason.

It is the opinion of the author that the nine years of residence attributed to Catherine, in the 1855 census, is a mistake. The most probable scenario is that Thomas and Catherine were married in Ireland and came to America with Thomas' father, Michael McGrath, between 1850 and 1852.

In 1860 Thomas McGrath was in Maple Ridge with his new wife Mary Kennedy and still no children. James and Bridget Ryan McGrath had only one child while residing in the town of Pompey. At Maple Ridge, in the 1860 census, James and Bridget have two children, Mary, born in Onondaga Co and Thomas William born on Jan. 31, 1859 in Maple Ridge.

No one was found in two places at the same time

There are no known conflicts with these assignments. There are no instances of people being in two places at the same time. None of these four (Thomas, James, Katy, Bridget) were in Maple Ridge, Lewis Co. in 1855. Five years later, all four were in Maple Ridge in Lewis Co. at the time of the 1860 census, with the exception of Catherine Gleason McGrath, who had died on April

18, 1859 and was in the Maple Ridge Cemetery. None of these individuals were found in the 1860 Pompey Census. An 1860 vintage map of the area northwest of the village of Pompey showed that Cyrus Edwards was still living there. So, apparently Cyrus was the owner of the residence after all. The fate of Michael McGrath is the remaining loose end in this identification.

Summary

I had already found a large number of Upperchurch folks who had settled in the towns of Pompey, Fabius, Truxton and Cuyler. There was a small contingent in Maple Ridge, Lewis Co., NY who had also originated from the same area of Ireland. Tom Buckley found several connections to Central New York – namely the naturalization records and a birth location. I was able to turn those pieces of information into a cluster of four persons who then relocated to Maple Ridge by 1860. Thomas McGrath's gravestone inscription, in the Maple Ridge Cemetery (d. March 4, 1883), states that he was from "Mealiffe near Holy Cross" as were the Gleesons and Ryans in Maple Ridge. That meant that Thomas' father, Michael McGrath, was also from Moyaliff and there was only one Michael in Moyaliff at that time (1840-1850) and that was my ggg-grandfather.

Other Relationships

If Thomas McGraw in Pompey was the same person as our Thomas McGrath (the Elder) in Maple Ridge then he was from the civil parish of Moyaliff, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. From the 1855 census it is known that Michael McGrath (b.~1785) was Thomas' father and therefore he was also from Moyaliff. Now the records from Ireland, the Tithe Applotment and the Poor Relief Rolls from the 1830s through the 1840s showed that there was only one Michael McGrath living in Moyaliff. That Michael was the father of my gg-grandfather Edmond McGrath. This would mean that Thomas was Edmond's brother and Michael was my ggg-grandfather.

Connections Back in Ireland

In light of these new McGrath connections, it is worthwhile to review the Irish records for further support of these identifications. First however, a word of caution needs to be added here to explain the special nature of these Irish records. Tithe Applotment Records, the Poor Rates and the Griffith's Valuation were all taxation based. These were not census records and contain very little family information, which makes the identification of individuals from these records even more difficult. Since all the census records prior to 1901 were destroyed in the Four Courts fire in 1922 during the Irish Civil War these have become a substitute for the missing census records. However, their primary use as tax assessment rolls makes them a head of household based record. Only those individuals who owned or were occupying property and were thus liable for taxes were recorded.

The Poor Rates were an assessment made on landowners and occupiers to raise money for the care of the poor in the district called the Poor Law Union (PLU) that was set out by the Poor Laws. In the table below the occupiers in the civil parish of Moyliff for November 1843 are shown. Edmund Magrath and his father Michael were found in the townland of Mealiffe (Moyliff).

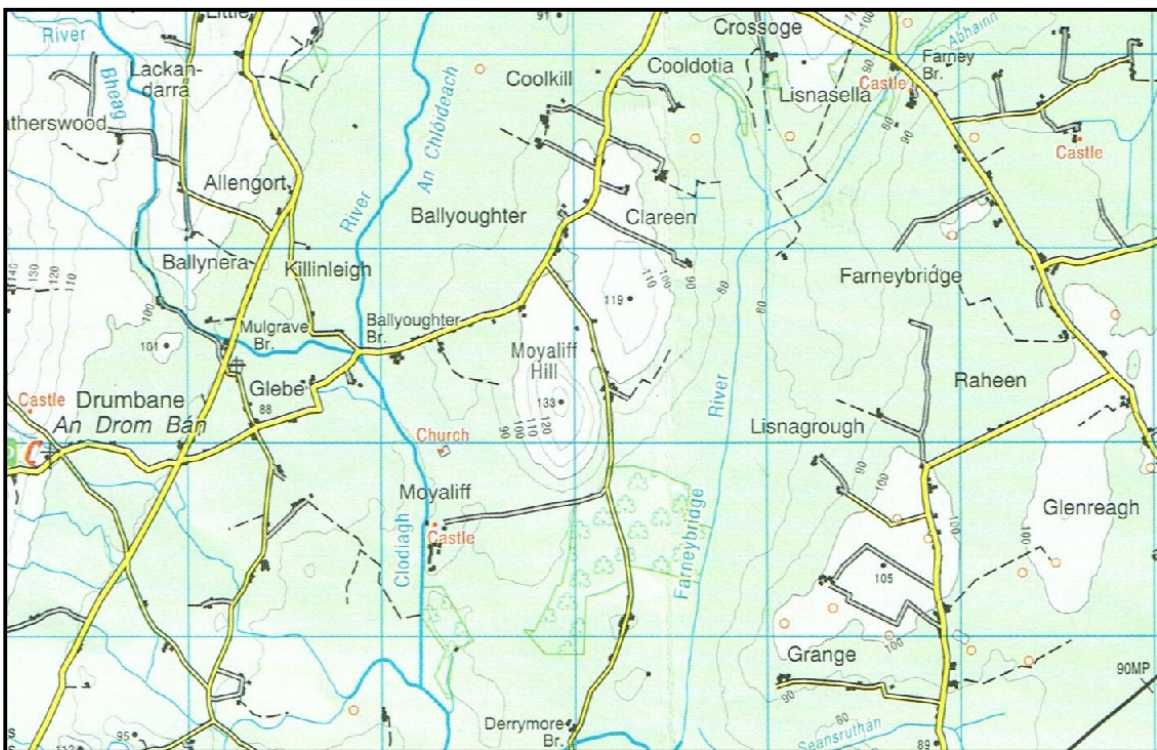
**A Rate for the Relief of the Poor of Thurles Union
Moyliff, November 1843**

Immediate Lessor	Occupier	Place
	Magrath, Thomas	Allengort
Magrath, Philip		Clareen
	Magrath, Philip	Cool Kill
	Magrath, Jas. & Ryan, Jas.	Dooree
Magrath, Jeremiah		Drumbane
	Magrath, John	Drumminphilip
	Magrath, John	Drumminphilip
	Magrath, Edmund	Mealiffe
	Magrath, Michl.	Mealiffe
	Magrath, Philip	Roskeen

There was a Thomas Magrath living in Allengort that was on the northern side of Ballyoughter, where the Gleasons had lived. This Thomas Magrath listed in the Poor Rate rolls above might or might not be the Thomas McGrath of interest to us. Our Thomas' average birth year, from the various U.S. census records, was 1823. That would have made him 20 years old at the time of the recording of these Poor Rates. Irish men tended to marry later in life, after they had accumulated sufficient wealth to support a wife and a family. Twenty years of age was a little young to have reached that point. So this Allengort Thomas might not be our Thomas. Instead, our Thomas might have still been living with his father, Michael Magrath in Moyliff.

The Griffith's Valuation for Moyliff parish was published in 1851 but the information had been gathered over the previous 2-3 years. Therefore, some persons appearing in the record might not have been still living there at the time of the publication. Michael and Edmund Magrath were gone from the townland of Moyliff but Thomas Magrath was still in Allengort. The publication delay this further confuses this matter and doesn't help resolve the dilemma about Thomas Magrath. The question of the status of this Thomas Magrath, as a neighbor or brother to Edmund, is still open and there is also room for another Thomas Magrath who could have been living with his father Michael, or another family in the area, and hence would not have been recorded separately in the Griffith's Valuation.

Our family tradition was that Edmond's father was named Michael and Edmond had named his first son Michael. The inference from the Irish naming tradition would indicate that Edmond's father was named Michael. Later, Edmond's death certificate was found to verify that tradition. The earliest written information on our family history contained many errors. It is difficult to know, with any degree of certainty, if it was possible for my ggg-grandfather to have immigrated to the U.S. and yet no one in the family remembered it. But then it must be remembered that it had to be rediscovered that our family had come from the Upperchurch area of Co. Tipperary. That information had not been passed down in our family. That was despite the fact that as of today (January 2008) 61 individuals, representing 27 families, from the same Upperchurch area had also settled in the Central New York area.



Source: Ordnance Survey Map, Discovery Series #66. Southeastern portion of the civil parish of Moyliff, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. The grid size represents one kilometer. It can readily be appreciated that Allengort, Drumbane, Moyliff, Ballyoughter, Clareen and Raheen are literally in each others' backyards.

Still More Connections

The connection of this Michael McGrath, who was found in the 1855 Pompey census, to Moyliff now makes possible some other interesting connections back in Pompey and Fabius. Nancy Long, the source of that page from the 1855 Pompey census, was researching a Margaret McGrath who married a Richard Long in 1852. Margaret's father was a Michael McGraw and

there was a tradition in their family history that part of the family had come from Upperchurch. In addition, Margaret and Richard named their second son Michael – after his maternal grandfather. These two facts are the main reasons for proposing that the Michael McGraw living on the Cyrus Edwards' farm in June 1855 was her father. Margaret McGrath and Richard Long were married in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Syracuse on July 31, 1852. Where they were living at the time of their marriage has yet to be determined, but it doesn't appear to be the city of Syracuse or the town of Pompey or Fabius.

As this research was progressing, Long researcher, Nancy Long, discovered Richard and Margaret McGrath Long in the Maple Ridge census records for 1860. The family had been recorded as Laney, which had made it difficult to find them, but they were living just a little east of Thomas McGrath, who has been identified as Margaret's brother. They had followed the others during the Maple Ridge Migration of 1858-1860 and that was why they weren't showing up in the 1860 Onondaga County census records. One of their children, Richard, had been born (May 1860) while they were living at Maple Ridge. At present the nature of their experience at Maple Ridge is not known. Whatever the reason, the family arrived back in the town of Pompey in time for the birth of their fourth child, Mary (b. July 22, 1864). This new information from Nancy also contained Richard's point of origin in Ireland. His family had come from Raheen, Holycross, Co. Tipperary, which is literally just east and over Moyaliff Hill, from where my ancestors originated. This was an additional piece of information that further tied the families together and supports the identification of Michael McGrath as Margaret's father.

It might be just a coincidence, but in 1874, Margaret and Richard Long were living next door to the old Cyrus Edwards farm where Michael and Thomas McGraw had been living in 1855. They had purchased the adjacent farm formerly owned by Stephen Hinsdell. They had a son named Francis Long (b. 1870) and that road today is named in his honor, and is known as Frank Long Road.

In the course of researching the 1855 Pompey and Fabius census records, an old familiar name showed up in Fabius, Lanty McGraw. The name had always been interesting. Earlier I had searched the 1850 and 1860 census records for Pompey and Fabius and Lanty wasn't there. In the 1855 census there was a full listing of Lanty and Catherine Wade McGraw's children. Their first son was named Michael which would imply that Lanty's father was also named Michael, if they were following the Irish naming tradition. The children's ages were right and it was a possibility that Lanty might have been my gg-grandfather's brother.

I was on a roll so I decided to assume that Lanty was also one of Michael's children and then set out to either prove or disprove that hypothesis. Initially I thought I might be stretching my luck on this one, but then I

remembered some baptismal records for two of Lanty and Catherine’s children from St. James Church in Cazenovia, both baptisms took place in Pompey.

One of the baptismal records, for Lanty and Catherine’s daughter Bridget, baptized on March 2, 1856, had Edmond McGrath as a sponsor. I had always felt this was probably my gg-grandfather.

The second record was for their daughter Joanna, baptized December 3, 1854. One of the sponsors was Michael McGrath, who is probably Lanty’s father. In those days baptismal sponsors didn’t assume the religious rearing responsibilities of today’s “god parents.” It wasn’t unusual for uncles, aunts or parents to serve as baptismal sponsors.

A third piece of evidence was found in the 1855 census. Lanty and Catherine Wade McGraw had named their first son Michael. The Irish naming tradition calls for the first son to be named after the paternal grandfather and the second son to be named after the maternal grandfather. This was also the case for Edmund and Thomas McGrath while in Margaret McGrath Long’s case, being the mother, her second son was named Michael.

The fourth piece of evidence was found in the ship’s manifest for the *British Queen*. Catherine Wade McGrath and three of her children came to America on the same ship as Mary Ryan McGrath, my gg-grandmother, and her sons Michael and John. They landed together at New York City on November 7, 1850.

Final Analysis

That brings us to the statement of the Bold Hypothesis. Lanty, Edmond, Thomas and Margaret were all siblings and their father was Michael McGrath of Moyaliff.

Lanty	Edmond	Thomas	Margaret
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptismal sponsors • Naming pattern • Family on same boat as Edmond's • Lanty was a Ryan nickname in the Moyaliff area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father was Michael per Death Certificate • Naming pattern • Family on same boat as Lanty's. • From Moyaliff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father was Michael McGrath in Pompey in 1855 • Naming pattern • From Moyaliff • Maple Ridge Migration participant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father was Michael per death Certificate • Naming pattern • Maple Ridge Migration participant.

The Search for Michael McGrath

Michael McGrath was a baptismal sponsor of Lanty and Catherine McGraw's daughter Joanna on December 3, 1854. After that he disappears from the official records. Michael McGraw/McGrath has proven to be a very elusive person. It is known that he was living on Lot 17 in the northwest portion of the town of Pompey in Onondaga Co., NY, on June 9, 1855.

Michael was 70 and a widower in 1855. A search of all 1860 U.S. census returns for a Michael McGraw/McGrath, greater than 70, found only one. However, that Michael was 80 and still married to his wife Margaret, age 60, and living in Philadelphia. The next oldest Michaels that were found were only in their early 50s.

The 1850 and 1860 Pompey census records were checked, line by line – Michael McGrath was not there. Nor were any of the other persons of interest in this study. While the latter was good news the former was frustrating.

A search was made of all the online cemetery records for the cemeteries in the southeastern corner of Onondaga County (there were quite a few of them) and no Michael McGraths were found.

Did Michael McGrath go to Maple Ridge?

What happened to Michael? Now his fate must be determined. There is no record that he was part of the Maple Ridge Migration with Thomas and Katy McGrath, James and Bridget Ryan McGrath and Thomas Ryan (Bridget's brother). Michael wasn't in the 1860 Lewis Co, Martinsburg census. He might have gone to Maple Ridge with the others, died and was then buried at St. Patrick's at Maple Ridge, before the 1860 census. This was the sad fate awaiting his son Thomas's wife Katy (Catherine Gleason). However, Michael isn't buried in the Maple Ridge Cemetery according to the Pawlin⁴ list compiled in 1965. The second known list of interments at Maple Ridge is found on microfilm at the Family History Center (FHC) - the Dunton⁵ list (1950). Michael's name was not found on that list either.

On August 17, 2007 I visited St. Patrick's Cemetery at Maple Ridge, Lewis Co., NY. It was a warm, sunny day. A nice breeze was blowing and it was causing even the large branches of the trees to sway. It was a very pleasant change from the hot Texas summer weather. The cemetery occupied a large rectangular area set back from the road among an overgrowth of trees. In 1995(?) the cemetery had been reclaimed by a local group of descendants of the original Maple Ridge settlers.

At the time of my August visit the grounds were well maintained and the graves occupied the back half of the rectangle. The purpose of my visit was to get a sense of the layout of the cemetery and to see who was buried next to each other. My primary interest was in Thomas McGrath (of Moyaliff) and the graves

that were closest to his grave. Some of the stones had deteriorated to the point where it was only possible to make out the inscriptions with the aid of the lists described above. Thomas' grave was located on the western side of the cemetery, just to the west of a large tree. Under the tree, propped up by a piece of lumber, was the stone of Thomas' first wife, Catherine Gleason. She shared the bottom half of a fairly large, thin, white stone, with her sister, Margaret Gleason Ryan. They were two of the earliest deaths at Maple Ridge: Catherine - April 18, 1859 and Margaret - December 18, 1860. The shared stone would indicate that it was placed sometime after Margaret's death in 1860 and perhaps Catherine didn't initially have an individual stone.

Most of the stones in the cemetery faced to the east, however the stone of Margaret and Catherine was facing to the west. Since it was no longer in the ground and was propped up it wasn't possible to determine its original orientation. Thomas McGrath's stone was about 10 feet due west of the Gleason sisters and they were facing each other. His stone faced to the east and was still in the ground, although it was leaning to the west. Just behind Thomas' stone was a small broken stone that was also still in the ground. The bottom half contained only one line of inscription and although not enough to allow identification of the deceased, it was sufficient to determine that the stone was facing to the west. There were no other standing stones, near that of Thomas McGrath, that were related to him.

Just in front of this small broken stone (to the west) was a partially buried stone. Initially I had thought it might be the top portion of the small broken stone. After partially excavating around the stone it was determined that it was not part of the broken stone but a different fallen stone. My efforts only uncovered about a third of the stone. The stone seemed to be buried at an incline with the still covered portion going deeper into the soil. The uncovered edge allowed the determination to be made that the edge of the stone had not been smoothed but had been rounded. The stone appeared to be of roughly uniform thickness as determined by examining the portion that had been unearthed. Tapping on the earth over the still covered portion of the stone produced a hollow thumping sound, making it difficult to be certain initially if this was actually a fallen stone or one that had originally been laid in the ground. The side that was facing up was rather rough and didn't appear to have any inscriptions. Therefore the inscribed side of the stone had originally been facing east, as were most of the stones in the cemetery, and it had fallen on its inscribed side. Without the proper tools I was not able to completely excavate the fallen stone - next time. So, in the end I believe that it was a fallen stone after all.

The mystery of Michael's disappearance was not solved by my visit to the Maple Ridge Cemetery but I was able to find two nearby stones that require further investigation. One of them might belong to Michael McGrath.

Did Michael McGraw actually leave Pompey?

Between November 1858 and January 1859 Thomas and Katy McGrath left Pompey for Maple Ridge. If Michael were still alive, he might have decided to stay behind and moved in with his other son, Edmond, on Morgan Hill in Cuyler in nearby Cortland County. Even if that sequence of events actually happened, Michael wasn't living in Cuyler at the time of the 1860 census, at which time he would have been 75 years old. If Michael had died during his stay on Morgan Hill the nearest cemeteries were the Kenney Settlement Cemetery straddling the Onondaga – Cortland County line and the village of Cuyler Cemetery. However, those two cemeteries, although the closest, were predominately Protestant and his burial there would have been unlikely. The recording of death certificates in Onondaga County didn't begin until 1873. The churches didn't record the deaths or burials in the parish and so cemetery surveys, old family records or obituaries are the only sources of burial locations.

Michael might have stayed on at Cyrus Edwards' place after Thomas and Katy left for Maple Ridge, and he might have died while living there. The nearest Pompey cemetery was the Sweet Cemetery on present day Henneberry Road (the NE road out of the village of Pompey) between Brown Gulf Road on the south and Gates Road on the north. However, a search of the list of burials in the Sweet Cemetery found no Michael McGraw or McGrath.

There is no record of Michael being buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery, in Truxton, Cortland Co., NY where the rest of the McGraths and McGraws from Moyaliff and Upperchurch are buried. It is important to establish a working time line here when discussing the different cemeteries in the area. In 1855 none of the McGrath family were associated with the village of Truxton. There were no McGraths buried in Truxton prior to the late summer of 1883. So there were no McGraths "to be buried with" in Truxton around 1860.

There is no record that Michael was buried in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in the village of Pompey, nor in the St. James Cemetery in the village of Cazenovia to the east, in adjacent Madison County. According to the only list that I have found so far, he was not buried in the old St. Mary's Cemetery formerly located on Renwick Ave., in the city of Syracuse. However, this St. Mary's list is not complete⁶. Michael's daughter Margaret was married to Richard Long at St. Mary's Church in Syracuse on July 31, 1852. This connection to St. Mary's indicates that St. Mary's Cemetery would be the logical place to search for Michael.

St. Mary's Cemetery, Renwick Ave., Syracuse, NY

The newspaper accounts were researched by Jim Hartigan of Camillus, NY

St. Mary's Church	Founded ?	
St. Mary's Cemetery	Founded ~ 1845 First burial ~1845	
	Last Burial 1919	The Herald Journal, June 25, 1958

	Last burial 1911	Old St. Mary's Monument, St. Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, NY. (off Kimber Road). The difference may be due to the exact meaning of inactive and active cemetery and a few stragglers who were buried there later.
	Removal of bodies	Aug. 13, 1958 - Nov. 21, 1958
	SU acquires site Aug. 11, 1959	The Post Standard, Dec. 19, 1960
	SU to open new parking lot on Jan. 4, 1961.	Four tiers – 400 cars. The Post Standard, Dec. 19, 1960.
	I parked in the Brewster Boland parking garage during my first year of Graduate School at SU	Fall 1969 – Spring 1970.

Another Direction

After failing to find where Michael went after Pompey, a search was made to determine how he arrived in Pompey. Ship searches are notoriously difficult, especially if the search is for a single individual. If that person's name is a common one, then the task becomes even more difficult, if not impossible. In those cases the only other elements left are: ship's name, arrival date, arrival port, and the age of the individual. The date and location of the ships' departures are of little value since ships picked up passengers at several different ports for a single voyage. People sometimes traveled to other countries, such as Liverpool in England, to catch a ship to the U.S. or Canada. My most successful ship searches were for clusters of people who were traveling together. The ship's manifest, in the original order, would show groups of the same surnamed individuals who were traveling together. The real clincher, however, were the children. The pattern of names and ages of the children provide an unmistakable profile for positive identification. If a known group of persons was traveling together then the chances of finding them in the ship records goes up dramatically.

The immigration trail for Michael McGrath has so far turned out to be cold. A search of the National Archives Immigrant ship records for the period 1847 - 1851 failed to turn up any Michael McGrath of the approximate expected age. A subsequent online search of the Castle Garden ship record database, that covers the period up to 1854, also failed to find an appropriate Michael McGrath. The Boston arrivals have not been searched at this time. When the U.S. side of a ship search turns up empty it is customary to rely on the "Canadian Copout" – and say that maybe they came in through Canada.

Summary

By slowly gathering many small pieces of information it was possible to reconstruct the families living in Maple Ridge. At the same time, the overwhelming influence of the Upperchurch settlers in Onondaga Co. was coming together. All it took was one little piece of information in the 1865 Lewis Co. census to establish the trail from Onondaga Co. to Maple Ridge. A simple census recording of a birth in Onondaga Co. led to the marriage and baptismal records for James and Bridget Ryan McGrath in Pompey, NY. This led to the 1855 Pompey census and to Michael, Thomas and James McGrath. Michael turned out to be my ggg-grandfather.

As a result of following this trail many other pieces of previously established research fell into place along the way.

- Evidence was found of a Maple Ridge Migration that connected Lewis Co. and Onondaga Co. Former Upperchurch area residents settled in Pompey and Fabius for a few years before moving to Maple Ridge. Thirteen (13) migrated between Nov. 1859 and Aug 1860.
- Four Long families from the Upperchurch area were disentangled and reintegrated into the Onondaga Co. Upperchurch community. Thomas and James Long were neighbors of my gg-grandparents in Fabius and Truxton, straddling the border between the two towns. Richard Long and his brother Daniel from Raheen near Moyaliff settled in Pompey. Richard married Margaret McGrath, my gg-grandfather's sister.
- The identification of my ggg-grandfather and three more of his children and their families, in addition to my gg-grandfather who had already been well researched.
- Additional families and more refined counting rules caused the list of Upperchurch settlers in Central New York grew to 61 individuals, representing 27 families..

James McGrath was one of the original objects of the research that led to this report. After all this activity, after all the new connections had been confirmed, and when all the dust had settled, James McGrath still stood alone. His only solid connection to the others from Upperchurch, Moyaliff in particular, was his marriage to Bridget Ryan. James McGrath and Bridget's brother, Thomas Ryan, had the same witnesses when they were naturalized in October 1858 in Onondaga County. Michael Gleason and Pierce Fogarty, both former Thurles residents, witnessed the naturalization of James and Thomas. Of course, this was after James marriage to Bridget in 1855 and will not suffice as an Upperchurch connection for James.

Further testimony concerning James McGrath's relationships comes from his daughter-in-law, Katherine Bridget Maher, wife of Thomas McGrath. There were three McGrath families in Maple Ridge, one from Golden, near Tipperary town, Thomas McGrath, from Moyaliff and James McGrath. According to Katherine her McGraths were not related to any of the other McGraths in Maple Ridge.

The trail of Michael McGrath was short and has gone cold for now. I am assuming he died in Onondaga Co. and was probably buried in Old St. Mary's Cemetery on Renwick Ave. in Syracuse. That cemetery fell into disuse by 1920 and all the bodies were removed to the new St. Mary's Cemetery in DeWitt in 1958. All of those removed were reburied in a mass grave in the Kimber Road portion of the cemetery and are marked by a large stone monument. On the negative side, I haven't been able to determine the ultimate fate of Michael McGrath. However, on the positive side he doesn't appear to have been out there creating records that would disprove this hypothesis.

Under the shade of a tree, in St. Patrick's Cemetery, in Maple Ridge, rest three former residents of Moyaliff parish, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. While they silently face each other the seasons continue to roll by and the inscriptions on their gravestones slowly deteriorate. In 10 or 20 years Thomas McGrath's inscription will probably be illegible. Yet it was that inscription, "*native of Mealiffe [Moyaliff] near Holy Cross, Co. Tipperary*" that was the key piece of information that allowed the linking of Lewis County and Onondaga County. This in turn led to the realization of the Maple Ridge Migration of 1858 - 1860 and to the identification of Michael McGrath as my ggg-grandfather.

Acknowledgements

I have benefited greatly from the individuals below who have generously shared their research with me.

Tom Buckley & Candie Miller - Ryan, Gleason & McGrath connections to Maple Ridge and Moyaliff, Co. Tipperary.

Jane McGrath Ostrawidzki - Thomas McGrath & Katherine Maher, photos and other information.

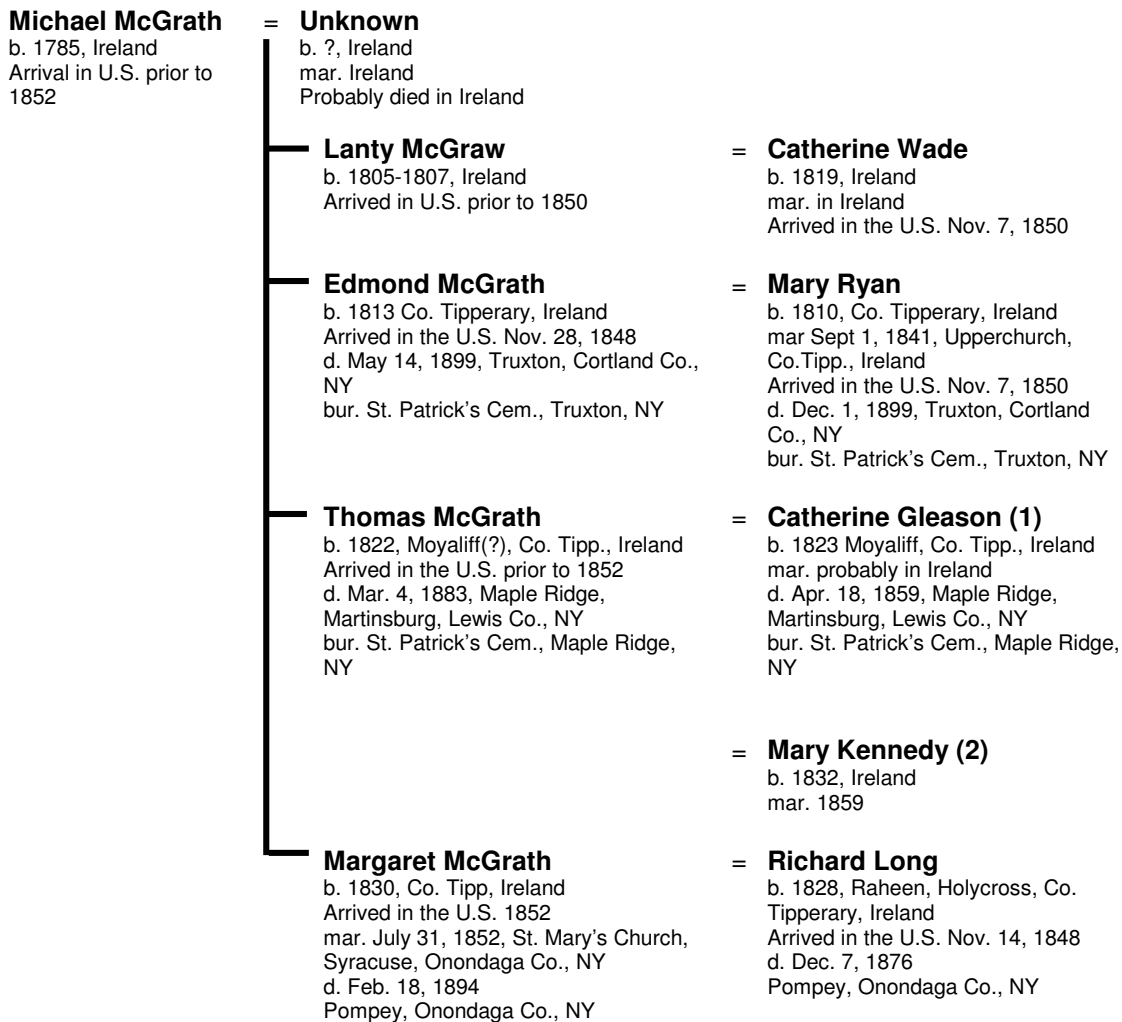
Nancy Long - Richard and Daniel Long connections to Upperchurch and Onondaga Co. Margaret McGrath and Richard Long connection to Maple Ridge.

Richard Long - Thomas & James Long connection to Thurles and Fabius and Truxton.

Dick Barr - Transcriptions of Onondaga Co. church records, especially the St. James Church records, Cazenovia, Madison, Co., NY.

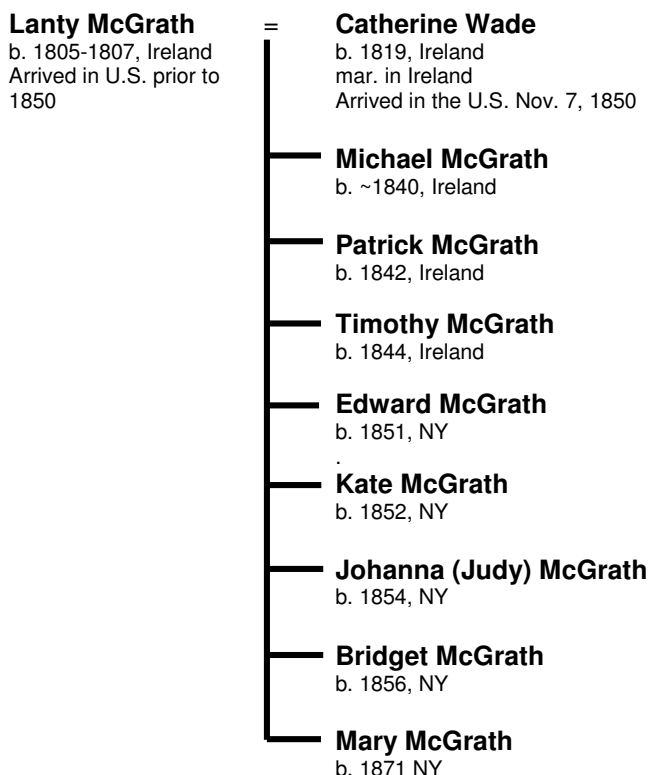
Appendix

The Descendents of Michael McGrath of Moyliff



Lanty and Edmond did not arrive on the same boat but their wives and children did.

Lanty McGrath and Catherine Wade



Name	1850	Ship	1855	1860	1870	1880	1900
			Fabius	Clifton Springs			
Lanty McGraw b. 1805-1807 Ireland			50	53			
Catherine Wade McGraw , b. 1819	X	35	36	40			
Catherine's Children							
Mary , b. 1831, d.	X	13	-				
Michael , b. 1840, Ireland, d.	X	8	15	20			
Patrick , b. 1842, Ireland, d.	X	7	13	-			
Timothy , b. 1844, Ireland, d.	X	6	11	-			
Edward , b. 1851, NY, d.			4	8			
Kate , b. 1852, NY, d.			3	7			
Johanna (Judy) , b. 1854, NY, d.			7/12	5			
Bridget , b. 1856, NY, d.				4			
Mary , b. 1859, NY, d.				1			

1850 British Queen on Nov. 7, 1850 at NYC

Catherine(35), Mary(13), Michael(8), Patt(7) and Timothy(6) McGrath arrived at New York City on the *British Queen* on Nov. 7, 1850. Mary McGrath is included here but she was not one of Lanty and Catherine's children as far as can be determined. In the ship's manifest Mary was listed as a "Spinster" and not as a "Child". Mary was not listed with the family in any of the census records that have been found so far. Since she was traveling with the family she was probably a relative.

1855 NY, Onondaga, Co., Fabius, FHC Film #0870755, Res. 266, Fam. 280, (June 1855). Lanty McGrath family living in the village of Fabius. The family had been in the town of Fabius for 5 years. Since Lanty wasn't on the ship with his family it can be assumed that he came over earlier and was living in some town other than Fabius. Lanty listed himself as a "farmer" but he was not found in the list of farmers at the back of the census for the town of Fabius where there was an extensive listing of acreage, stock, crops and harvests. There were even a couple listings among the farmers of individuals that had stock (animals) but no acreage. Based on this evidence it would imply that Lanty was a farmer with no land or animals.

Possible scenario - There is a story in our family about a residence/farm that was destroyed by a tornado. Suppose Lanty and Edmond had a farm together in SE Fabius. The farm was destroyed in early 1855. Lanty moves to the village of Fabius and still considers himself a farmer. Edmond moves to Cuyler on Morgan Hill (then in the town of Truxton.).

1860 NY, Ontario Co., Hopewell, M653\831\220-1, Res. 65, Fam. 67 (June 1, 1860)
Lanty McGrath family. Farmer, Real Estate \$1000, Personal Estate \$275, Can't read or write. Son **Timothy** was missing in 1860 but he later reappeared in Michigan in the 1870 census.

1870 MI, VanBuren Co., Bangor, T9\607\333B, Res. 12, Fam. 14
Timothy McGraw, 35, Farmer, b. NY
Elizabeth McGraw, wife, 29, Keeps House, b. Canada, parents born in Germany
Gracie McGraw, 5, daughter, b. Michigan, Father born NY, Mother born Canada.

1867-8 Gazateer and Business Directory, Ontario Co., NY, Compiled and published by Hamilton Child, Syracuse, New York, Printed at the Journal Office, 23 & 24 E. Washington St. (1867).
"Lanty McGraw, farmer, 3-1/2 (acres)."

Edmond McGrath and Mary Ryan

Edmond McGrath

b. 1813 Co. Tipperary, Ireland
 mar Sept 1, 1841, Upperchurch,
 Co.Tipp., Ireland
 d. May 14, 1899, Truxton, Cortland
 Co., NY
 bur. St. Patrick's Cem., Truxton, NY

Mary Ryan

b. 1810, Co. Tipperary, Ireland
 mar Sept 1, 1841, Upperchurch, Co.Tipp., Ireland
 Arrived in the U.S. Nov. 7, 1850
 d. Dec. 1, 1899, Truxton, Cortland Co., NY
 bur. St. Patrick's Cem., Truxton, NY

Margaret McGrath

bap. June 27, 1842, Drumdiha,
 Moyaliff, Co. Tipperary, Ireland
 Probably died young in Ireland

Michael W. McGrath

bap. Nov. 19, 1843 Drumdiha,
 Moyaliff, Co. Tipperary, Ireland
 d. April 9, 1923, Truxton, Cortland
 Co., NY
 bur. St. Patrick Cem., Truxton, NY

= Alice Rooney

b. 1865, Tullyframe, Kilkeel, Co.
 Down, Ireland
 To the U.S. ~1881
 Mar. 1882
 d. Jan 1940, Truxton
 bur. St. Patrick Cem., Truxton, NY
 (9 Children / 8 survived,
 31 grandchildren)

John W. McGrath

b. June 6, 1844, Gleninchaveigh,
 Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary,
 Ireland
 d. Nov. 8, 1926, Truxton, Cortland
 Co., NY
 bur. St. Patrick's Cem., Truxton,
 NY

= Ellen Comerford (1)

b. 1850, NY
 m. 1870
 d. Aug. 29, 1883
 bur. St. Patrick Cem., Truxton, NY
 (8 children / 5 survived,
 2 grandchildren)

= Mary Rooney (2)

b. 1859, Tullyframe, Kilkeel, Co.
 Down, Ireland
 Mar. 1890
 d. 1932, Truxton, NY
 bur. St. Patrick Cem., Truxton, NY
 (No children)

List of Edmond and Mary's witnesses and sponsors: Marriage - Rody Ryan and Daniel Ryan.
 Baptisms: Margaret - Michael Ryan and Bridget Ryan; Michael - John Magrath and Ally Sweeney;
 John - Patrick Ryan and Mary Ryan.

Name	1850	Ship	1855	1860	1870	1880	1900
			Truxton (Cuyler)	Cuyler	Truxton	Truxton	Truxton
Edmond McGrath b. 1815, d. 1899	?	1848		50	54		
Mary Ryan , b. 1811, d. 1899	X	1850		48	60		
Mary's Children							
Margaret , b. 1842, d. ?	X	-		-	-		
Michael W. , b. 1843, d. 1923	X	1850		19	28		
John W. , b. 1844, d. 1927	X	1850		16	25		

1848 Edmond arrived first on the *New Hampshire* at New York City on November 29, 1848.

1850 Mary, Michael and John McGrath arrived at New York City on the *British Queen* on Nov. 7, 1850. Margaret McGrath was not with her mother and brothers, which would have been expected since she was only 8 at the time of the journey. She is believed to have died young in Ireland.

1855 NY, Cortland Co., Truxton, FHC Film #XXXXX,
Edmond McGrath - The area in the eastern portion of Truxton became the town of Cuyler in 1858.

1860 NY, Cortland Co., Cuyler, M653\739\78, Res. 95, Fam. 89 (July 3, 1860)
Edmond McGrath - Real Estate = \$900, Personal Estate = \$235

1870 NY, Cortland Co., Truxton, M593\922\892B-893A, Res. 108, Fam. 109 (June 13, 1870)
Edmond McGrath - Real Estate = \$9500, Personal Estate = \$3000. Edmond (Edward) had been naturalized as were Michael and John.

Spring of 1873 – A big wind storm. Ed Miller sold out the McGraw stock. Probably to cover a loan payment. Could this “big wind” be the one mentioned in the family tradition? Could it have damaged the farm so that they were unable to make their loan payment to Miller. In this sense that “big wind” might be said to have destroyed the farm. Source: The Watson Letters⁷

1874 – Farm on Kettlebail Road lost to foreclosure. Family scattered.

1880 – Michael working on Miles farm in Tully. Edmund and Mary are on Shackham Road about a mile east of the North Road on 1.5 acres. John and family are on the North Road across from school house No. 2. This is the Casey farm house in Apulia on Berry Road today. The old school house was moved to Apulia in 1947.

Thomas McGrath and Catherine Gleeson

Thomas McGrath

b. 1822, Moyaliff, Co. Tipp., Ireland
 d. Mar. 4, 1883, Maple Ridge,
 Martinsburg, Lewis Co., NY
 bur. St. Patrick's Cem., Maple Ridge,
 NY

= Catherine Gleeson

b. 1823 Moyaliff, Co. Tipp., Ireland
 Probably married in Ireland
 d. Apr. 18, 1859, Maple Ridge, Martinsburg, Lewis Co., NY
 bur. St. Patrick's Cem., Maple Ridge, NY

Thomas McGrath was a "native of Mealiffe [Moyaliff] near Holy Cross, Co. Tipperary" – this was from his gravestone at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Maple Ridge, town of Martinsburg, Lewis County, NY. Based on the census information and the 1875 maps by D. G. Beers this Thomas McGrath was living on the south side of Maple Ridge. At that time he was living on the southeast corner of a crossroads that today is known as McGraw Corners. His second wife, Mary Kennedy McGrath, is not in the Maple Ridge Cemetery and neither are any of their five known children.

Thomas McGrath and Mary Kennedy

Thomas McGrath

b. 1822, Moyaliff, Co. Tipp., Ir.
 d. Mar. 4, 1883, Maple Ridge,
 Martinsburg, Lewis Co., NY
 bur. St. Patrick's Cem., Maple
 Ridge, NY

= Mary Kennedy

b. 1832 Ireland
 mar. 1859
 Living in Maple Ridge in 1895

— **Catherine McGrath**
 b. ~1860 NY

— **Michael McGrath**
 b. ~1863 NY

— **Ellen McGrath**
 b. 1866 NY

— **James McGrath**
 b. 1868 NY

— **Walter McGrath**
 b. 1871 NY
 in Maple Ridge in 1895

Name	1850	Ship	1855	1860	1870	1880	1900
			Pompey	Maple Ridge	Maple Ridge	Maple Ridge	Missing
Thomas McGraw b. 1822, Ir., d. 1883			28	40	48	67	d. 1883
Catherine Gleason , b. 1823, d. 1859			28	d. 1859			
Mary Kennedy b. 1832, d. ?				26		48	
Mary's Children							
Catherine b. 1860, d.					10		
Michael , b. 1863, d.					7	-	
Ellen , b. 1866, d.					5	14	
James , b. 1868, d.					2	12	
Walter , b. 1871, d.						9	

Thomas died on Mar. 4, 1883 at age 67. Catherine Gleason McGrath died on April 18, 1859 at age 36.

1855 NY, Onondaga Co., Pompey, FHC Film #870757, 3rd Election district, Res. 56, Fam. 59.

Thomas McGrath - Katy (Catherine) had a residence time of 9 years where as her husband Thomas McGrath had a residence time of 3 years. The 9 years is believed to be a mistake.

1860 NY, Lewis Co., Martinsburg, M653\777\126, Res. 1005, Fam. 1003, (Aug. 8, 1860)
Thomas McGrath, Farmer, Value of Real Estate \$100. Thomas was married within the last year, as was Mary, of course.

1870 NY, Lewis Co., Martinsburg M593\964\558, Res. 491, Fam. 487 (Aug. 1870)
Thomas McGrath, Real Estate value \$1200, Personal Estate value \$800. Thomas could not read or write. Mary could not write. Thomas had been naturalized.

1880 NY, Lewis Co., Martinsburg, T9\858\176A, Res. 221, Fam. 229 (June 28, 1880)
Thomas McGrath was listed as a farmer.

The 1900 and subsequent census records have failed to show any record of Mary Kennedy McGrath or her children.

Comments on the Lewis County Directory 1895-96 entry for Mary (Kennedy) McGrath

“McGrath, Mary (Kennedy), widow of Thomas, Martinsburg, r. 93 cor 94 farmer 49, 5 cows, 1 horse, 1, Walter farmer (son).” p. 384

This is Thomas McGrath’s family. The “r 93” is a residence number, basically a street address. The “cor 94” might refer to the corner of the next residence “r 94”. In 1875 and 1880 Thomas was located on the southern portion of Lot 107. The “farmer 49” entry is interpreted to mean that Mary, and more likely Walter was a farmer and his farm consisted of 49 acres.

Lowville Rural Cemetery, Lowville, NY

At this time it isn’t known if any of the following persons are part of this family

There is a Mary McGrath buried in the Lowville Rural cemetery who died on September 30, 1910.

Also a W. E. McGrath who died on May 7, 1904.

Ella C. McGrath, died on July 27, 1907

Richard Long and Margaret McGrath

Richard Long

b. 1828, Raheen, Holycross,
Co. Tipperary, Ireland
Arrived in the U.S. Nov. 14,
1848
d. Dec. 7, 1876
Pompey, Onondaga Co., NY

= Margaret McGrath

b. 1830, Co. Tipp, Ireland
Arrived in the U.S. in 1852
mar. July 31, 1852, St. Mary's Church,
Syracuse, Onondaga Co., NY
d. Feb. 18, 1894
Pompey, Onondaga Co., NY

John Long

b. ~1856, Pompey, NY
d. June 8, 1906, Jamesville, NY
bur. Immaculate Conception Cem.,
Pompey, NY

= Mary Carroll

b. Nov. 10, 1856, NY
bap. Dec. 6, 1857 at Pompey
mar. Feb. 17, 1882
d. 1920

Michael Long

b. June 17, 1858 NY
d. June 21, 1904 (46 yrs.)
Jamesville, NY
bur. Immaculate Conception Cem.,
Pompey, NY

Richard Long (never married)

b. May 1, 1860 NY
Probably born at Maple Ridge,
Lewis Co., NY
d. Jan. 27, 1915, Syracuse,
Onondaga Co., NY

Mary Jane Long

b. July 22, 1864, Pompey, NY
mar. about 1891
d. July 29, 1938, Syracuse,
Onondaga Co., NY

= David J. Carey

Francis P. Long

b. May 22, 1870, Pompey, NY
d. May 9, 1935, Pompey,
Onondaga Co., NY

= Mary Anne (Minnie) Gorman

b. Oct. 1869
mar. Feb. 12, 1896, St. James
d. before Mar. 1920
bur. Immaculate Conception Cem., Pompey,
NY

Richard L. Long

b. June, 1897, NY

Leo F. Long

b. 1898, NY

Ruth M. Long =

b. Oct. 1899, NY

William Long

mar. in Fayetteville,
NY.
Ancestors from Co.
Limerick via
Canada.

Margaret McGrath was the daughter of Michael McGrath (b. 1785) of Moyaliff, Co. Tipperary, Ireland.

Name	1860	1865	1870	1875	1880	1900
	Maple Ridge	Pompey	Pompey	Pompey	Pompey	Pompey
Richard Long b. 1828 Ir., d. 1876	32	36	42	45	d. 1876	
Margaret McGraw , b. 1830 Ir., d. 1894	27	33	40		40	d. 1894
Children						
John , b. 1856 NY, d. 1906	3	8	13		23	
Michael , b. 1858 NY, d. 1904.	2	7	11		22	
Richard , b. 1860 Lewis Co., NY, d. 1915	1/12	5	9		20	
Mary J. , b. 1864 Onondaga Co., NY, d. 1938		3	5		16	
Francis P. , b. 1870 NY, d. 1935			1/12		10	30

1848 Ship: *Helena*, arrived at NYC November 14, 1848. This is just two weeks prior to Edmond W. McGrath's arrival at NYC on the *New Hampshire*.

1850 NY, Renssalaer Co., Hoosick Falls

Richard Long and brother John were living in the adjacent dwelling #388. His parents Kennedy and Mary Long and Daniel's siblings were living in dwelling #389.

1855 NY, Onondaga Co., Fabius, Neither Richard Long nor his wife Margaret McGrath Long have been found. **Film # = ??**

1860 NY, Lewis Co., Martinsburg, M653\777\131, Res. 1042, 1041

Richard and Margaret McGrath Long had taken part in the Maple Ridge Migration but they returned to Pompey by the summer of 1864.

1865 NY, Onondaga Co., Pompey, 3rd District

Richard Long was naturalized. PROBLEM: Baptismal record has Mary born July 1864 (sponsors?) while the census has her born in 1862.

1870 NY, Onondaga Co., Pompey, M593\1061\607, Res. 588, Fam. 595 (Aug. 15, 1870)

Richard Long - Real Estate value \$6300, Personal Estate value \$6000, Richard has been naturalized. His mother and father were foreign born.

1875 NY, Onondaga Co., Pompey, 3rd district, Roll 231

Richard Long was listed as a 45 year old farmer. He was naturalized and owned a 150 acre farm. Richard could not read or write. He was living with his wife and five of their children.

1880 NY, Onondaga Co., Pompey, T9\906\189A, Res. 140, Fam. 139 (June 9, 1880)

Margaret Long - Real Estate value \$2000, Personal Estate value \$500.

1900 NY, Onondaga Co., Pompey, T623\1135\111A, Res. 83, Fam. 86 (June 14, 1900)

Frank Long, Married 4 years. 2/2 children. Also living with the family: br. Richard Long, b. May 1860, Single; Cousin Edward Long, b. Aug. 1881, Single

Witnesses to Richard and Margaret's wedding were Thomas Brody and Helen Ryan.

LAND: - Source: Nancy Long

Richard Long purchased 169 acres of land, Lots 5, 16, and 17 in the Town of Pompey on 1 April 1871 from Stephen and Mary A. Hinsdell for \$12,675. Copy of deed in file. Copy of mortgage in file. Mortgage held by Stephen Hinsdell in the amount of \$9,224.24 payable in 16 annual installments. The mortgage was cancelled 3 April 1883.

On 23 March 1880 John Long transferred ownership of the farm (169 acres) to his mother, Margaret Long, and his brother Michael Long for the sum of \$2,000.

On 14 January 1884 Michael Long transferred the farm (169 acres) to his mother, Margaret Long, and his brother, Richard Long for \$2,500.

Mary J. Carey (formerly Long) transferred her ownership in the farm to Richard and Frank Long on 30 March 1893 for a sum of \$1,360.

The farm (169 acres) was transferred from Margaret Long to her sons, Richard Long and Frank Long on 31 March 1893 for a sum of \$2500.

NATURALIZATION NOTES: Source - Nancy Long

There are two entries in the Naturalization Records (Old book) at the Onondaga County Court House, Syracuse, NY (copied Sept. 1993/ncl):

1) Richard Long, Declaration of Intent filed: 6 Dec 1852

2) Richard Long, Declaration of Intent filed: 14 Nov 1855, Date sworn: **2 Oct 1858**, Witnesses: **Cyrus Edwards, Piery Fogerty**

Both entries show the country of prior allegiance to be Great Britain & Ireland.

Note: Oct 1858 is the same month that Thomas Ryan and James McGrath were naturalized. The witness Piery Fogarty was one of the same witnesses for Thomas and James. The other witness, Cyrus Edwards, was the owner of the farm where Thomas, Katy and Michael McGrath plus James McGrath were living in 1855. Later, in about 1871, Richard Long and his wife Margaret McGrath Long bought the Hinsdell farm, just west of the Edward's farm on what is now Frank Long Road in the northwest corner of the town of Pompey.

There is one entry in the new book (Naturalized Citizens Under Age)

Richard Long - (Part of the entry reads: "has resided within the United States three years next preceding his having arrived at the age of 21 years, and that he has continued to reside therein to the present time, and having declared on oath that for 3 years past it has been his bona fide intention to become a citizen of the U.S. and....showing that he has resided within the U.S. five years at least last past and within the State of N.Y. at least 1 year past....

Dated Sept 22 1866 Carroll E. Smith Clerk

Irish Records

Lanty was not found in the Tithe Applotment records, the Poor Rate Lists or the Griffith's Valuation for Upperchurch or Moyaliff. The baptismal records of Lanty's older children were not found in the Upperchurch parish records. However they might be in Holycross next door. He was also not found in the Clogher marriage records [Need reference numbers from NLI]. Lanty's marriage record was not found in the Clogher parish of the Clonoulty Roman Catholic parish that adjoins Moyaliff parish on the south.

McGrath Family Record Grid

Record	Lanty	Edmond	Thomas	Margaret	Michael
Baptism	b. 1805 Before records	b. 1813 Before records	b. 1822 Before records	b. ~1830 Before records	b. 1785 Before records
Tithe Applotment (1823 - 1838)	Prob bef his marriage. Not a head of household.	Bef his marriage. Not a head of household.	Too young. Not a head of household.	Not a head of household.	???
Marriage	Catherine Wade Mar. before 1840 in Ireland Not in Upperchurch	Mary Ryan, Sept. 1, 1841, Upperchurch	Not in Upperchurch. If married in Ireland then probably in Holycross	Married Richard Long, July 31, 1852, St. Mary's Church, Syracuse, NY	Married before 1805. Before records.
Poor Rates (Moyaliff 1843)	No	In Moyaliff with father Michael	Uncertain	Not a head of household	In Moyaliff with son Edmond.
Griffith's Valuation (1851)	No. In U.S. by 1851	No. In U.S. Nov 1848.	No	Not a head of household	No. In U.S. by 1851.
Children's Baptism	Not in Upperchurch	Upperchurch: Margaret 1842 Michael 1843 John 1844	No Children	Children born in U.S.	Before records

Future work that needs to be done

- Irish records for Lanty
- Thomas McGrath & Catherine Gleason's marriage record and any children's baptismal records.
- Find Michael McGrath: St. Patrick's Cemetery, Maple Ridge or St. Mary's Cemetery, Renwick Ave., Syracuse.
- Ship manifest records of arrivals.
- Track down Lanty and Thomas McGrath's descendents.

Footnotes

¹ *Pioneer Irish of Onondaga*, By Theresa Bannon, M.D., G.P. Putman & Sons, New York & London, Knickerbocker Press, 1911, pp. 104-109. In 1860 Michael Gleason (60) was living in the 3rd Ward of the city of Syracuse (1860 census M653\830\426, Res. 313, Fam. 332) at the home of his daughter Catherine (34) and her husband Patrick Hall (39) and their family – 5 children Mary (11), David (10), Bridget (8), Michael (5) and Kate (3).

² *The Ryan Family in Ireland and America*, (revised, 2005), by Thomas E. Buckley, S.J.

³ *Pioneer Irish of Onondaga*, By Theresa Bannon, M.D., G.P. Putman & Sons, New York & London, Knickerbocker Press, 1911, pp. 104-109.

⁴ Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Pawlin, St. Patrick's Cemetery, Maple Ridge, Martinsburg, Lewis Co., NY (1965).

⁵ Cemetery Records, Martinsburg, Lewis Co., New York and Vicinity. Compiled by Violetta Cynthia Hazen Dunton. Typed by the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah (1950). Family History Center, Film # 896772, Item #3.

⁶ ST. MARY'S CEMETERY, Renwick Ave., Syracuse, New York
The list appears in *Inscriptions from Cemeteries in Onondaga Co.* taken from notes in 1914 by William Martin Beauchamp who noted "Part of bodies in this cemetery were removed to the Fayetteville road in 1915, not all."

⁷ The Watson Letters. From the web site "Our family has been fortunate enough to have about 30 family letters that have been preserved and handed down through the generations. They span nearly 25 years from 1849 to 1873. They are the letters to and from Margaret Stephen Watson that have been passed to her son, John George Watson, to his son Ralph Bishop Watson, to his daughter Fannie Watson Bertrand, and finally to her daughters. We hope that these letters may prove helpful to historians and genealogists interested in the Tully area of Onondaga County where most of these people lived."

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyononda/LETTERS/watsonintro.html>