

## Dennis McGraw and Catherine Quigley

Compiled by  
**Michael F. McGraw**  
[mfmcgraw@austin.rr.com](mailto:mfmcgraw@austin.rr.com)

Revised October 28, 2006

According to the 1900 Cortland Co. Census, Kate Quigley emigrated to the U.S. from Ireland in 1860. She married Denis McGrath on Nov. 13, 1861 at St. James Church in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY. Witnesses were John Gorman and Johanna Gorman. The priest Bonaventure Carney performed the ceremony.

On July 22, 1862 authority was given to raise the 122<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of New York Volunteer Infantry. Co. K was recruited principally at Syracuse, Tully, Skaneateles and Cicero. They were mustered in the service of the United States for three years on August 28, 1862. One of the individuals in this unit was Private Dennis McGrath.

Their daughter Mary was born Dec. 25, 1864 and she was baptised on Jan. 16, 1865 at Pompey according to the St. James church records. The sponsors were Patrick and Catherine Hefferon (Heffernan?). The priest was P. C. Brady. There are no records of their other children in the St. James records

1870 Onondaga Co., Town of Fabius, M593\1060\207; Residence 132, Family 132

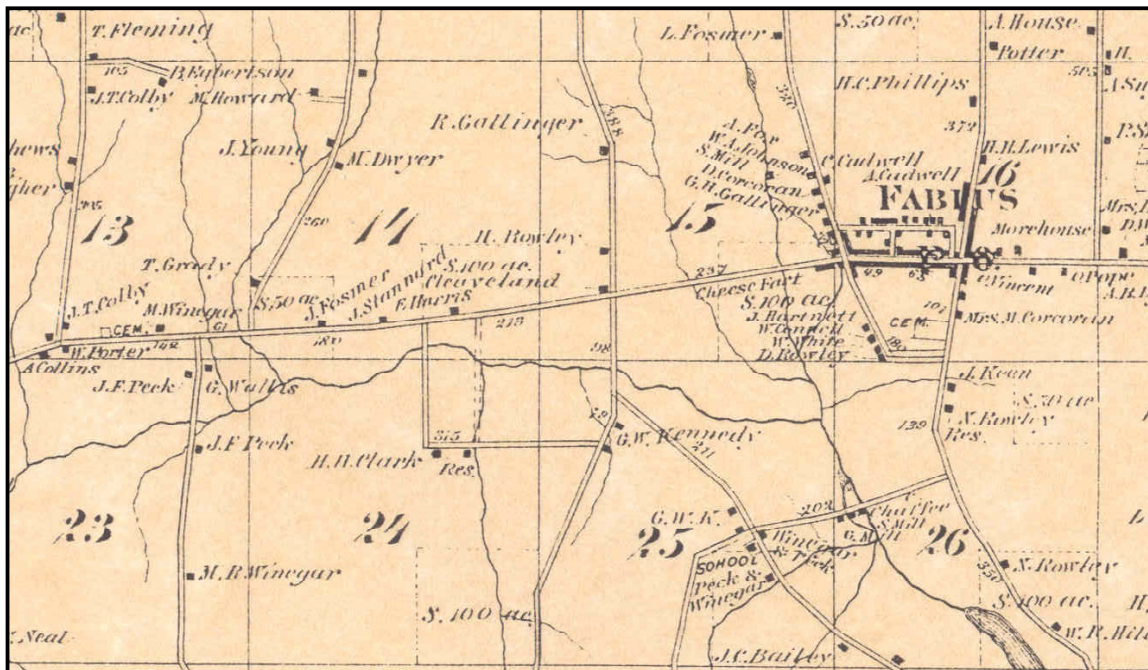
**McGraw, Dennis**, 35, Farm Laborer, IR

\_\_\_\_\_, **Kate**, 30, Keeping House, IR

\_\_\_\_\_, **Mary**, 5, NY

\_\_\_\_\_, **Julia**, 3, NY

### 1874 Map of the Town of Fabius



The sequence of names in the 1870 census around Dennis McGraw were as follows: Hiram Clark (119), Isaiah \_\_inder (120), Angel Nye (121), Denis McGraw (122), Arteus Cleveland (123), George Kennedy (124), William Squares (125). Even though Dennis is not on this map, based on

this sequence I would suspect that in 1870 Denis was occupying the "E. Harris" farm on the west road out of Fabius.

1880 Cortland Co., Town of Homer, T9\822\158B.

**Kate McGraw**, Self, W(idow), Female, W, 44, IRE, Keeping House, IRE, IRE

**Mary McGraw**, Dau, S, Female, W, 15, NY, IRE, IRE

**Johanna McGraw**, Dau, S, Female, W, 14, NY, IRE, IRE

**Margeret McGraw**, Dau, S, Female, W, 8, NY, IRE, IRE

We see that Dennis must have died some time before the 1880 census. Johanna was probably the same person as the Julia from the 1870 census. Living next to the McGraw family was the Thomas Ryan family. They were the only other Irish family nearby – perhaps there was some relationship there. I searched Homer in the 1900 census and the Thomas Ryan family was no longer there. So far I haven't been able to connect these Ryans to all the other Upperchurch Ryans in the tri-county area.

**Thomas Ryan**, Self, M, Male, W, 50, IRE, Laborer, IRE, IRE

**Margeret Ryan**, Wife, M, Female, W, 51, IRE, Keeping House, IRE, IRE

**James Ryan**, Son, S, Male, W, 19, NY, Blacksmith, IRE, IRE

**Thomas Ryan**, Son, S, Male, W, 14, NY, Laborer, IRE, IRE

**Johnie Ryan**, Son, S, Male, W, 12, NY, IRE, IRE

**Patsy Ryan**, Son, S, Male, W, 10, NY, IRE, IRE

1900 Cortland Co., City of Cortland T623\1020\84A; Residence 233, Family 256

Kate McGrath was living at 3 Doubleday St. (near Arthur Ave.) in the city of Cortland with her two grandchildren Carrie and Edward Barber. Strangely Kate claims that she was the mother of two children and that only one of them was still alive at the time of the 1900 census (June 7, 1900).

**McGrath, Kate**, Head, W, F, Jan 1837, 63, Widow, Ir, Ir, Ir

**Barber, Carrie**, grand daughter, W, F, Nov 1888, 11, S, NY, NY, NY

**Barber, Edward**, grand son, W, M, Dec 18?9, ?, NY, NY, NY (b. Dec. 1889??, 10???)

Kate immigrated in 1860 (40 years in U.S.). She spoke English but didn't read or write it. She rented her house.

At the time of the 1880 census Kate was also widowed and living with her in Homer were three females that were recorded as her daughters: Mary, Johanna and Margeret(sic).

#### **Land Transactions – Source; Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, NY**

1880 Catherine McGraith from Orville Haight and wife. Bk 66, p. 133, Lot 44 Homer.

1885 (Catherine) Kate McGrath to Addie J Blaney. Bk. 74, p. 369, Lot 44 Homer.

1888 Kate McGrath from Randolph Beard and wife. Bk. 81, p. 188, Lot 65 Cortland.

1900 Kate McGrath from Randolph Beard and wife. Bk. 100, p. 185, Lot 65 Cortland.

1909 Margaret McGrath (now Graff) and others. Heirs of Kate McGrath deceased to Alice M. Ellsworth. Bk. 116, p. 114, Lot 65 Cortland.

#### **The Relationship to John J. McGraw**

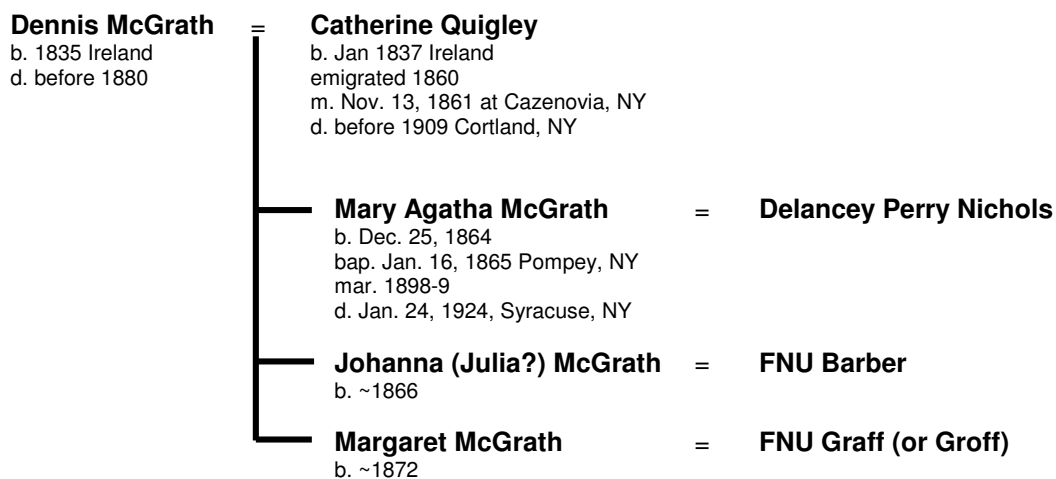
Mary Agatha McGraw was a cousin to John J. according to your mother. Since there are no Quigley connections in our family I will assume that the relationship exists through Dennis McGrath. First of all let me straighten out the spelling of the name. In the Upperchurch parish records in Co. Tipperary the spelling for all the "McGraths" was Magrath. When my family came to America in 1848 and 1850 the name was spelled McGrath. Over the next 30 years both McGraw and McGrath appears in the records. John J. was descended from John William McGrath and I am descended from John W.'s older brother Michael William McGrath. Michael and John had an older sister named Margaret but she died young in Ireland. Those were all the children of Edmund McGrath and Mary Ryan so Dennis could not be a sibling of John and

Michael. In addition, Edmund and Mary were married in Upperchurch on September 1, 1841 while Dennis was born about 1835. Dennis is too young to be a brother of Edmund but he is the right age to be a nephew. However, for now I'm afraid that is where the trail ends because I have never been able to determine if Edmund had any siblings. The only McGraws I have found so far that are related to John J. are those descended from his uncle Michael. John J.'s side of the family produced no McGraw descendents other than siblings that had no offspring.

If you pursue this possible relationship back to Ireland then that would lead back to Moyaliff civil parish in Co. Tipperary. The Roman Catholic Parish of Upperchurch is comprised of the civil parishes of Upperchurch, Moyaliff and Templebeg. The Magrath baptisms and marriages from this parish over the period 1829 – 1900 can be found in "The McGrath Family of Truxton, New York" found on my web site <http://home.austin.rr.com/mfmcgraw>. (or my newer and more extensive web site: <http://mcgrathsearch.com>). Father Cunningham, the parish priest, allowed me to photograph these records from his computerized listings during a visit to Upperchurch in 2000. On p. 28 there is a Denis Magrath and Catherine Kennedy whose son Denis Magrath was baptized on April 13, 1873. On p. 30 there is a John Magrath and Mary Quigley whose children were baptized in 1899 and 1900. Among the witnesses were Bridget and Anthony Quigley. I have no way of knowing if these individuals might be connected to your Dennis and Catherine but the names were in use in the area and that is encouraging.

Let me warn you however, there aren't many McGraths left in the area and you won't find a McGraw, even though McGrath is pronounced as McGraw by the Irish. Also, don't mention the word genealogy – always refer to your research as family history research. Genealogy implies succession, inheritance and ownership to the Irish and this seems to spook them. Mention that you are trying to find out about the history of your family that lived in the area and they become very helpful.

### The Denis McGraw and Catherine Quigley Family



In the case of Johanna (Julia) McGrath Barber and her husband, one of both parents might have died prior to 1900. Their children (2) were living with their grandmother Kate McGrath at the time of the 1900 census. The witnesses at Dennis and Catherine's wedding were John Gorman and Johanna Gorman. Mary Agatha McGrath was attending Homer Academy as of Jan. 20, 1883.

### How many children?

Margaret McGrath was mentioned in the land records in 1909 so we know she was alive in 1900. Mary Agatha McGrath died in 1924 so she was also alive in 1900. So far I don't have any info on Johanna (Julia?) McGrath.